

FALL 2020

Volume 39 | Issue 1

GREENHOUSE

Nurturing Home Education in North Carolina and Beyond



In This Issue



- Speaking Up for Home Education
- God's Provision in Building Community
- College Admissions for Homeschoolers
- Supporting Struggling Readers

- NCHE Announces Seven Scholarship Winners
- Questioning Your Choice
- COVID-19 Will Change Education Forever—and It's about Time
- Will It Affect Your School Plans?



BIBLE



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY



LANGUAGE ARTS



MATH



SCIENCE



ELECTIVES



LESSONS PLANNED.

Offering five general subjects and 13 electives, LIFEPAC combines textbooks and workbooks into individual unit booklets that make it easy to work at your student's own pace. LIFEPAC conveniently coordinates lessons, exercises, projects, reviews, and tests to help your child master concepts, all while saving you time planning lessons.

Visit aop.com/lifepac-free-samples to see lessons from grades K-12.



If you are unwilling to learn, no one can help you.
If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.

Zig Ziglar

MEDIA MANAGER

Sarah Hicks *media@nche.com*

EDITORS

Matthew McDill *president@nche.com*

Debbie Mason *events@nche.com*

Sarah Hicks *media@nche.com*

Submissions *greenhouse@nche.com*

Ad Sales *greenhouse@nche.com*

DEADLINES

ISSUE DATE	ARTICLES	ADS
Fall – <i>September</i>	July 15	July 30
Spring – <i>March</i>	January 15	January 30
Graduate – <i>May</i>	March 15	March 30

PUBLISHED BY:

North Carolinians for Home Education
4441 Six Forks Rd., Suite 106, Box 144
Raleigh, NC 27609 • (844) 624-3338



nche.com

in this issue

- 2 Grace Notes
- 3 Speaking Up for Home Education
- 5 To Choose the Right Curriculum, Ask the Right Questions
- 8 God's Provision in Building Community
- 10 Developing Homeschool Friendships—How and Why?
- 12 College Admissions for Homeschoolers
- 14 How Do I Homeschool This Energetic Child?
- 16 NCHE Announces Seven Scholarship Winners
- 18 Supporting Struggling Readers
- 20 Questioning Your Choice
- 22 Boldness to Release Myself from Expectations
- 24 COVID-19 Will Change Education Forever—and It's about Time *Will It Affect Your School Plans?*
- 28 Spotlight: Foreign Language
NCHE Interviews Homeschool Mom Pilar Johnson
- 30 Glad You Asked!
- 32 The Math around You:
Helping Young Children Learn to Think Mathematically
- 35 Bulletin Board

PHOTO CREDITS:

Above image: NCHE member Jennifer Tobler
Front cover: NCHE alumna Mereda Hart Farynyk
Back cover: NCHE alumna Jessica Mason
NCHE Media Interns: Savannah Hicks and Averie Chapman

GREENHOUSE

grace notes

Dear friends,

More North Carolinians will homeschool this year than in the last hundred years.* What an incredible time to be homeschoolers! Yes, there are uncertainties as we head into this new year of homeschool, but there is also a bigger opportunity than ever before for homeschool families to share the joy of home education with those in need. We have been given a gift.

My question to you is: do you have the boldness to invest this gift?

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable about a master who gives each of his three workers some treasure. To the two workers who invested their treasures and doubled it, the man replied, "Well done! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in my happiness!" To the worker who buried his treasure in the ground, the man bids him to depart.

This might seem harsh to us, but Jesus modeled a life of faithful, sacrificial service (Mark 10:45). All that we have—our time, our talents, and our treasures—are from Him. And He cares how we invest them. This year, will you invest your homeschool gifts—your dusty curriculum, your knowledge of lesson planning or classroom management—will you invest your talents, or will you hide?

The reward that we receive for stepping out in faith is not that we double our money; this isn't even really a parable about money at all. The reward for walking by faith and investing in the lives of others is that we get to enter into His happiness. *Happiness*. The invisible goal of all humanity.

This issue of GREENHOUSE is devoted to the idea of boldness in home education. What if a motley crew of families, with our twenty-five-year old minivans, and children who are obsessed with mock trials, archaic books, and sword circles, had the boldness to share our gifts? Could we usher in the happiness that eludes our present culture?

Sarah

Connect with Sarah at media@nche.com

* Graham, P.A. (1974). *Community and Class in American Education, 1865-1919*. New York: Wiley.



NCHE
webinars

nche.com/webinars



Speaking Up for Home Education

by Matthew McDill

This is an amazing time in our culture when the words that people use and the causes that people stand for are taking center stage and having serious consequences. On one hand, this is nothing new, and it is always wise to be careful and considerate in the things we say and the movements we join. On the other hand, we may be tempted to shrink back from saying anything at all. It seems that if we take any kind of position on an issue, we are choosing sides in a war and are going to get shot at. Therefore, let's choose carefully.

What are the important causes that we stand for in the homeschool community? I would like to suggest two ideas that it is important for all of us to speak for and work to protect. The first is that parents have the God-given right to determine the education of their children. The second is that homeschooling is a wonderful and effective form of education.

The first idea is primarily an issue of parental rights. Who has the primary responsibility and authority to decide what is best for our children? The main contenders in the current discussion are parents and the government. Who will protect the children? Who will care for them? Who will decide what is important for them to learn? I don't want to suggest that there is only one answer to this question. Local communities, churches, and the government can all play a positive role, along with the parents. However, it is critical as homeschool families that we speak out and work to protect the ultimate responsibility of *parents* to care for their children.

When it comes to the reputation of home education, we've come a long way! There is enough research and there are enough fantastic former and current homeschool students to prove that homeschooling is a wonderful and effective form of education. However, there are still those out there who do not understand or do not like home education. Some are even threatened by it and are attacking its legitimacy. That is why it is important for us to clearly and winsomely argue for homeschooling as a positive educational model.

So what can we do to stand for these important ideas?

First, I want to encourage us all to speak up. We may be tempted to quietly continue our homeschooling lives until someone knocks on the door and tries to stop us. If we wait until then, it will be too late. The war on these ideas in our culture has already begun. Let's join the cause by clearly and effectively articulating in our own spheres of influence the importance of parental rights and the effectiveness of home education.

Second, let's keep up the good work and let others see what we are doing. In the context of encouraging Christians to submit to governing authorities, the apostle Peter wrote, "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants

of God" (1 Peter 2:15-16). One of the most powerful ways we can further our cause is by doing good. We can do an excellent job with our families and education, and we can love and serve those around us, being helpful participants in our communities.

Finally, I want to encourage you to help unify and connect our homeschool community. North Carolinians for Home Education has represented homeschoolers in NC for over thirty-five years. Would you please let others know about NCHE and encourage them to become members so that we can band together to protect our right to homeschool and present home education as the fantastic educational approach that it is?

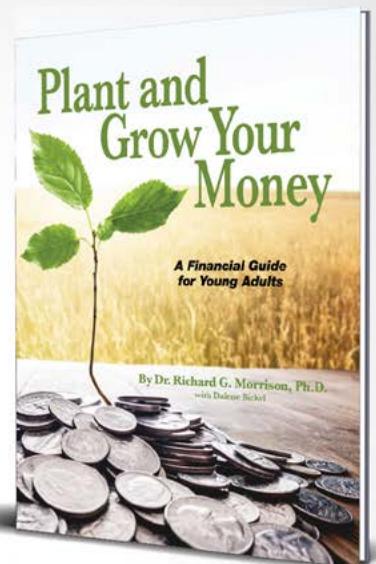


Matthew McDill and his wife, Dana, homeschool their nine children in Creston. Matthew is the executive director for North Carolinians for Home Education and continues to serve as president of the board. Through his ministry, Truth to Freedom (truthtofreedom.org), he teaches and writes about discipleship, marriage, family, parenting, home education, and church. Matthew holds a bachelor's degree in communication along with two master's degrees and a doctorate in biblical studies.

Help Your Teens Create a Positive Financial Future!

- ✔ Savings
- ✔ Budgeting
- ✔ Cash Flow
- ✔ Net Worth

The guide also includes:
customizable worksheets,
glossary of financial terms,
and discussions on student loan debt.



"In his book, Dr. Morrison offers a valuable resource to us all, especially to young adults. Plant and Grow Your Money is a sound, common-sense guide to stewardship of personal resources. It is a very worthwhile contribution to the body of knowledge related to financial literacy." — *Dr. Mike Ward, Ed.D., Former North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction*

www.plantandgrowyourmoney.com

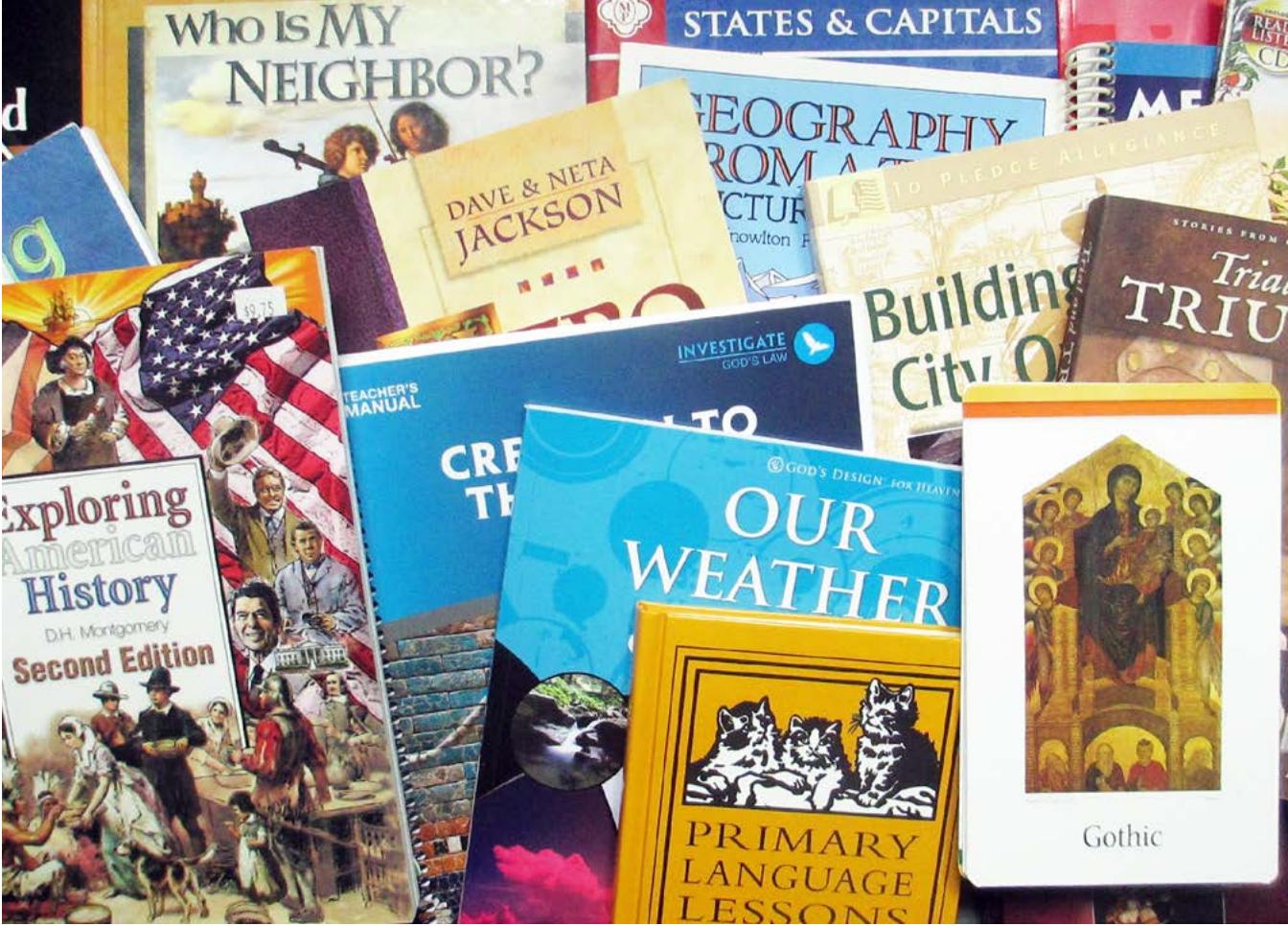


Photo Courtesy of: J. Hicks

To Choose the Right Curriculum, Ask the Right Questions

by Whitney Cranford
Crowell

The summer that my husband and I decided to finally take the plunge and homeschool our eight-year-old daughter, I was on top of the world. I entertained cozy fantasies of us at our kitchen table, huddled over shared pages like two old-fashioned schoolgirls sharing a primer, then venturing outside to explore the world around us. I envisioned long talks and long walks and memorizing poetry while classical music hummed serenely in the background. Most of all, being the colossal nerd that I am, I imagined every corner of our home piled with the most perfect selection of books possible—classic literature and colorful encyclopedias and, best of all, a cornucopia of curriculum that would empower me to give her my dream education.

And then the Rainbow Resource catalog arrived. If you've been around the block a few times, you're probably familiar with Rainbow Resource and its catalog, but if you're new to the homeschooling scene or you've only perused the company's website, you might not fully appreciate my devastation. If you're of a certain age, you'll get the picture with these two words: "phone book." We're talking three inches of wafer-thin newsprint covered front-to-back in ten-point Times New Roman with hardly a photograph in sight. The curriculum choices that that one catalog contained may not have numbered in the hundreds of thousands, but it might as well have. To say I was immediately overwhelmed is a serious

understatement. I plummeted from the peak of a mountain of living books and math manipulatives to being buried underneath the pile in five seconds flat!

I eventually dug my way out and have gone on to successfully school both my daughter and her younger brother (although not, admittedly, always in keeping with my fantasy). But every summer, I watch the new homeschoolers stream into our state and local homeschooling communities, shining and smiling and spiritedly waving their NOIs. And they all ask the same question: What's the best curriculum?

Like me, they usually end up buried under an avalanche of information. Hordes of well-meaning veterans and even a handful of the less experienced descend to vociferously push their favorite packages and programs like barkers at a street fair. But a list of fifty-eight suggested curricula that may or may not suit a family's needs or style is scarcely more useful than a catalog roughly the size of the US tax code.

The truth is that everything in that monstrosity was best—for somebody—but not necessarily for me. One of the things I've learned since my initial encounter with the infamous catalog is that, whether you're searching for curriculum or trying to educate your children, asking the right questions is key. Wrong questions always get you wrong (or at least unhelpful) answers. Unfortunately, "What's the best curriculum?" is almost always the wrong question. Instead, I suggest a slight variation: "How do I find the curriculum that best suits my student?" This is the question that will get you closer to figuring out what best looks like for you and your family. But although this question will point you in the right direction, it doesn't do much to narrow down the choices. For that, we need—you guessed it—more questions.

I offer you some things to think about that might help narrow your choices for any specific subject. Curriculum is not a magic bullet, but a tool, and knowing exactly what you want your curriculum to do for you will help you sort through the myriad of options. Keep in mind that these choices aren't binary; most programs will include elements of all criteria but will focus in one direction or another. The difference is one of degree, not kind, and no type is better than another. Choose what works best for your student.

MATH

Spiral or mastery? Spiral programs introduce only a small amount of new information each lesson, alternating among several concepts at a time (e.g., skip counting by 2's on one day,

telling time the next, measuring in inches on the third), and provide lots of mixed reviews. Mastery programs focus on a single concept (e.g., fractions) until they are completely mastered for that level, then move to a new concept.

Traditional or conceptual? Conceptual programs (sometimes *incorrectly* dubbed Common Core) focus on helping the student discover the *why* behind the math. They will often teach several variations for solving problems before finally teaching the standard algorithm. Traditional programs focus on the how of problem-solving and are generally much quicker to introduce standard algorithms.

SCIENCE

Experimental or concept-based? This question really comes down to one thing: Do you want to learn about scientific concepts, or do you want to learn to *do* science? Almost all science curricula will include some reading and writing, and some experimentation. The question is which emphasis do you want?

HISTORY

Contextual or topical? Contextual history programs teach historical events as part of an overarching narrative, where all history is in the context of a greater timeline, often following a three- or four-year history *cycle* and covering lots of ground. Topical history programs focus on specific places or periods (e.g., American history, state history, colonial era), having a narrower focus, but drilling down in more detail.

READING

Phonics or whole language? Phonetic-based programs focus on teaching the rules for the sounds of various letter combinations and helping the student break apart words in order to read them. Whole language programs rely more on the use of *sight words* and visual memory. For older readers, keep in mind that a reading program is not strictly necessary. Simply reading, discussing, and occasionally writing about good books is enough for most elementary and middle-grade students. Formal literary analysis can wait until high school.

SPELLING

Phonetic or traditional? Phonetic spelling programs apply a similar process to *encoding words* as phonics programs apply to *decoding* them. The rules for various letter and letter-combination sounds are taught, and word lists tend to focus on

one letter combination at a time (e.g., words in which the long-A sound is spelled “ay”). Traditional programs often combine letter combinations that make the same sound into a single word list (e.g., mixing words in which the long-A sound is spelled “ay,” “ai,” or “eigh”), or compile lists based on other criteria (e.g., from a reading passage) and may be more difficult for struggling spellers, but more engaging for natural spellers.

GRAMMAR AND WRITING

Structured or creative? Structured programs approach writing from a formulaic perspective, teaching students to build good sentences, then paragraphs, and finally, longer pieces of writing. Grammar is emphasized, and the program may use separate texts for grammar and writing or combine them into one text. Creative programs start from the premise that everyone has something to say and encourage students to write freely, with less emphasis on formal structure in the initial stages of writing.

Once you’ve worked through these questions and know a little more about what you want your curriculum to do, you’ll be

better equipped than I was to climb the curriculum version of Mt. Everest. As a new homeschooler, you might not be entirely sure which approach is best for your family. My advice? Go with your gut. Some trial and error and a little experience will quickly sharpen your skills, especially now that you know what your choices are.



Whitney Cranford Crowell knew she had reached peak homeschooling when she bought a custom nine-foot by six-foot bookcase with matching ladder and still did not have room for all the books. She lives in her childhood home outside High Point, with her husband of twenty years, their fifteen-year-old daughter, and their nine-year-old son.

I have learned that I still have a lot to learn.

Maya Angelou

Since 1998, NCHE has awarded over \$156,000
in college scholarships to our members.

Scholarship applications open in December. Deadline: March 31, 2021

Give to the
NCHE Scholarship Fund
and apply for scholarships at:
[nche.com/scholarships](https://www.nche.com/scholarships)


NORTH CAROLINIANS
FOR HOME EDUCATION

Graduate with NCHE,
and find everything
you need for graduation at:
[nche.com/graduate/central](https://www.nche.com/graduate/central)



God's Provision in Building Community

by Jaime Goodman

Corn, beans, squash. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat. These plants are the three sisters in a traditional Native American style garden. My children and I happened to read about this type of garden, also known as a *milpa*, while reading about the history of the United States. These three plants have a very symbiotic relationship where the beans provide the nitrogen the corn needs to grow; the corn provides the strength and height that the beans need to grow, and the squash provides the weed and deer suppressant they all three need in order to grow. Not only did we research the *milpa*, but the children and I also have had the opportunity to plant our own! Call it a twist of fate, providence, or an answer to prayer, but we wouldn't have had the opportunity to grow our own small *three sisters* garden if a strange twist of *community* hadn't occurred in our lives.

Several months back, I sensed our family was being drawn to the mountains of western North Carolina. However, we were loath to leave behind our great neighbors, our lovely church family, and the special friends we had made in the homeschooling community. The source of evening conversations suddenly turned into reality when God closed one door after another and, we joke, booted us out of Lubbock, Texas. Suddenly facing a sort of bourgeoisie homelessness, we decided that it was time to make the move to western North Carolina that we had talked about for years and set aside the other temporary plans we had to remain in Texas for another year or so.

Thus began the fervent prayers for new friends for my sad children and for a place of service and community for us. Homeschooling for me is all about the experiences I weave for my children. Yes, we sit for hours each week learning math, writing, history, and science and tweaking their high school and college plans, but our *adventures* are the motivation behind getting the academics done. I want to taste, see, and smell my way through life and show love to people along the way with my children! Why else are we on this planet if not for relationship? We made the intentional decision to rent an apartment in North Carolina so that we would be in closer proximity to others and have the complex pool as a vehicle for meeting new folks. What we didn't anticipate was a pandemic shutting down our plans.

Suddenly, being in community with others looked like nothing we could have ever imagined. Not only had we left all those beautiful people behind in Texas, but we were stuck indoors nearly 24/7 and unable to meet new people. But God was not sidetracked by a pandemic; He was able to answer my prayer for a place to serve and a new community for our family.

Right after we moved at the beginning of March, we met a young mom running her own small farm cooperatively with others in the local small-scale agriculture business. I got a *good vibe* from her and liked her sense of community, so we signed up for her summer CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and asked when we could visit her farm. Tensions were high all around us, everyone was feeling uncertain, but one visit turned into weekly visits to volunteer for a few hours on the farm. Nicole has two preschool-age children, and her interns had

quit due to the pandemic. All you parents out there know what it's like to try to get any adult work done with two preschoolers under your care! God was graciously weaving together answers to our prayers. My big family didn't have to remain stuck indoors constantly, and Nicole got some much-needed help watching her children, planting seed, and harvesting produce!

I believe God is into win-win situations. In His omniscience, He provided a symbiotic experience for Nicole and her family and me and my family. His love and blessings are so abundant, and He wants us to come to Him as children. That means so many things, but in this situation, it meant answering my heartfelt prayers for community in our new state and an opportunity to serve in a useful way. So while the pool remained closed into June (and even now we can't have guests with us at the pool), we have been able to meet wonderful new friends at the farm and even grow our own milpa garden! I'm pretty sure my children will remember their first spring and summer playing and working at Bearwallow Valley Farms more than those worksheets I doled out this morning, and the three sisters will always be a metaphor for community to us.



Jaime Goodman is a singer, herbalist, acupuncturist, and lover of books who resides in Asheville, NC with her four children and high school boyfriend turned husband. They have been on the homeschooling journey since 2010.

Online Cello Lessons

Weekly private lessons are open to all ages/levels and include access to a feature-rich web application, an exclusive video library, Dr. Graebert's technique packet, and semi annual ZOOM recitals.

Dr. Ryan Graebert

- Fully registered Suzuki teacher (Vols. I-X)
- Radford & High Point University, Cello Instructor
- Salisbury Symphony, Principal Cello
- Winston Salem Symphony, Associate Principal Cello

www.ryangraebert.com





Photo Courtesy of: Averie Chapman

Developing Homeschool Friendships—How and Why?

by Dava Banner

We all need friends. Friends make everything more fun. Good friends add richness to life. Lifelong friends are jewels, rare and special. And being friends with entire families is an extra blessing.

But, how do you go about finding such friends in the homeschool community? First, let me say that having friends that are not homeschoolers is great, but it is nice to have homeschooling in common and to be on similar schedules. It is nice to have some free time to get together early in the day. Our family often reserves evenings, weekends and holidays for family time, so we want to be able to get together with friends during the week.

The easiest way to find new friends is to be a greeter. Be the one who speaks to all the moms you see at meetings and activities. Do you remember when you were the new one and how much you wanted to see a friendly face? Be that friendly face. You can do it, and most importantly, you can teach your children to do it. Knowing how to greet people is a skill that will help children at all stages of life. Your children will remember being greeted by a friendly face, and it may give them motivation to be a friendly face.

After you have met everyone, begin looking for those you want to know better. We often have homeschool activities that allow moms to drop off their children. Please don't do that! Stay and visit with other moms. I know it would be nice to run errands, but if you do, you will miss a wonderful opportunity to build friendships.

Moms who get to visit together for an hour or two at a time can learn a lot about each other as they share information and experience. You can find out who has children similar to yours. You can find out who has similar values and who likes similar activities. If you're new to the area, then you can also find

out about shops, doctors, classes, and churches. And the biggest help to me, personally, is finding out what new recipes they love! Sharing at least one weekly activity is so helpful in developing a friendship. You can make friends at monthly activities as well, but it will probably take longer.

During these visits you can also plan field trips. Joining with a couple of other families helps you to enjoy a field trip even more! Plan a park day, a hike, or share information on area homeschool days. You can also make plans to attend another homeschool activity that week or maybe meet for lunch or a play date.

We often invite other families to go out for a snack *after* an activity, to prolong the visiting time, and include the children. The children get to know each other during their scheduled activity, of course, but moms get to observe the interaction at snack time. Doesn't the best fellowship involve food? When you are suggesting where to go, it is considerate to choose budget-friendly places.

When you start reaching out to people, very soon you will look forward to all gatherings. You will see your favorite people at all activities. You and your children will be friends with whole families. You will have a meaningful homeschool community.

How does this help you? Well, children really appreciate hanging out with friends, especially in the teen years. You will be glad to know their friends and the families they come from. You can share the growing pains with your mom friends. You will want to guide your children to know what's important in a friend. You might want to plan or host guy events if you have sons. Teach your children that their friends are important for all of their life. You will enjoy seeing your children share all of their special life events with those friends. You will enjoy keeping in touch with all of those mom friends. You will be very satisfied that you made the most of your time and the homeschool activities you participated in. And you will be happy that you made sweet memories for your children, because friends are the best!



Dava Banner has been married thirty-seven years and has three fine sons. She has been a happy homeschooler for seventeen years and counting. She and her family live on a small farm in Crouse, NC.



Join us for the NCHE
MOMS RETREAT
fall fun & fellowship!

November 6 - 7, 2020

Caraway Conference Center ♦ Asheboro, NC



College Admissions for Homeschoolers

by Dr. John George Gately, Jr.

In this article, I have given three recommendations to help your homeschool student gain admission to a college-of-choice. First, let me tell you how my interest developed and was strengthened.

One recent May, I was privileged to be given a tour of the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The beauty of its setting, in the shadow of Pike's Peak, was indescribable. My tour guide was a just-graduated 2nd Lieutenant who was a homeschool scholar. That forever resolved my doubts about the quality of homeschool education.

In the years since, I have proudly watched two of my grandchildren excel in education as homeschool students. I confess I was nervous and doubtful when their mom, my daughter, first announced the decision to homeschool. In this instance, being proven wrong is my great pleasure.

The anecdote above, along with my confession of doubts about homeschooling is relevant because you may find people just like me in a college's admissions office (where I formally was) reviewing your student's application. Here is a startling, perhaps alarming fact: admissions counselors at colleges across America have mere minutes to consider each application—literally, just a few minutes per application. The first run-through is to eliminate as many as possible. That means an application with omissions, or portraying circumstances that require extra time to understand may be among the first placed in the deny stack.

Here's an example: In the most recent reporting year, the USAF Academy (mentioned above) received 10,354 applications, sent out 1,139 letters of acceptance, and of those, matriculated slightly more than 1,100 first-year cadets. This means that admissions counselors had to review more than 9,200 applications whose senders received letters of denial.

Another example: The University of Maryland (College Park) received 33,012 applications. In order to fill their first-year class of 4,200, the admissions office had to identify more than 14,500 qualified applicants to receive a letter of acceptance. That left more than 18,400 in the deny stack. Going through this high number of applications is a lot of work! The first irregularity in an application is all that is needed to get it put aside.

Here are my recommendations that may help your student's application escape the *deny* stack.

Recommendation one: The application must be flawless.

My students begin working on their college applications in the first week of August. They submit them in mid-September. During those five or six weeks, we begin, revise, edit, and add, and subtract elements. We work on revising what will go on the applications every week. We double-check everything. We get it right on the finalized application because, very likely, there is only one chance for it to land in the *accept* stack.

Recommendation two: Emphasis on your strengths is important.

Your strengths include your individual characteristics and qualities. They include your qualifications (SAT or ACT test scores are helpful, even though some colleges are going *test-optional*). Most important, highlight the strengths of a homeschool education. Answer the unasked questions about science and math, about preparation for research and problem-solving. Mention the many ways in which homeschoolers are *well-rounded*.

Recommendation three: In-person campus visits will serve you well.

In my book, *College is a Consumer Purchase*, I describe a three-visit regimen. The bottom line is, you want to be more than data on a computer screen. When the admissions counselor pulls up your application and your face comes to mind, that bright smile, the warm conversation, may tip the scale in your favor. Of course, it's possible that you may not be the fit the counselor is seeking, but if it's close and between you and someone the counselor has not met, you are more likely to get the nod.



Dr. George Gately is an author, speaker and college-planning counselor. He helps families with high school students find "the right college at the right price, to graduate on time with the right degree." Since 2010, he has devoted himself to helping families find great fitting colleges for their children without sacrificing their retirement plans.

**NCHC would like to point out that many colleges have suspended or are considering suspending required admissions tests at this time. Furthermore, community colleges, smaller colleges, and online universities may not face the same volume of applicants or as high of a rejection rate as larger or more competitive schools.*



Tempus Renatus School of Classical Horsemanship

a 501c3 non-profit

Connect with nature and history through classical riding on Lipizzan horses!

- ❖ Lessons
- ❖ Internships
- ❖ Volunteer opportunities
- ❖ Retreats
- ❖ Performances

www.tempusrenatus.org





How Do I Homeschool This Energetic Child?

by Laurel Solarzano

Maybe you're about to start your new journey into homeschooling or maybe you've always known that it's what you want to do, but your child is just now aging into needing more formal education. Many children in early elementary have so much energy that it seems like it might be impossible to get them to sit down and do their schoolwork. Breaking news—it probably is impossible for them to sit still. But that doesn't mean that they can't learn.

If you weren't homeschooled yourself, you might have certain expectations about what a school day will look like. Namely, your child is sitting at a desk completing pages in a workbook while you stand in front of a whiteboard and teach them new concepts. Honestly, being homeschooled myself, it almost never looked like this through all four of us doing school. And none of my friends described that scene either.

So, what should a typical day look like when you have a child who just won't sit down? The first thing you have to do is get rid of the picture-perfect image in your mind of a color-coded schedule and desks all in neat rows. I've worked in schools with all ages and various group sizes. I know the appeal of schedules and all things school. However, if you feel pressured because things aren't going according to how you pictured it, then your child will feel the stress. You don't want school to turn into a daily battleground, so here are three steps you can take to make your school day successful yet easygoing for your child.

1. Allow your child to have lots of time to explore the world. Early elementary, especially kindergarten and below, should be learning through experience. Yes, they have a lot to learn from books too, but there is nothing like watching an earthworm burrow in the ground to learn about science or counting houses on a walk to learn about math.

At this age, your child really shouldn't be doing more than a maximum of two hours of structured schoolwork per day (less is even better). As they get older, you can slowly expand this amount of time. However, most homeschoolers I have met through my different teaching opportunities have their elementary students finish before lunch. They will have years down the road to spend hours working and studying. Let them enjoy their free time now. You should break that two hour or hour and a half time into slots, so they aren't doing it all at once. For example, spend fifteen minutes on letters then let them play while you do something else. Later, come back and read a story to them while they listen, then another break.

2. Allow them freedom of movement when you are working on structured schoolwork. When I was nannying, we would sit on the floor or the bed, almost never at a table (unless we were specifically practicing handwriting). I clearly remember walking circles around the kitchen table while belting out the multiplication table in second grade. Did I learn it? You bet I did! I just got to do it in a way that got out energy. If your children want to sit upside down in a chair, why shouldn't they be allowed to do that? This freedom of movement can actually help them pay attention more easily since they aren't constantly fighting with

you about staying in their chair.

3. Be flexible! If your child is having a bad day (as sometimes happens with a five-year-old), let them work out their feelings first. They are still learning how to deal with emotions, and having them work through their problems is actually more helpful in the long run than drilling the letter sounds again. If you need to take a day off from school because you or your child is feeling sick, then do it! Don't feel guilty.

Energetic children need the opportunity to move. Homeschooling gives them that opportunity. Don't force them into the rigors that classrooms with twenty or thirty children have to follow. Follow the three tips above, and you and your children will be on your way to happy homeschooling!



Laurel Solorzano is an entrepreneur and the owner of Your Schoolhouse. She was homeschooled for ten years and looks forward to homeschooling her own children one day. You can contact her at lsolorzano@yourschoolhouse.com



2020
nche
North Carolinians for Home Education
SUMMIT
For Teaching Exceptional Children

This year's Summit Conference is completely online!

Join us online, and be refreshed, equipped, and encouraged by our wonderful speakers and the opportunity to learn from other parents homeschooling children with learning differences or other special needs.

Amanda Wares
NCHE Homeschool Helps director



NCHE Announces Seven Scholarship Winners

by Evelyn Bickley

Since 1998, NCHE has awarded over \$156,000 in college scholarships to over a hundred graduating homeschooled seniors. The NCHE Scholarship Program was instituted to encourage and reward excellence in homeschooling in North Carolina. Scholarship categories include: academics, arts, community service, scholar-athlete, and missions and ministry.*

This year, there were some truly amazing applicants! Although it was not easy for our committee to choose, after much prayer and consideration, we selected the following students. On behalf of the scholarship judges on the NCHE activities committee, it is my privilege to inform our members of this year's award recipients.



Apologia Missions and Ministry Scholarship: Josiah Brinson of Holly Springs, son of Clifton and Christi Brinson. Josiah plans to study physics at Wake Forest University before going on to earn engineering degrees, where he can use his creativity to invent and design. He is among the top two percent of chess players in the US who are under age twenty-one.



Apologia Missions and Ministry Scholarship #2: William Sandford of Burlington, son of Bill and Cheryl Sandford. William has been involved in the Civil Air Patrol for four years, including serving as Squadron Commander. He participated in four domestic missions trips and has been a music/worship leader in his church for six years. He received his associate's degree from Alamance Community College this spring, where he started and led a Bible study for approximately twenty-five

students on campus. He plans to attend Liberty to major in Bible studies and music with the anticipation of entering the ministry upon graduation.



Arts Scholarship: Adah Freeman of Kernersville, daughter of Karl and Mary Freeman. She has a thirty-five on her ACT. She plans to attend either UNC Chapel Hill or NC State University in their bio/pre-med program. She has “a passion for biology, mental health, and any kind of art.” She “may become a doctor, a dermatologist, a physician’s assistant, an art therapist, or even a medical illustrator, but whatever I do will involve service, science, empathy, and creativity.”



Molly Nichols Memorial Academic Scholarship: Eli Mayfield of Wake Forest, son of Jeffrey and Adrienne Mayfield. Eli, one of nine children, has a goal of becoming a nurse through the nursing program at UNC Chapel Hill. Subsequently, he expects to go to grad school to become a nurse practitioner or PA. Eli has a thirty-five on his ACT, is nationally ranked in speech and debate through NCFCA, loves his family and loves the Lord.



Community Service Scholarship #1: Sofia Lonacker of Knightdale, daughter of Gregory and Jacqueline Lonacker. Sofia has served as an officer in her honor society, been active in her church, run cross country, worked with horses, and filled many positions in theater, including designing and making historically accurate costumes. She wants to lead young girls through horsemanship.



Community Service Scholarship #2: Ben McKay of Youngsville, son of Trevor and Janet McKay. Ben is very well-rounded and academically gifted. He has an ACT of thirty-three and completed his AA degree via dual enrollment last spring. He has held leadership positions in his honor society and with NCFCA, earned the President’s Bronze Award (2 years) for community service, and participates in

guitar, voice, ballroom dance, and musical theater. He plans to attend Grove City College to study computer science. Because of his breadth of interests and abilities, he doesn’t have a single career in mind but says, “I don’t need to see to know that the Lord sees. Whatever happens, I trust Him.”



Scholar-Athlete Scholarship: Jacob Huth of Raleigh, son of Brandon and Cheryl Huth. In addition to high scholarship, he has a wide range of extracurriculars that include his church, trumpet, “for fun” classes (that weren’t on his transcript) in CPR, personal finance, and auto repair, among others. And then there’s his sport: fencing. He is nationally ranked as a competitor at the National Junior Olympics and serves as a fencing coach and referee. He plans to attend NC State University to study biomedical engineering, having been inspired by one of his fencing coaches who has a prosthetic leg following an accident.

Many of the scholarships are funded by supporters like you. If you would like to donate to this scholarship fund, visit our website at nche.com/give.

**The Missions and Ministry Scholarships are sponsored by Apologia.*



Evelyn Bickley is a retired homeschool mom and serves on our board as the activities director for North Carolinians for Home Education.

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

Proverbs 19:20



Supporting Struggling Readers

by Sandra Peoples

One fall Friday night during my senior year of high school, I cheered for my friend Wes who was playing tight end. “Go 98!” I yelled. My friend in the bleachers next to me said, “Who is 98? There’s no 98 on the field.” “Sure there is,” I replied. “Wes.” “No, he’s 89.” I looked again. He was 89. But I had seen 98.

That mistake led to me getting tested for a learning disability. Sure enough, just months before turning eighteen and graduating, we found out I was dyslexic and had short term memory issues. So many of my struggles up to that point made sense: struggles with spelling, memorization, and foreign languages. It was especially helpful when the diagnostician told us I had actually compensated for my dyslexia in very creative ways. Because I loved reading in spite of the challenges, I became a speed reader—not seeing the letters that made up the individual words, but instead reading so quickly that my brain picked which word made the most sense in the sentence and kept going.

Fast forward to ten years ago when *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons* arrived from Amazon, and I sat down with my son David to get started. Those easy lessons weren’t so easy for him. We tried *The Ordinary Parent’s Guide to Teaching Reading*. Still not easy. *All about Reading?* Not quite. Ah, I thought. *I know what’s happening here.* My beginning reader had dyslexia. His struggles were not hidden from me (as mine were from my elementary teachers decades ago.)

So we slowed down, used all this great curriculum along with *Right Brain Phonics* from Dianne Kraft,

and went at his speed. Now he's fourteen, and although he still gets tongue-tied when reading out loud, he loves to read, and his reading comprehension is on par with his peers.

If you have a struggling reader, be encouraged! There are ways you can make reading easier for your child (and for you!). Here are four suggestions:

1. Try a different curriculum. There are even more great options available now than when we started out. If one curriculum doesn't work for you, try another. Borrow reading books from friends or check them out from your library. Be patient until it clicks!

2. Listen to audiobooks. As David got into the elementary years, his reading skills didn't match the level of books he was able to read. *Baby books* aren't any fun when your friends are starting *The Mysterious Benedict Society* or *The Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*. With audiobooks, he was able to enjoy books at his interest level even when his skills weren't quite there yet.

3. Use spelling lessons to support reading skills. For David, things really started clicking as we learned spelling rules and kept practicing writing. And even now, as he moves into high school classes, all the skills he learned work together to make his dyslexia more manageable.

4. Make a love of reading the ultimate goal. Do you want your child to have reading skills? Of course! But you don't want

him or her to resent the task of reading because it's so hard. There should be times when you focus on enjoying stories together without the pressure to get every word right. Help him or her get to know characters, travel to different settings, and appreciate a good plot along with gaining skills in phonics and comprehension.

I'm so thankful we were able to see signs of dyslexia in my son at a much younger age than I discovered it about myself. The steps we took when he was younger have set him up for more success as a teen. And although he and I both still struggle, we both love reading and keep working to improve our skills. (Having spell check in our pockets sure helps!) Know that your struggling reader can grow up to be an author and an editor like I am, or anything s/he chooses!



Sandra Peoples is a special-needs mom and sibling. She and her family live outside of Houston, TX, where she serves her church as the director of special-needs ministry. She's the author of Unexpected Blessings: The Joys and Possibilities of Life in a Special-Needs Family and the host of the podcast, Self Care and Soul Care for the Caregiver. You can connect with her at sandrapeoples.com.

Free DVD on Military History

I interviewed six North Carolina veterans, mainly about their military experiences. NC homeschoolers may send me their mailing address for free copy.

Also other US addresses as supply and ability permit. If damaged in transit, can send free replacement.



SpeightsDVDs@gmail.com



Photo Courtesy of: Savannah Hicks

Questioning Your Choice

by Diane Helfrich

You've now been homeschooling for a while, and you have hit a wall. You are asking, "Did I do the right thing? Am I ruining my child's life? Can I really do this long-term? Why am I not as far along with lessons as I expected? Why did I buy that curriculum that I don't even like now?" You are asking the same questions and making the same discoveries we all did. At some point in the journey, insecurity rises, and we can't see the progress, or what we see doesn't match what we planned. Some of us (like me) questioned yearly if we had made the right choice. But God knew my frustration and gave me a sign that my children were in His hands and things were going just fine.

Unlike you, I now have the luxury of looking at our schooling through the rearview mirror. My children are now twenty-eight and twenty-four years old, and they are well on their way to being established adults. We won the lottery. They have both excelled in college and beyond—far beyond my expectations, and I'm a type-A person with high expectations! So what do I see when I look back?

I started, like many do, with all subjects lined up, a planner in hand, a flag on the wall, and a place where we would do our schooling. We were up with a prayer and the pledge was at 8:00 A.M. I hoped to finish by mid-afternoon with my second-grader whom we had pulled out of public school. My well-intended structure lasted about two to three months and then little by little, it started falling apart. I'm sure most of you are far more self-disciplined than I, so you won't have these issues! Oops! We slept in and didn't get started on time. We didn't get all the subjects done today because we got so excited about making a



Boldness to Release Myself from Expectations

by Jessica Frierson

For years I struggled through each day feeling so tired. It was not uncommon for me to fall asleep while reading a science or history lesson to my children. I felt like I was moving through a fog every afternoon. If I had to drive any distance over half an hour away, I was in danger of falling asleep while driving. I would have to pull over a few miles from home to get out and walk around a minute to wake up enough to get there. Finally, I reached the point where I couldn't continue going on the way I had been. But I had to step out in boldness to take the measures I needed to ensure that I met my personal needs for the most basic of life's requirements: sufficient sleep. Why wasn't I meeting that need, and why did meeting it take such boldness, you may ask. I was living under the bondage of meeting the expectations of others. Sadly, many of those *expectations* I was trying to meet were from people I had met only in a book, but I had imposed their standards on myself and my homeschool. In the pursuit of being efficient, purposeful, and accomplished, I had become discouraged, exhausted, and ineffective.

With several children to homeschool, a toddler to chase, and a new baby needing constant care, my days were full to the brim with activity. Every time I turned my head, there was someone or something that I needed to tend to. My most productive time of day was at night when everyone was settled down, and the house was quiet. This was my work time, my refreshing time, and my much-needed quiet time. The problem was that I need a lot of sleep—less than eight hours and I just can't function. I had trained my little ones to sleep late; often, the children would stay in bed until nine o'clock or so. Why was I pushing myself to be up with the birds each morning?

All of the moms I knew seemed to thrive on being early risers. In an effort to *better myself*, I had been excited to obtain a copy of a fairly popular book on how to manage your home. Along with many helpful tips on housekeeping and childcare, it stressed the importance of the mom being up *hours* before the rest of the family. Her day began before the sun's first rays broke through the morning clouds, when piles of laundry had been folded and put away, the goats were milked, and the eggs gathered, freshly baked bread cooled on the counter, and every child's school books for the day were lined up waiting to be used with their color-coded notebooks and neatly-labeled pencil boxes on top. This book even gave sample daily schedules from *real, live moms like me* to show me how to set up my family's daily routine. These amazingly organized women were in bed by nine and up by five. Only one slept in until the outrageously late hour of seven a.m.!

To be fair, the book never actually stated the necessity of beating the sun up each morning—at least not in those exact words. But the implication was strong and was all I needed to add to my burden of feeling inadequate to meet what appeared to be the worldwide standard for a successful manager of my home. I trudged along, in a sleepy fog all day, rushing everyone off to bed each night so I could race like a madwoman to get as much cleaned as I could, skipping any quiet time for myself—because there was no time. I forced myself to lie down by at least 10:30, only to lie there with my heart thumping from running around like crazy and trying to push aside the thoughts of all the things I had not gotten done. I would watch the clock and stress myself out counting down how many hours of sleep I had left, debating whether I wasn't better off just getting up than lying there getting nothing accomplished. Sometime in the wee hours of the morning, I would finally drift off to a restless sleep to be awakened too soon by the dreaded alarm. The start of another day came too soon for this exhausted mama who was unprepared for facing her family with the grace and cheer they needed.

boldness (*noun*)

1. willingness to take risks and act innovatively; confidence or courage.
2. the quality of having a strong, vivid, or clear appearance.

The idea to break free from what I felt society expected of me whispered to me in the night hours. It beckoned to me as I stirred the soup for the evening dinner and checked my son's math lesson. It enticed me to risk the disapproval of others and to toss aside the self-inflicted burden I was carrying. I boldly made the decision that I *would* manage my household. But I would just do it in a way engineered to meet our needs. I didn't even have goats to milk, and our eggs had already been gathered by Harris Teeter. My children's lessons were set out the night before and the laundry—well, let the laundry be done when I got around to it! If some other well-organized lady from our homeschool group showed up at my doorstep at eight a.m. and (gasp) discovered that we were all in bed, what was that to me?

It took me at least a year to relax into our new rhythm and break away from the ridiculous feelings of shame that I fought against when I was flipping pancakes at 10:30 or when calling the children to start school at 11 a.m. But the amazing thing about it was that I was so much more productive by staying up later and then sleeping as long as I needed in the morning. No more sleepy mama falling asleep while waiting on my daughter to decipher a new spelling word. I even drove through the night from Tennessee to Oklahoma without having to pull over once!

So if you stop by my house sometime, we may have every sofa

covered with mountains of laundry that we are folding as we enjoy a family movie. We may decide to call our bacon and eggs *brunch* because it is quite late for it to qualify as breakfast. And if you come by too early, chances are that no one is going to be awake to answer the door. But I dare say that you will find our home a little happier, and this mama may just possibly be taking on the quality of that strong, vivid appearance called boldness, now that I have finally released myself from the burden of trying to fit myself into a box that wasn't designed for me. Freedom feels good!

I've come to an understanding that our Creator is like a master craftsman. Each one of us has a unique makeup that has been perfectly and specifically designed for the plan He had in mind for each of us.* And just as you can't put your guitar into my violin case, my life won't fit into the custom-made style that works perfectly for you. We can glean helpful ideas from others, but we must try them out carefully to ensure that they are the right fit for the life God has designed for us. When we attempt to follow an ideal for the sake of meeting the standards of anyone else, not only is it destructive to our own success, but we miss the joy of discovering our own path in life.

We have a misguided habit of thinking we need to be like everyone else. We look at the cozy, picture-perfect image from the outside of another home and think that is the way we could/should/would be if only we (Fill in the blank with whatever attribute you perceive makes them successful). It takes boldness and confidence in our Creator to be the unique individual that He created us to be.

How about you? Now that you know more about me than any stranger should, won't you drop me an email and share how you have been emboldened to break free from unrealistic expectations? Or perhaps you need prayer for the boldness to climb out of a box you've got yourself stuck in. I would love to hear from you as you find the boldness to set yourself free.

*Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.*



Jessica Frierson is a second generation homeschooler now teaching her own ten children. She and her husband, Ernie, knew from the time their first child was born twenty-three years ago that home education would be their only choice. They moved back home to North Carolina in 2000 to take advantage of the less restrictive homeschool laws here. She joyfully serves the Lord through ministry to her family, serving in her local church, writing and encouraging others with the testimony of the treasure of love she has discovered in our Lord Jesus Christ. Jessica is NCHES secretary and region 2 liaison.



COVID-19 Will Change Education Forever— and It's about Time *Will It Affect Your School Plans?*

by Davis Carman

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain (Psalm 127:1).

Picture this scene. A semi-truck has just T-boned a school bus, and the big yellow bus is lying on its side. It's not a pretty sight. Amazingly, all the children escape the wreckage unscathed. After the children are reunited with their parents, the families return home to recover from the shock. School officials and families are shaken but relieved that everyone is safe.

I am thankful this was a hypothetical situation. But another such incident, on a much larger scale, has shaken parents and the educational system to their core. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be a disruption of epic proportions, interfering with public and private education, health care, government services, businesses large and small, churches, travel, sports, entertainment, international trade, and more. Let's take a closer look at the pandemic's effects on childhood education, something on which families in America and around the world place a high value.



contracted the virus, and within twenty-four to forty-eight hours, March Madness was canceled, professional sports leagues suspended play, movie theaters and other businesses were shuttered, college classes went online, and parents found themselves trying to figure out how to work from home while teaching their children math, science, and history.

How does this affect colleges and universities?

Many colleges and universities were in deep financial straits after enrollments had declined for the eighth consecutive year. But with students and parents rethinking their plans for the upcoming fall semester, some experts are projecting that schools will see an immediate drop in enrollment of fifteen percent or more. And it's very possible that half of all colleges could be out of business within ten years.

Times were hard for higher education before the arrival of the coronavirus. The recent admissions bribery scandal was just one reason questions were being raised concerning schools' reliance on standardized tests in the application-and-acceptance process. These questions have prompted some big-name schools to rethink the importance of such tests. Indeed, the University of California system has announced that they plan to drop the SAT and ACT as an admissions requirement. All this is indicative of something more than the mere winds of change. What we are seeing is more like a sledgehammer in the hands of a demolition crew.

What just happened?

Right now, there are roughly sixty million students in grades K–12 across America. Prior to March 2020, here's how the demographics looked in round numbers: about fifty-one million students (eighty-five percent) attended public schools; six million students (ten percent) were enrolled in private schools, and just under three million students (five percent) were being educated at home. Then, in the month of March, closings were issued in all fifty states. This resulted in a *mandatory trial run* of homeschooling for nearly every family in the country.

Not long ago, homeschoolers were a minority group, a remnant of sorts, an independent lot. Now almost every child has experienced some form of homeschooling, distance learning, or school-at-home. Ironically, when COVID-19 hit, states closed the public schools, sent the students home, and mandated that children be taught at home.

And it all happened so quickly. One day Tom Hanks surprised everyone by announcing that he and his wife, Rita Wilson, had

How will K–12 education change?

What about K–12 education? The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released guidelines for schools that choose to reopen anytime soon. The list includes mandatory wearing of face masks, desks placed six feet apart, no more meals in the cafeteria, no sharing of any items, and closing the playgrounds. It's hard enough to get adults to abide by these kinds of rules; I can't imagine anyone thinks this is realistic for school-aged children.

Take note that these guidelines are meant to address the health issue only; they do nothing to confront long-standing academic issues. In fact, these guidelines make learning more difficult, more unnatural, more institutionalized.

Read what *Trends* concluded in its March 2020 issue:

The numbers are clear, many schools do little more than "warehouse kids" and try to protect them from each other. Even in the best ones, too little time is devoted to critical thinking and too much to transport, structured activities and state-defined indoctrination. While the vested interests will

continue to defend the status quo, this crisis, for the first time, exposes serious problems with an antiquated model whose time has long passed.

Meanwhile, parents are now finding out how much of what happens in public and private schools is highly inefficient and involves children wasting time on mindless activities. Still, some parents can't wait to send their children back to school this fall. But put yourself in the shoes of your child for a moment. Given the new restrictions and regimentation, many students are likely to grow more frustrated with school than ever.

How many families will choose to homeschool this fall?

When families suddenly found themselves homeschooling this spring, some parents understandably went looking for support and guidance. Many new and existing online groups stepped up to provide a helping hand and point people in the right direction.

Perhaps inevitably, parents were surveyed as to whether they would allow their children to return to classrooms in the fall. Surprisingly, twenty-two to thirty percent of parents said they were seriously thinking of continuing to homeschool in the new school year. A more recent poll has reported that forty-one percent of parents are more likely to educate their children at home in September.

Get out your calculator, and let's run some numbers. If forty-one percent of the fifty-seven million students who attended public or private schools in the US last year were to be taught at home this fall, that would result in twenty-three million new homeschool students. The homeschool population would explode from three million to twenty-six million in a single year. Talk about going viral!

If only half that number were to continue learning at home, the homeschool population in America would grow by a factor of five. Even if just a small percentage of parents decide to keep this thing going, there will be a huge spike in the number of homeschool students.

Why would families choose to continue homeschooling?

Why would families decide of their own free will to keep their children home this fall? For one thing, it is entirely possible that some schools won't reopen, which would make it tough for parents to do anything other than keep their children home.

Then there's the *USA Today/Ipsos* poll in which one in five teachers say they are unlikely to return to work even if their schools reopen! This would leave a huge void. Having fewer teachers likely means more crowded classrooms, even as schools

attempt to enforce social distancing guidelines. This conundrum alone will make it hard for some parents to justify sending their children back to school.

Of course, health concerns will be near the top of a list of reasons to continue homeschooling. If one or both parents have lost their jobs, then private schools may no longer be a viable option.

It's been my experience that the reason most people start to homeschool is not the same reason they continue. COVID-19 forced schools to close, but I suspect many families will continue to homeschool for much different reasons. When our family started homeschooling twenty-five years ago, it was never something we had planned on doing. And the reasons we persevered those first few years were much different from the reason we started. By year four, we had committed to this lifestyle and never looked back—again for a whole new set of reasons.

What has surprised many parents is that, after the initial shock of the forced quarantine, being home together has proved to be less stressful than they expected. Children are actually happier! Parents are finding it's possible to be available for their children while still being highly productive for their employers. Until recently, exhaustion ruled the home as being busy was a cultural badge of honor. As the pace of life has slowed down and families spend more time together, people have started asking how they can hang on to this newfound quality of life.

Family bonds are being strengthened, priorities are changing, and paradigms are shifting as parents discover firsthand what's actually possible—and what really matters.

What are some other positives that people have discovered about homeschooling?

Your family probably wasn't prepared for teaching the children at home, but you were willing to protect your children and provide a safe place for them to learn and be loved. Now that you've got a few months of real-life experience, consider some of the other advantages of homeschooling:

- Home is the safest place for children.
- Home is the healthiest place for children.
- Homeschooling saves hours of time each day (no lines, etc.).
- Homeschooling strengthens family relationships.
- Home provides a more natural context for learning than sitting at a desk in a room with no windows.
- Children generally love being home and prefer asking mom or dad questions. In other words, children are natural homeschoolers.

- Students can get the rest needed for their young and growing bodies.
- Homeschooling saves taxpayers an average of \$11,762 per child per year.
- Homeschooling lowers your family's carbon footprint compared to public or private school.
- Homeschooling helps children fall in love with learning.
- Homeschooling allows time for self-directed projects and independent learning.
- Parents are able to direct the child's education.
- Teaching can easily be supplemented with online classes, tutoring, and (eventually) group studies with other homeschoolers.
- Homeschooling allows for flexibility.
- Parents are able to adapt quickly and change course as needed.
- Homeschooling is less disruptive in the face of a crisis (family, health, relocation, etc.).
- Parents are free to instill their values in their children.
- Home education is individualized and customizable.
- Children aren't forced to struggle with a one-size-fits-all approach to teaching.
- There are no bells signaling an arbitrary start or end of learning.
- The family is in charge of its schedule and calendar.

I highly recommend you make a list of your own. Write down anything and everything that comes to mind as to why homeschooling just might be the wisest choice for your children and your family.

Why is it time for a change?

COVID-19 exposed just one of the public school system's weaknesses—namely, that spending several hours a day in an enclosed space with a large group of people is not a good idea when a deadly virus is being passed around. The fact is, the public school system has been broken for years. Many educators, parents, and government officials recognize this but have chosen to ignore it and look the other way. When something is broken, it needs to be fixed—especially when it threatens the health, safety, and future of our children. Unfortunately, the new CDC guidelines don't address the many ways that public schools have failed our children.

Here's another way to look at the situation. The public school's sales pitch is "We will teach your child so you don't have to."

Private schools whisper a variation of this message in your other ear: "We'll teach your child better so you don't have to. But it will cost thousands of dollars per child per year." Both pitches seem rather empty, void of purpose and meaning.

Here's how I would pitch homeschooling: "You can enjoy a vibrant relationship with your children while guarding their hearts, stimulating their minds, and protecting their bodies." Of course, the cost is that you do the directing and/or teaching. A year ago, you might have said that kind of sacrifice isn't worth it. Now that you've experienced homeschooling firsthand, however, you might think differently.

Perhaps you've come to realize that spending a large portion of the day together is surprisingly enjoyable, positive, and yes, educational. Home education may come with a few bumps and bruises, but in the grand scheme of things, you now see the possibilities and the potential rewards. Beware, however. As with any big decision, you might find yourself getting cold feet as summer is coming to an end and a new school year is fast approaching. When your friends send their children back to school this fall and you start to feel the peer pressure mounting, you will likely be tempted to rejoin the masses. When this happens, call a supportive friend and share your concerns. But first, pull out your list and remind yourself of all the reasons you planned to keep homeschooling.

No apologies here. I'm a homeschool advocate. And I believe you should do this thing called homeschooling. There are so many reasons why it is the best choice for your children. Plus, these days there is a plethora of high-quality curricula, co-ops, online academies, conferences, blogs, and resources available to help you. Therefore, I can also say the following with absolute confidence: You can do this.

Take a deep breath, exhale, relax, and feel the freedom. If there was ever a time to homeschool, it is now. Walk by faith and enjoy the homeschooling adventure of a lifetime!



Davis Carman is the president of Apologia Educational Ministries, the number one publisher of Creation-based science and Bible curriculum. He is the author of five illustrated children's books designed to help parents instill a biblical worldview in the hearts and minds of their preschoolers. He believes that if there was ever a time to homeschool, it is now! You can hear more of what he has to say at the Let's Talk Homeschool Podcast.



Spotlight: Foreign Language

NCHE Interviews Homeschool Mom Pilar Johnson



Pilar Johnson

NCHE: Pilar, you are a homeschooling mom and a Spanish tutor. You are married to Doug, and you have two children. Tell us a little more about yourself!

I was born in Mexico City. I am an industrial engineer. I met my husband on a business trip to North Carolina. It was love at first sight. We got married a year after we met. We have two children: Annie, fifteen years old, and Tommy, twelve years old. I have been a working mom since Annie was born, but I was laid off in 2018. I prayed really hard for guidance, and God directed me to homeschool my daughter.

NCHE: It must be so amazing for your children to grow up in a bi-lingual home! Did you speak Spanish to your children from the beginning?

Unfortunately, my husband does not speak Spanish, so we did not speak Spanish to our children at home. But I do have a very close relationship with my family in Mexico. My children grew up hearing me speak to them in Spanish.

NCHE: How did you begin tutoring Spanish outside of your home?

After my husband was laid off from work, I really wanted to continue homeschooling my daughter. I realized that I can teach Spanish to others as I have been teaching my daughter in high school. A friend suggested to me that I should offer my services to close friends.

NCHE: Do you think some Spanish curricula are better than others? Are there things you would encourage parents to look for (or avoid) when purchasing Spanish curriculum?

Yes absolutely. I started with one curriculum and changed it after a month after realizing it was not that great. I spent a lot of time at the Homeschool Gathering Place (local bookstore here in Raleigh) searching for the one that would be better for my daughter. Personally, we love "Realidades." It has a lot of exercises, and I believe that repetition is very important for a student.

NCHE: Do students have to practice their Spanish every day? How much time do they need to spend to be proficient?

It is important that they regularly listen to some Spanish. This could be through songs or watching Spanish movies, even with English subtitles, so they can get familiar with the language.

NCHE: How is learning conversational Spanish different from learning to read or write the language? Should one come first, or is it helpful to have both from the beginning?

That is why I like the curriculum I am using with my daughter. I suggest choosing a curriculum that has a combination of reading, writing, and speaking from the *beginning*. The brain starts to associate one with the other.

NCHE: Everyone says that to really learn a language, you need immersion in the culture. But living abroad for an extended period of time isn't a realistic option for most families. Is this why conversing with a tutor is a great choice?

Yes. I have noticed that if you are with a tutor, you feel freer to try to read all the words aloud than if you are in a classroom setting, where you might be overly conscious of not pronouncing all the words right. I love seeing the students feeling free to try speaking the words to me!

NCHE: Do students who have learned some Spanish vocabulary words here and there from books and videos pick up conversational Spanish more quickly?

Yes. They do not think so, but the more familiar they are with the language, the easier it will be for them to learn more.

NCHE: Do some people pick up languages more easily than others? How can parents who are better at other subjects like math and science help students who are gifted at learning languages?

I think in general, younger people do pick up languages more easily. The younger you are exposed to another language, the easier it is for you to learn it. Parents can help students by making it fun! Whatever you are teaching, it helps if you find ways to make learning like playing rather than studying. Foreign language is no different.

NCHE: Let's talk about verbs! How does a parent who doesn't speak Spanish teach conjugations?

Start slowly without overloading them. Do a lot of repetition. Do not take too much too fast, so they can grasp the concepts.

NCHE: Roughly fourteen percent of the US speaks Spanish as their first language. It's certainly more concentrated in some areas of our country than others, but do you think everyone should learn to speak at least a little Spanish even if they're already taking Latin, Greek, or another language as their main foreign language components?

Yes! Spanish is the fourth most common language in the world! Around 527 million people speak Spanish! Spanish is one of the best languages to know when you travel. To learn a language is to have a whole new world in front of you in terms of music, movies, art, and culture. Not to mention learning will keep your mind sharp.

NCHE: What is the advice that you find yourself most often giving to people about learning a foreign language?

Have fun! Do not be afraid to practice when you encounter someone that speaks the language. Even if you have to say some English words in between, practice makes progress.

Pilar Johnson is a personal Spanish tutor in the Raleigh area. Connect with her at pilar68@juno.com 

Remember that your children are not your own but are lent to you by the Creator.

Mohawk proverb

Glad You Asked

OUR BOARD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

What is your number one tip for first-year homeschoolers?

Diane says:

Your goal is not to recreate the brick and mortar school at your house—quite the opposite. Begin slowly. Allow flexibility. Know your children's gifts and passions. Think about how you and your children work and learn together before you dive into a lot of expensive curriculum. Let your main goal be to allow learning to be the most fun you can have. When learning is fun, children will enjoy learning for the rest of their lives!

As often as possible, share the stories of who they are: stories from your family's past, stories of our nation—where we came from and why, who rose to leadership and how. Read biographies

about different historical figures. When children are raised with a strong sense of direction and history, they have a better understanding of who they are when it's time to go into the world.

Briggs says:

Give yourself and your children endless grace. Relationship is much more important than any assignment. Don't sacrifice your family relationships just to finish a book or stick to curriculum—even if that curriculum is working and you spent money on it.

Evelyn says:

Be kind to yourself and your family. This is new for everyone, and you won't ruin your children!

Sarah says:

Relax! Be silly. Goof off! Let your children see you try new things. These are the sweetest years of our whole life and the time to tie heartstrings of love and friendship in the home. Give yourself plenty of margins to actively engage in listening to your children. They often process things out loud, so be available to listen to them talk through their thoughts, feelings, and everything they are learning—online, at home, and outside of your home.

Got a question? Ask the board at greenhouse@nche.com



Thrive!

The  Home School Conference

EQUIPPING, ENCOURAGING and CONNECTING

2021 THIRTY-SEVENTH NCHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BENTON CONVENTION CENTER • WINSTON-SALEM, NC



May 27-29, 2021

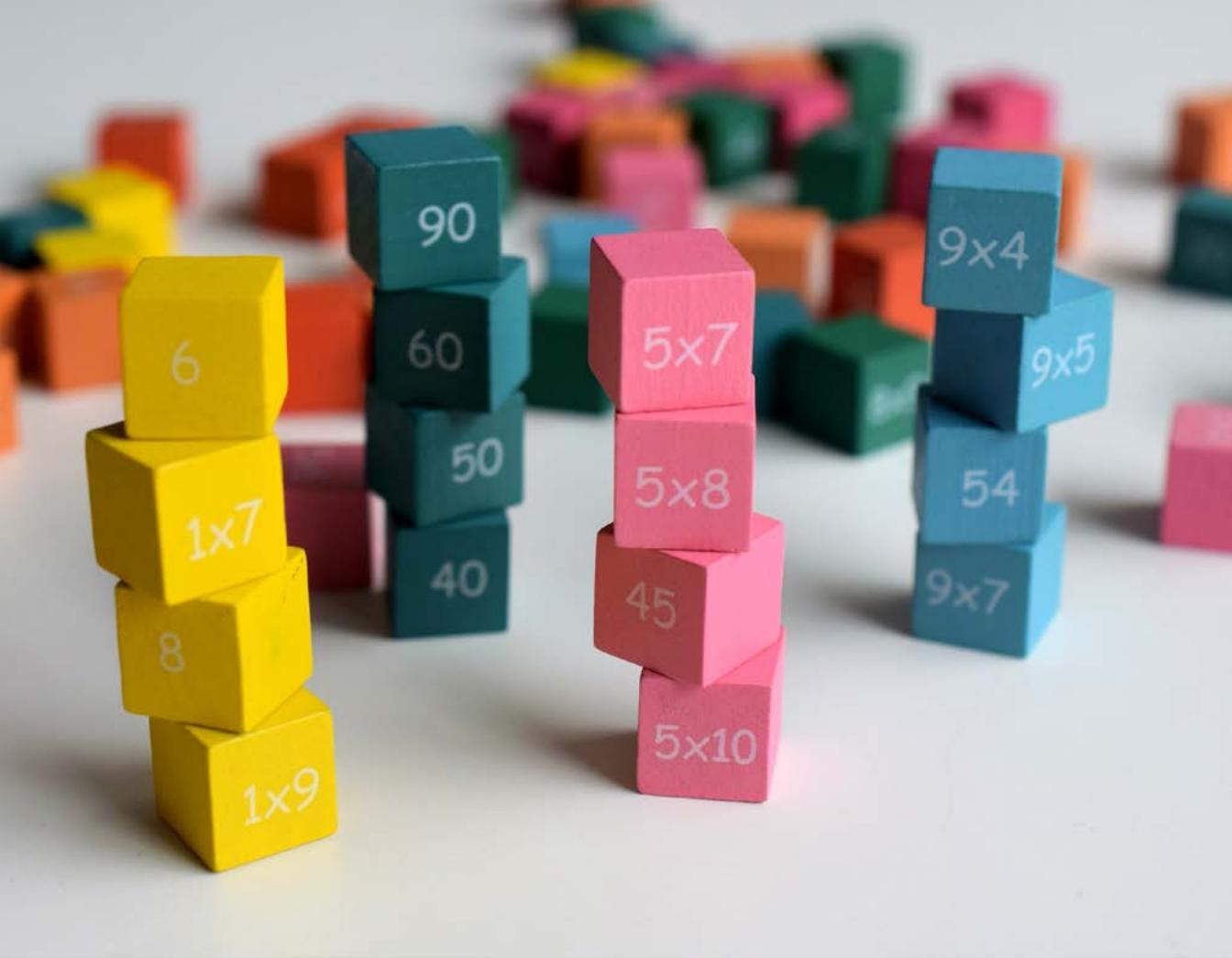
Conference website updates begin in mid-fall. • Hotel room reservations open October 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Knowledgeable and Inspiring Speakers • Huge Vendor Hall

Fun Teen Activities • Engaging Children's Program

"I love the conference! It refocuses, motivates, encourages and inspires me every year!" — Christy

nche.com/thrive



The Math around You: Helping Young Children Learn to Think Mathematically

by Alexa Carter

Despite popular opinion, math is not a creation of evil masterminds plotting the demise of students and mothers everywhere. I often get the feeling from comments I hear and read that many people think that math isn't a natural part of our lives, that it's boring and that it's something that we just have to make our kids do simply because we're expected to. None of these things is true—math is all around us! Just as we learn more about God through nature, music and art, we learn about God through math. It's part of the world that He created!

I do understand that some people aren't as strong in math as others, but even the least mathematically inclined of us can naturally include math in our children's education. This way when they eventually sit down to a textbook, they already have a base of mathematical thought to build on, as well as a reason to want to learn it! Plain old arithmetic is very useful, but if that's the be-all and end-all in math, it can be incredibly boring. If numbers only come up at your house when it's time to drill the multiplication tables, any natural love of math in your child might be squashed.

Laboriously working through a math book with your child is not important when your kids are young! Trying to make sure that they are at grade level in their math is not important when your kids

are young! Don't let the book represent math for your young child—rather use the book as a resource to help fill out your child's math exploration.

The end goal of your child's math education is not for them to be at or above grade level in elementary school! Your goal is for them to have a mind that can think math, enjoy math and apply math to their lives (and through all of these things, learn more about their Creator!). Keep focused on your higher aim and remind yourself that worrying about these benchmarks along the way could divert your path. If you lay a good foundation, speed can follow.

Up until my daughter entered second grade, I only used curricula when my kids asked for it. This year with my second-grade daughter reached a point where she needed to understand some of the mechanics of arithmetic before she could solve the problems that she wanted to solve. She was getting frustrated with trying to solve things without having the proper tools. Tools like the function of the tens place, carrying and borrowing (which are all really the same thing) are necessary knowledge. Of course, you can teach these without a book, but I like the way mine explains it. We now work on our second-grade curriculum once a week for about ten or fifteen minutes. She doesn't drill problems—we just discuss the new concept and do a very few sample problems so that she can test her understanding. It's not important at this point for her to work problems quickly—the important thing is to understand how to come up with the answer.

There are so many ways to live and enjoy math. I have listed some ideas for working math into your kids' lives. If you're mathematically inclined, these ideas or your own similar ones will come naturally to you. If you're not, try to pick some of the ones that feel the most comfortable to you. If neither you nor your child enjoys any particular idea, then stop the activity! And here's a tip for everyone as you do math with your kids: don't assume that they are only capable of the simplest math—I've often been surprised at the answers my kids can come up with! Ask hard questions, and give them a chance—if they can't solve it, help them think through it.

Baking Fun

Baking with your kids is a great way to deal with numbers (plus teach some science and end up with yummy results!). One thing I started doing with my kids was giving them a one-half measuring cup (or even a fourth of a cup) to use instead of the full cup measure, simply because it was easier for them to fill. When I did this, I didn't even think about the great math

possibilities! I progressed from simply telling them “we need four of these” to “we need two cups, and that's only half of a cup, so I need four of these,” to “we need two cups, and that's only a half of a cup, so how many do I need?” Once, I was in a hurry and handed my five-year-old son a one-fourth cup and asked him to measure out eight of them—he immediately responded “so, we need two cups!” I have not been drilling this with him, and I do not think that he needs to know that yet—but isn't it fun to be surprised by things like that? He understands the concept of a fourth of a cup, so to him it completely makes sense that eight of them make two cups! Also, vary the counting when you're baking: start with having your child simply count the things you need—then progress to “Ok, we need six, but I already put in two—how many more do you need to add?”

Lunch Lessons

Lunchtime is a great time to mess with numbers. When my kids ask if they can have crackers, I tell them that they can have eight, and they do the counting themselves. When there are only a few carrot sticks, I have one of the older kids divide up what's left among the three of them. It's gotten to be pretty natural for them to notice if there is a bad number to divide (“Oh no! There are eight left! What should we do? Mom, you'll have to have two.”). Another thing that isn't a natural part of lunch (but my kids love) is to have them “pay” for their lunch. I give them a random amount of change and then make up things that they have to pay me for (e.g., sandwich, yogurt, apples, etc.). I can make easier costs for the little ones and harder costs for the bigger kids. I also progress to charging them amounts for which they don't have exact change, so they have to figure out how to pay slightly more and ask me for change. To be perfectly honest, this game can be a tad bit wearying to me (lunchtime is my time to be on the computer while they eat, so constantly having to come back in and charge money isn't exactly my favorite thing to do). However, they really do love it, it's gotten them comfortable with money, and it makes them comfortable with arithmetic!

Allowance

Another math-and-money activity is allowance. My kids each have three jars for their allowance—one for their spending money, one to save for purchasing gifts at Christmas or birthdays and one for tithe. When I give the kids their money, they are the ones to split it up into the right jars with the percentages we laid out. I try to give it to them in different

denominations at different times so they get used to more than just one way of splitting it up. I also often forget to give it to them for several weeks in a row, so sometimes they get to do multiplication (if one week is 40 cents in this jar, then four weeks is 160 cents). It gives them an added challenge, and it's nice to have a good excuse for forgetting.

Everyday Questions

When your kids ask number-related questions, help them figure out the answers! This seems to happen a lot around my house—questions like “how old will I be when the baby is five? How long is it until we leave? When will I be six?” are great opportunities! Try to take advantage of everyday word problems! Here's an example:

“Mom, what year was I born in?”

“Well, what year is it now?”

“2013”

“And how old are you now?”

Hesitation. “Well, I don't know if I count as seven or eight.”

After explaining that that's a good question, and that since she turns eight next month, she counts as eight; we move on: “So, can you figure out what year you were born in, if you know that you're eight in 2013?”

After a pause: “No.”

“Ok, well how old were you in 2012? 2011? 2010? And if you were five in 2010, what year were you born in?”
“Oh! 2005!”

Game Time

Games are *wonderful* for learning math! For young children, things as simple as Candy Land and Chutes and Ladders (though these are admittedly not the ones I most enjoy playing) are great for teaching counting, patterns and turn-taking. As your child gets older, there are plenty of excellent games to keep them stimulated and thinking! Some games are better than others, as is true with everything, but almost any game involves some sort of strategy. Some fun games deal directly with math, and there are plenty of games that don't seem math related but are excellent thinking games.

Also in the game-like category are solitaire games and workbooks. These are some of my favorite things ever! ThinkFun puts out many wonderful solitaire games that my kids love—I highly recommend any of their stuff. My favorite workbooks are those put out by Critical Thinking Company and Tin Man Press. My kids love to do them, and I'm thrilled with the types of thinking that they teach. Check out the resources section below for some ideas on specific games and workbooks.

And don't underestimate the value of puzzles! The spatial reasoning used in putting together a puzzle is more difficult than we realize. Some children, like my oldest two, can do it naturally, so I never really thought of doing puzzles as a big learning experience. But when my third child started trying to do puzzles, I was amazed at how little she understood the concept of placement in the picture or how the bits of a picture go together. She tried to put the dog's head on the end of its tail, or the doll that's on the right side of the picture all the way over on the left! She enjoyed trying to do the puzzle with me, though, and the more she did it, the better she got at it. Separating the edge pieces from the interior pieces is also great sorting practice!

Look around You

Maybe the ideas above aren't in your areas of interest. Can't stand baking? Get bored by games? There are plenty of other areas where you can find math. In music, count beats or talk about note duration and time signature. In art, talk about parallel lines and shapes or learn ratios while mixing new colors. In nature, look at symmetry and have your little ones count petals on a flower or points on a leaf. For sports, there are lots of numbers in scores and time keeping, and brackets are charts! Keep an eye out for math; it's everywhere!



Alexa Carter, a homeschool graduate herself, and her husband, Daniel, live in Durham and homeschool their four children. She has coached award-winning homeschool MathCounts teams and taught math at various levels.

Sharing is a much better way to communicate than proving.

Yo Yo Ma

BULLETIN BOARD

Save the Date! The NCHE Mom's Retreat is November 6-7, 2020, at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro, NC. More information available on our website at nche.com/momsretreat

Serve as a Governor's Page. Governor's Page week is October 19 – 22, 2020. Find complete information on our website at nche.com/governorspage



Meet the NCHE media interns! My name is Averie. I'm a senior and have always been homeschooled. I love photography and videography. I'm involved in the student worship

team at my church and love it! I'm looking at possibly going into a career in media management or photography in the future.



I'm Savannah, and I love taking photos! I am a portrait photographer and enjoy capturing everything from senior pictures, to family portraits, and engagement announcements. I've been

homeschooled my whole life, and I live in NC with my family.

NCHE Athletic Commission updates can be found on their website at ncheac.com when you click on the COVID19 tab.

In honor of Ernie Hodges, the NCHE scholar-athlete scholarship will be named the Ernie Hodges scholar-athlete scholarship.

Save the Date! The NCHE Summit conference for educating children with special needs or other learning differences will be completely online this year. Find details and register on our website at nche.com/summit.

Support NCHE when you shop! Visit smile.amazon.com and select North Carolinians for Home Education. If you shop at Harris Teeter, link or relink your VIC card to their Together in Education program. The NCHE code is 2534.

NCHE Graduate Offerings. NCHE offers several different opportunities for graduating seniors of NCHE members: The NCHE graduation ceremony, a high school diploma, the GREENHOUSE graduate issue, and a scholarship program. More information about these will be available on the NCHE website this fall at www.nche.com/graduate/central/.



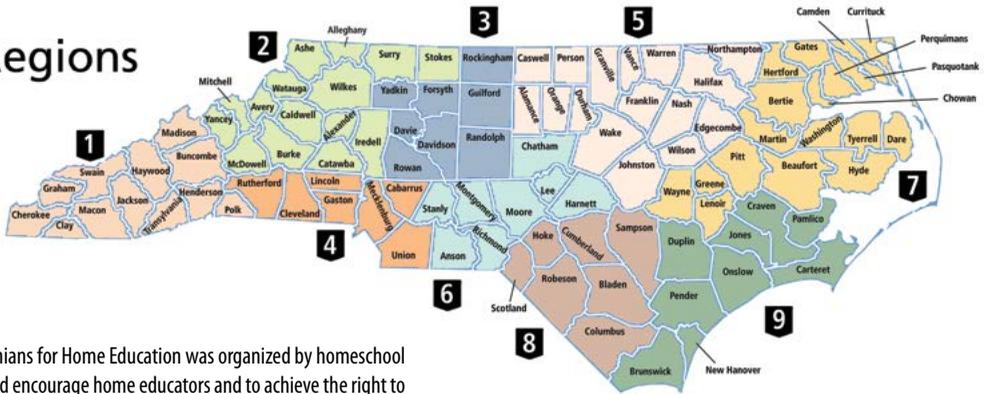
NCHE.COM
844.624.3338

NCHE Board of Directors (Statewide Officers and Regional Liaisons)

Matthew McDill, President and Executive Director president@ncche.com
 Diane Helfrich, Development Director development@ncche.com
 Sarah Hicks, Media Manager media@ncche.com
 Vacant, IT Director IT@ncche.com
 Briggs Greenwood, Marketing Director marketing@ncche.com
 Debbie Mason, Events Director events@ncche.com
 Evelyn Bickley, Activities Director activities@ncche.com
 Kathy Iandoli, Community Relations Director community@ncche.com
 Amanda Wares, Homeschool Helps Director helps@ncche.com
 Spencer Mason, Law and Policy Director law-policy@ncche.com
 Barry Bickley, Treasurer treasurer@ncche.com
 Jessica Frierson, Secretary secretary@ncche.com

Ronda Marshall, Advisor ronda.marshall@ncche.com
 Kevin McClain, Advisor kevin.mcclain@ncche.com
 1. Jerri Neal region1@ncche.com
 2. Jessica Frierson region2@ncche.com
 3. Brea McClain region3@ncche.com
 4. Anita Hudson region4@ncche.com
 5. Vicky Gurganus region5@ncche.com
 6. Sarah Merrilat region6@ncche.com
 7. April Briley region7@ncche.com
 8. Diane Helfrich region8@ncche.com
 9. Kathy Iandoli region9@ncche.com
NCHE Office - Raleigh (844) 624-3338 • nche@ncche.com

NCHE Regions



About NCHE

In 1984, North Carolinians for Home Education was organized by homeschool parents to support and encourage home educators and to achieve the right to freely home educate in North Carolina. Since that time, NCHE has endeavored to serve the homeschoolers in NC. NCHE continues to work to promote the excellence of home education, provide support for those who choose to do so and protect the right to homeschool. Our name was selected so as to include all who are for home education, not just those who are currently homeschooling. NCHE is governed by a working board of directors who volunteer their time and efforts to serve homeschoolers. A non-profit organization, NCHE operates on the basis of biblical principles and welcomes members of all races and religions.

GREENHOUSE Information

The GREENHOUSE is the periodical of North Carolinians for Home Education. It is published twice a year, spring and fall. There is also a special graduate publication in May. It is mailed to all members and posted online. The name GREENHOUSE was chosen to represent the type of care homeschooling parents are able to give to their children. Children are lovingly "tended" in a protected and nurturing environment until they are sufficiently mature to go out and take a place of service in the world. Letters and articles addressed to the GREENHOUSE become property of NCHE with full right to publication without further permission required. Ideas and opinions expressed in articles do not necessarily represent those of NCHE.

Advertising: The publication of advertising in the GREENHOUSE in no way expresses or implies endorsement by NCHE of products or services.

NCHE Membership

Membership in NCHE is available to anyone who supports home education. NC residents who are homeschooling must be in compliance with the NC homeschool law. Membership is obtained by donating any amount to NCHE (suggested donation is \$35). The service of NCHE is made possible by the generous and consistent contributions of its members and supporters.

ADVERTISERS

LIFEPAC.....	IFC
NCHE Moms Retreat.....	11
NCHE.....	IBC
NCHE Summit.....	15
NCHE Graduate Central.....	34
On-A-Tree Forestry.....	21
Plant and Grow Your Money.....	4
Speights DVDs.....	19
Tempus Renatus.....	13
Thrive! Conference.....	31
Trotter Ridge Cello Studio.....	9

Visit Us Online at nche.com



You help make this possible.

**When you become a member of
North Carolinians for Home Education,
you help us:**

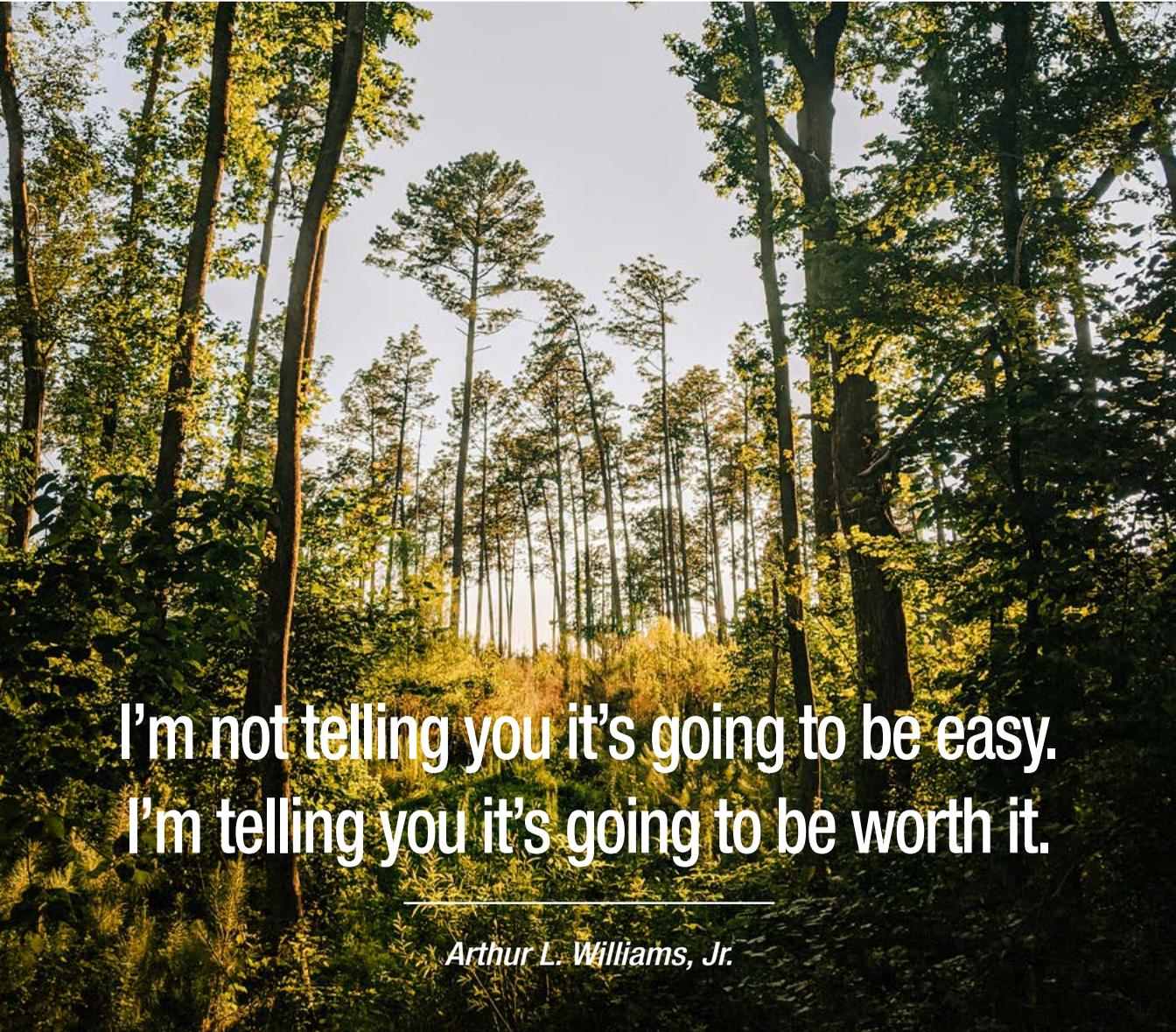
- **Protect** parents' rights to homeschool in NC
- **Equip** parents with the information & encouragement they need, and
- **Connect** parents with other families and groups across the state!

Join today by visiting:
[nche.com/join](https://www.nche.com/join)

North Carolinians for Home Education
4441 Six Forks Rd., Suite 106, Box 144
Raleigh, NC 27609

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PPCO



I'm not telling you it's going to be easy.
I'm telling you it's going to be worth it.

Arthur L. Williams, Jr.