

WINTER 2014
Volume 32 | No. 2

GREENHOUSE

Nurturing Home Education in North Carolina and Beyond



In This Issue



NCHE Moving Forward: Updated Vision and Bylaws

More Homeschool Regulation Will Not Prevent Child Abuse

Let's Talk about Achievement Tests

Raising Renaissance Kids

Experiencing a Good Marriage

My Homeschooling Deadly Ds

NCHE Athletics: Cross Country,

Volleyball and Soccer



Teen and Alumni Dance



Book Fair



Talent Showcase

NCHE THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 22-24, 2014 • M.C. Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC

"In thirty years of speaking at homeschool conferences, I had never attended the NCHE conference until this year. I was blown away. The cost of the conference was underpriced; the location was central; the vendor hall was full of more than anyone could expect; NCHE trustees were all engaged and super helpful; volunteers were friendly and knowledgeable; the facility was convenient in every respect, and the lineup of speakers was unparalleled. Simply put, all things considered, the NCHE conference is the best home school conference in America."

– Mike Smith, president of HSLDA –



Jeff Myers
President of Summit Ministries



Dr. Anthony B. Bradley
Author, professor and public policy analyst



Diana Waring
Author and homeschool pioneer



Rachael Carman
Author, homeschooling mom and co-owner of Apologia



Todd Wilson
Author and homeschooling dad



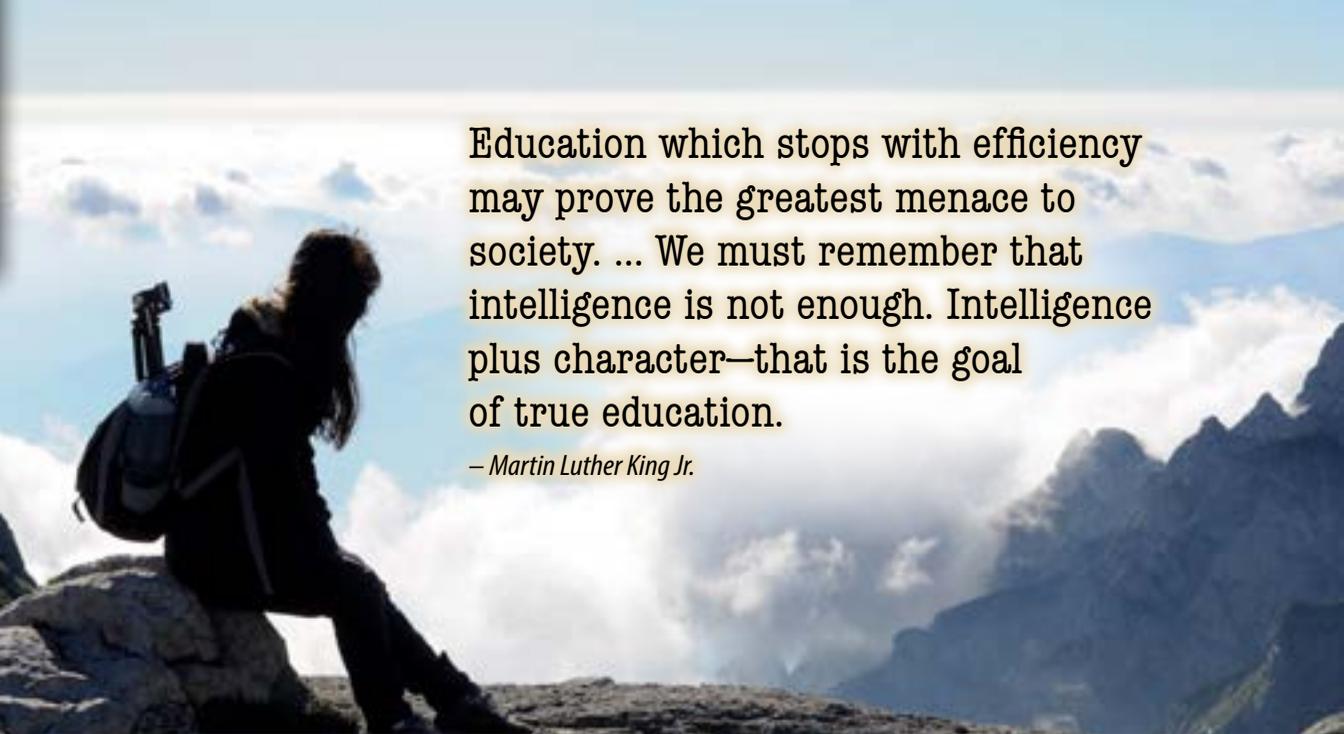
Sean McDowell
Apologetics and worldview speaker



OBB to perform
Children's Conference

Follow us as the conference comes together at <http://ncche.com/conference>





Education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. ... We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

About GREENHOUSE

GREENHOUSE (ISSN 2169-916X) is the periodical of North Carolinians for Home Education. It is a quarterly—four regular issues, plus a bonus graduate issue. It is mailed to subscribers 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 letters and 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.

DEADLINES (Received By)

Issue Date	Articles	Ads and Announcements
Winter - Jan/Feb/Mar	Nov 20	Dec 1
Spring - Apr/May/June	Feb 20	Mar 1
Summer - Jul/Aug/Sep	May 20	Jun 1
Fall - Oct/Nov/Dec	Aug 20	Sep 1

GREENHOUSE Editor

Debbie Mason Charlotte
(704) 541-5145 • email GREditor@nche.com

Published by:

North Carolinians for Home Education
PO Box 30243 • Raleigh, NC 27622

(919) 790-1100 • email nche@nche.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2** Kevin’s Kluge: NCHE Moving Forward: Updated Vision and Bylaws
- 6** Law and Policy: More Homeschool Regulation Will Not Prevent Child Abuse
- 8** Let’s Talk about Achievement Tests
- 12** How to Choose an Achievement Test
- 14** Surveying the Sites
- 16** Raising Renaissance Kids
- 18** Experiencing a Good Marriage
- 20** Homeschooling and 4-H Partnership Remains Strong
- 24** Persevering Perspective
- 26** My Homeschooling Deadly Ds
- 29** NCHE Athletics: A Photo Finish!
- 30** NCHE Athletics: Elissa Dawson Will Attend UNC on Diving Scholarship
- 31** NCHE Athletics: Cabarrus Claims State Championship in Boys Soccer
- 32** NCHE Athletics: Asheville Three-Peats in Varsity Volleyball at the State Tournament
- 36** Bulletin Board

Cover photo: Frost, courteous of Barta IV
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/98640399@N08/9290132284/>

NCHE Moving Forward: Updated Vision and Bylaws

by Kevin McClain



Kevin McClain and his bride, Brea, are embarking on their tenth year of homeschooling. Kevin is studying educational philosophy at UNCG where he is employed as an educational technologist. He is NCHE's new president.

This issue is the first issue of 2014. It's a new year, and NCHE, like so many homeschooling parents in NC, is busy. We've been busy working on the organization—how we understand our work and go about it. In December, the organization approved some significant bylaws changes. In this column, I'm going to expound on some of the most significant changes, and, in particular, want to reflect on NCHE's mission.

In my first column as president, I introduced the concept of a kluge, which is an imperfect solution to a problem using the resources at hand. Creating a kluge is sometimes necessary, especially in moments of crises. I cited as an example the history of the Apollo 13 flight, in which engineers had to quickly produce some life-saving devices using only the parts available to the astronauts. This kluging was glorious and was a testament to the strength and resourcefulness of the team. It also spoke to the reality of the human condition. We cannot plan for every contingency. We cannot predict the future. We can plan, but sometimes something unexpected occurs, and we have to kluge. But kluging is not a practice that should become the norm. Organizational health requires strategy and resource planning. The Apollo 13 crew didn't kluge their way into space. NASA engineers had a mission that they understood, and they organized themselves and their resources to achieve the goals of the mission. Much has changed since NCHE's founding thirty years ago. Home education practices have changed. Communication tools and strategies have changed; less than five years ago, no board member could imagine that NCHE would soon have a heavily trafficked website and a social media presence with over 8,000 fans. Associational commitments have also changed. Sociologists have noticed that people are far

more fluid in their connections to organizations. For many, the concept of membership is more about consumerism. The state's population and geography has also shifted; it has become clearer that there are significant differences in support needs in urban versus rural parts of the state. NCHE has been supporting home education in NC with an organizational structure roughly twenty years old. Yes, NCHE has made some organizational adjustments over the years; it has not been a static organization. But over the last few years, it has become increasingly clear that our mission and organizational structure were in need of some strategic revising. At the annual board retreat held in August, the board brainstormed ideas and priorities and voted to actively pursue restructuring. In the following months, the bylaws committee distilled those ideas into a significantly different organizational structure. At the November board meeting, the board voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations of the committee. These recommendations were put up for a member vote, and I am pleased that they were approved overwhelmingly.

NCHE's Updated Vision

The bylaws vote was also an opportunity to restate and reaffirm NCHE's commitment to serving God and our neighbor. Perhaps one of the most significant parts of the bylaws modification was the revision of NCHE's mission, stated in Article II:

"NCHE has a vision for flourishing families and thriving generations in which people remain passionate, curious and actively engaged in their faith and in their learning. Home education is a great way to educate children, especially young children, and to nurture future generations. Home education situates a child's development in their natural environment and encourages learning that is experiential and knowledge that is integrated. Home education fosters strong social relations, starting in the home. As a result, home education nurtures the whole child. NCHE encourages parents in their home education and advocates for a state which respects and protects the right of parents to practice home education."

The words *flourishing* and *thriving* in the phrase "a vision for flourishing families and thriving generations" harks back to the biblical concept of *shalom*. Many people are familiar with the word, usually translated *peace*. But

peace is really a poor substitute for the depth and richness of this biblical concept. The concept of *peace* typically communicates an end of strife in which two warring factions reluctantly agree to lay down arms mostly for the sake of avoiding mutual destruction. This kind of peace is really a strategic act, designed to temporarily thwart the enemy. But this kind of peace could not be called *shalom*. *Shalom* is really more about acting in a way that contributes to and benefits another, and also brings a benefit from the other party. *Shalom* is about helping, giving and receiving. Therefore, *shalom* is ultimately about weaving things together into something beautiful and rich. Cornelius Plantinga of Calvin College and Calvin Seminary, in his book, *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*, describes it thusly:

"The webbing together of God, humans and all creation in justice, fulfillment and delight is what the Hebrew prophets call *shalom*. We call it peace but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, *shalom* means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight—a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. *Shalom*, in other words, is the way things ought to be."

NCHE's mission is to help families pursue the *shalom* of God in their families and in society through the practice of education. We believe the evidence that there are educational practices that produce *shalom*—a state in which families increase in their delight of each other. This delight, we believe, spills out of the home and into society. Many circumstances contributed to the modern home education movement, but the growing sense that schools were producing dysfunctional people was a large factor. When people have trouble developing and maintaining healthy relationships with others, they are dysfunctional. There is evidence that modern schooling practices often fail to contribute to healthy family relationships. Instead of encouraging children to honor their parent's counsel, many schools disrespect parents by communicating that growing in knowledge means progressing beyond the experiential, intellectual and spiritual legacy of the home. We parents understand that we cannot program our children to share

our convictions (only God can mold a child's heart); however, we do believe that God requires parents to testify to their beliefs, and that shalom-producing education practices and systems support parents in this God-given task. But more so, we believe that the sharing of faith and heart-felt conviction is more likely to produce shalom when education occurs in the context of the family. The life of a child, a life full of relationships to others, unfolds from the home. It is my hope that Article II of NCHE's bylaws will be an encouragement to you and will help you better understand NCHE's vision for children, for families and for society.

Other Bylaw Changes

NCHE's board will now be comprised of fewer voting members, but more involved people, and each will have specific domains of responsibility. We are looking for individuals in several new areas, including: community relations, fund-raising, marketing, activity planning and information technologies. In addition, we continue to need individuals with financial and administrative skills. NCHE will still have a regional connection through those interested in working with local home educators. The

new bylaws modified this position, changing the name from *regional director* to *regional liaison* and making it a volunteer position, not a board position. These liaisons will no longer have to travel to quarterly board meetings. If you are interested in any of these areas, or the others mentioned in the new bylaws, and are interested in working with NCHE either as a board member or as part of a committee reporting to a board member, please carefully review the new bylaws and prayerfully consider volunteering. (You will find a copy of the bylaws on our website at nche.com. Go to the bottom of the page to click on *About Us*, and then click on *News*.) We are seeking the next generation of leadership for the organization.

I hope you will continue to support NCHE. This past year has been both challenging and exciting. A number of high profile news items have brought the issue of homeschooling oversight into the public forum. NCHE continues to advocate for freedom to home educate, but more importantly, for the shalom of the people of North Carolina. We trust you will join with us in our prayer that God will use our new organizational structure to better carry out our work. 



Seton Testing Services

Providing affordable, simple and comprehensive testing services for homeschools and private schools since 1982.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

California Achievement Test K-12

The Survey Edition of the CAT covering Reading, Language Arts, and Math.

Tests and scoring: \$25.

TerraNova 2 Tests (CAT 6) K-12

Available in both the Complete Battery Plus and the (shorter) Survey Plus Edition.

Tests and scoring: \$45

IOWA Tests (ITBS & ITED) K-12

The Full Battery (ITBS & ITED) with official Iowa reports. Grades 9-12 available with the Interest Explorer. **Tests and scoring from \$29**

OTHER PRODUCTS

Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT) Grades 3-12

The CogAT is an aptitude test that measures learned reasoning and problem-solving in three areas: verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal skills. Take the test alone or with the IOWA. **\$29.00**

Online Algebra Placement Test

Determine if your student is ready for Algebra 1. **\$20**

Test Prep Materials Grades 1-12

Available for CAT, Iowa and TerraNOVA 2nd Edition



800-542-1066 www.setontesting.com

Group Discounts Available
TESTS SCORED WITHIN 2 WEEKS!

A Top-Ranked Academic Home as Remarkable as Her First.

Hope Ammen grew up in an environment where academic challenge and a spirit of inquiry were celebrated and encouraged. Today, the former homeschooled student is experiencing the same in her classes at Regent University. She's enjoying new opportunities, new friends, and professors who believe in her. Ready to join our family? Learn about Regent's homeschool-friendly admissions policies and tuition discounts for HSLDA members.

Hope Ammen
Cinema-Television

**ASSOCIATE'S | BACHELOR'S
MASTER'S | DOCTORAL**

ON CAMPUS | ONLINE
888.718.1222 | REGENT.EDU/HOMESCHOOL

 **REGENT
UNIVERSITY** | College of Arts
& Sciences

Christian Leadership to Change the World



CAS130781



More Homeschool Regulation Will Not Prevent Child Abuse

by Spencer Mason

The success of homeschooling has been well documented, and the number of homeschools in NC continues to grow. The Erica Parsons case has brought a lot of unwarranted attention to the homeschool community. In July, Erica's adoptive brother reported her missing nearly two years after he had last seen her. Her adopted parents have said that they didn't think Erica was missing; they thought she went to live with her biological grandmother two years ago when she was thirteen years old. However, other family members have said that Erica's biological grandmother died five years ago. Since July, there has been an unfruitful search to find Erica. The fact that the Parsons had notified the state that they were operating a homeschool has caused assertions that the disappearance of Erica was not detected earlier because she was homeschooled. It is interesting to note that the Parsons were receiving more than \$600 a month from the state because of Erica's mental disability when she was adopted. Apparently, the state was not holding the parents accountable for the money they were receiving. This money was not connected to homeschooling in any way.

Because homeschool students are not in a traditional classroom, they are mistakenly believed to be "invisible children." The perception is that the children are home with their parents all day every day. However, the reality is that the typical homeschool student is engaged in a variety of community activities. Studies have shown that homeschool families are more likely than families with children in public school to be involved in community activities. The large majority of homeschool children are very visible.

Many believe that more homeschool regulations would help with the problem of abuse. There have been a variety of regulations suggested as a way to prevent the abuse or neglect of homeschooled children. There are four common suggestions for preventing child abuse in homeschool families. 1) Require DNPE to perform an annual inspection of homeschool records at the home. 2) Have homeschoolers report to the district superintendent of schools every semester. 3) Require criminal background checks of parents before they can homeschool. 4) Have parents take abuse prevention training before they can open a homeschool.

The primary problem with all these possible regulations is that the focus on abuse prevention is in

the wrong place. Schools exist for the purpose of education; they are not oriented to prevent child abuse. More importantly, these suggestions will not prevent child abuse.

According to DSS statistics, about eighteen percent of all substantiated reports of abuse or neglect in NC are reported by education personnel. About seventeen percent of the reports are from human services personnel, and more than twenty-two percent of the reports are generated by law enforcement and the courts. Nationally, more than eighty percent of child fatalities due to abuse or neglect happen with children four years old and younger. Therefore, school personnel have no opportunity to detect abuse or neglect in children who are most vulnerable. In addition, there are instances of school children who are being abused for years whose abuse is never detected by school personnel. The abuse is finally reported by another source, such as family or police.

If a parent is abusing a child, it is unlikely that an annual inspection of homeschool records or meetings with a district superintendent will have any effect. An abusive parent can surely anticipate those meetings and insure that everything appears to be normal when the meetings happen.

Criminal background checks are unlikely to prevent child abuse. There have been numerous reports of school personnel abusing or covering up the abuse of students in their care, and they have all had criminal background checks.

As for abuse prevention training before parents can open a homeschool, this training is not effective enough to justify making it mandatory for all parents before they can homeschool. In NC, homeschools are opened when the child is seven years old, and the age group most vulnerable to child abuse and neglect is four years old and younger. Are we going to require mandatory child abuse training or criminal background checks before one can become a parent?

In November, it was discovered that a Union County DSS supervisor was abusing a foster child. The supervisor had notified that she was operating a homeschool. The eleven-year-old child was found handcuffed to the porch with a dead chicken tied around his neck. Most likely the DSS supervisor had been the subject of a criminal background check and not only had taken child abuse training classes but had conducted many of these classes herself.

A major reason many families choose to homeschool is to protect their children from abuse at school. Many homeschool families can cite physical or cyber bullying of their children at school, with school personnel unable or unwilling to stop the abuse, as a reason they chose to homeschool. Others have

reacted to the news of school shootings and teachers having sex with underage students.

Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem in our society. It happens in homes, in schools and elsewhere. There is no simple solution. While I believe that there is less abuse in the homeschool community than in the general population, it does happen in homeschools. We need to be aware of the signs of abuse and our responsibilities. NC law requires all adults who suspect abuse or neglect to report their suspicions to the authorities. Those failing to do so are guilty of a misdemeanor.

NCHE is committed to informing the homeschool community about this issue. We have had workshops at our annual conference and articles in the GREENHOUSE and on our website with information about abuse prevention. Education is the best solution. It is incumbent on all to be aware of the problem and of the signs of child abuse and to do our part in preventing it.



Spencer Mason and his wife, Debbie, homeschooled their four children for twenty-six years. They have served on the NCHE board since 1988. Spencer served twice as president, from 1998-2000 and 2008-2012. He now serves as legislative vice president.

Signs of Child Abuse or Neglect in Children

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Is excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong.
- Shows extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive).
- Doesn't seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver.
- Acts either inappropriately adult (taking care of other children) or inappropriately infantile (rocking, thumb-sucking, throwing tantrums).

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Has frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts.
- Is always watchful and "on alert," as if waiting for something bad to happen.
- Has injuries that appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt.
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries, such as long-sleeved shirts on hot days.

NEGLECT

- Has clothes that are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather.
- Has hygiene that is consistently bad (unbathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor).
- Has untreated illnesses and physical injuries.
- Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations and environments.
- Is frequently late or missing from school.

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Has trouble walking or sitting.
- Displays knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to his or her age, or even displays seductive behavior.
- Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason.
- Doesn't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities.
- Has an STD or pregnancy, especially under the age of fourteen.
- Runs away from home.

Adapted from <http://www.helpguide.org>



LET'S TALK ABOUT ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

by Diane Allen and Marji McIlvaine

OUR PHILOSOPHY ON TESTING

Achievement testing is the educational topic most likely to incite questions and concerns among homeschoolers. Homeschool parents have questions about the nature of achievement testing and why some states require testing for homeschoolers. Many parents also become concerned that their children *pass* their grade at the end of the year. Given these concerns and questions, it is no wonder that some parents become quite contentious altogether about the topic!

As test administrators, we meet with many families who are anxious about testing. It's natural, really. How often does the idea of testing have a positive connotation? When was the last time you thought of a medical test as something to eagerly anticipate? Even in the spiritual realm, few of us look forward to going through testing. We know that something is being measured, and we fear that we will miss a mark that somebody has set for us.

As homeschooling parents, we often feel as if we are being tested as well as our child. Somehow the idea settles upon us that test results will validate our homeschool, and the anxiety levels begin to rise. Our children can easily catch this anxiety from us, even without a single word to them. We, your authors, are homeschooling mothers, too, and we get it—believe me, we get it! Let us encourage you—no test validates how successful your homeschool year has been. No achievement test measures the things that truly matter in life—how faithful your child is, how she has grown in her spiritual life, whether his heart is one of service to his family and his neighbors, whether

she learned to do her chores cheerfully. The academic arena is important, but it is not the most important. Don't lose sight of the bigger picture as testing season approaches. Relax a bit, and your children will, too.

The test is simply a tool; it is not your judge! The information you receive in results is yours alone. Use the results as a tool to shore up the weaker areas that may be revealed and to challenge your students more deeply in areas of higher ability—or even (gasp!) let them coast for the next year in those strong areas. As we discuss some of the nuts and bolts of testing that can help you learn to use this tool in your homeschooling toolbox, keep the larger picture in mind.

TYPES OF TESTS

North Carolina law requires all homeschool students to take an achievement test each year without exception. Parents may choose from any number of nationally normed achievement tests. What are nationally normed achievement tests?

In the world of education there are three kinds of assessments—aptitude, criterion referenced and norm-referenced.

Aptitude tests measure a student's innate skills or aptitude for a particular subject, job, etc. The military offers an aptitude test for service applicants. The SAT is an aptitude test that predicts how well a student will do academically in college. (Though that claim is in question today, the SAT does sort students by academic aptitude.) Some companies and organizations offer career aptitude tests that help students decide what career options fit their personal traits.

Criterion referenced tests measure student achievement on a particular set of material. The tests I used to develop and give to my chemistry classes were criterion referenced. I wanted to see how much they absorbed and understood of the specific material I taught them. Some states (like NC public schools) have end of course or end-of-grade tests which measure student success on the particular material taught. These school system tests are not required of homeschoolers because the tests were developed for public school curriculum.

Norm-referenced tests are generally described as *nationally normed and standardized*. This means the tests were developed to measure achievement levels in a general sense. The method used to develop these tests involves designing questions on general material, testing the questions in a national pool, then developing normative data on the test from a large and diverse sample of students in each grade level. Choosing a large and diverse sample test creates a profile of the average student in a

grade level. Of course, no such average student really exists, but the average scores do allow us to compare our particular student to expected levels of achievement in each grade level.

The standardized label refers to the requirement that these tests be given in a specified manner that levels the testing field for all students taking test.

THE NATIONALLY NORMED STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TEST

It is the nationally normed, standardized achievement test that NC homeschool students are required to take each year. There are specific tests in this category. Some of the most popular for homeschools are: IOWA, also called the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills), CAT (California Achievement Test), TerraNova (newest version of the CAT), Stanford (most often used by private and Christian schools), Woodcock-Johnson Achievement Test (W-J) and Brigance Comprehensive Inventory of Basic Skills II (Brigance CIBS).

The IOWA, CAT/TerraNova, ITBS and Stanford tests were originally developed for classroom administration. All of these are probably familiar to most people because they have been used in schools for decades, and you probably took them with your class when you were in school. These are multiple choice tests that have time restrictions (part of the standardizing procedures).

The W-J is administered by a trained administrator who works with one student at a time. It is an accurate test without multiple choice questions that allows students to answer in a more natural way, either orally or in a natural form of writing.

The Brigance CIBS is a good choice for special needs students who work at lower than average levels of achievement. There are actually two levels of the Brigance, one for early childhood or low development and one for developmental levels between grades K and 9.

OUR THOUGHTS ON SELECTING A TEST

Choosing a test can be confusing for new homeschoolers. One huge consideration for most families is the cost of the annual test. Costs vary widely between types of tests and even among providers of similar tests. While there is more to consider than merely costs, economic reality is that families cannot disregard this factor.

Therefore, if you feel you know about where your children are working academically, and they don't seem to be experiencing difficulties, by all means use the least expensive and easiest test to give! In most instances this will be a CAT, TerraNova (the Plus section needs to be added to cover spelling) or IOWA. These are

the least expensive options overall and may sometimes be given to your own children.

Any parent may administer the CAT or TerraNova to their own children. Parents basically rent the test booklets from the provider, administer the test according to the directions, and then return the booklets and the “bubble chart” scoring sheets to the company. The vendor scores the sheets and returns a score report to the parent. Even though the CAT is the old version, it is still available by some test providers. Several companies offer the full version of the CAT which includes all the subject areas (and a few you might not have thought of, like research skills or library skills). There is a survey battery which includes only selected subtests in reading, writing and math. One company offers a 1970’s edition of the CAT at a very low cost. Parents who have used this version report that the directions and vocabulary are quite different and the subject matter includes material we don’t typically cover any more (i.e. how many card catalogs have your children used at the library recently?)

Parents with a college degree may administer the IOWA. The IOWA is similar to the CAT/TerraNova Plus in form and administration. Most providers are administering the most current version of the IOWA because the publisher strictly controls distribution. Therefore the cost of this test will all be the same.

All of these tests have specific administration directions. You must read the script as you give the directions and you must carefully avoid helping your students. To ensure test security, you should not look at the test itself before you have your children take it.

The Stanford Achievement Test (Pearson publishers) is a similar test most often given by private schools. Parents may not administer it to their own children and only certain people are qualified to administer this test per the publisher’s requirements. Some private schools will allow outside students to take this test with their own students for a fee.

If you have young children who are not reading, there are “non-reading” versions of these tests.

The W-J is a test that works well for students who are well below, well above or right on grade level. It must be administered by someone trained to do so. Since you are hiring someone to privately do the testing, it is more expensive to use. One enormous benefit of this test is that a good administrator who is familiar with homeschooling and homeschool curricula can share valuable insights about your students’ learning styles, right/left brain dominance and relate those to curriculum choices. A good W-J test administrator can also recognize signs of learning

issues that many parents are not aware of. We see parents who are sure that their child is lazy, when in reality the child is working as hard as he can and is simply unable to do the task, such as remembering the short vowel sounds even after significant time invested in doing so. Once such an issue is recognized, parents can help the child work differently to overcome the challenge. The availability of the W-J varies and depends on there being a trained administrator in your area. The W-J is a good test option for students with mild to moderate academic or cognitive disabilities.

If your child has learning challenges it is possible to administer any achievement test by making accommodations for your child. Commonly accepted accommodations are extended time on subtests and having a scribe to record answers for a student with severe motor control issues. Typically, to be legitimate, a specific diagnosis is required to justify accommodations, and they must be carefully noted on the scores that become part of the permanent record.

The Brigance CIBS is designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities. The advantage of the Brigance CIBS is that older students working at low academic levels are better able to demonstrate their growth from year to year on this particular test instrument. This would be a very good option for students who are older than seven and yet still working at a grade level several years younger than their age would indicate. Some test providers offer the Brigance CIBS to their clients for rent or including administration.

High School students may take any of these achievement tests to meet the NC homeschool testing requirement. However, a good option for these older students is to take the ACT test (act.org) that is used for college entrance requirements. This test meets the requirements to satisfy the homeschool testing requirement. This test is administered by the publisher at certain times and locations throughout the year. Students sign up online. The scores are returned to the parent and may also be reported to selected colleges.

The SAT (www.collegeboard.com) is another college entrance test. It is an aptitude test and not an achievement test. The SAT does not satisfy the testing requirements for homeschoolers. The SAT subject tests are achievement tests for specific subjects. The literature and math subjects of the SAT subject tests will satisfy the requirements, but is certainly not the simplest or cheapest way to go. Information about these tests is available on the website above.

Providers for the standard achievement tests are listed at the NCHE website and on the DNPE website.

What is the purpose of an achievement test? Why should

my students take one? The original purpose for achievement tests was to evaluate the effectiveness of school educational programs. These tests can still be useful for helping you, as a homeschool parent, evaluate the effectiveness of your curriculum. These tests also establish a gauge to measure your student's progress from year to year. Most of the time homeschool parents have a sense of how their students are doing, but an achievement test can confirm your personal evaluation and also identify strengths and weaknesses.

The most important thing to remember is that these tests are not pass or fail endeavors. Any achievement test is only a snap-shot of your student's achievement level. You should always compare test results with daily observations. We do not recommend using the test results as the benchmark for moving on to the next grade level. Use the test results to help guide your homeschool plans; do not let the current mania over test results destroy your joy in homeschooling or distract you from the larger goal you have established for your children.

As you make your best choice for this year for your family, God will give you wisdom about which to choose as you seek His guidance. If you don't like the one you try this year, you have the freedom to make a different choice next year. Take the information, study it, pray over it, and move forward. Then take a break and have some fun with your kids!



Diane Allen and her husband have homeschooled for twenty years. They have two homeschool graduates who are now college graduates, married and new parents. Their youngest child is a homeschooled senior in high school. Aside from homeschooling her own children,

Diane provides achievement testing for homeschoolers and teaches online science classes through Landry Academy.



Marji McIvaine and her husband, Rick, have homeschooled for twenty-five years and in four states. Five of their children have graduated from their homeschool—two have graduated from college, two are in college, one is in-and-out of college and their youngest daughter is a senior this year and will graduate in May. She

administers the Woodcock-Johnson test in WNC, teaches with Landry Academy and BBC tutorials.

The Homeschool Gathering Place

We provide new and consigned curricula, a wide array of other homeschool and family resource material, and guidance in making the best selections for your needs.

Tues-Sat 10am-5:30pm
*Tues & Thurs evenings
6-8:30pm for adults & nursing babies only, please.
Closed Sunday & Monday.

919.571.8106

www.homeschoolgatheringplace.com

Near 440 & 540 Belllines in
Oak Park Shopping Center:

5204 Hollyridge Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27612

Copyright © 2009 The Homeschool Gathering Place

Achievement, Cognitive, Career, College Credit and Practice Tests

www.TriangleEd.com

National standardized achievement tests



Specializing in

- The Iowa Tests®** for grades K-12
- SAT/10 "Stanford"** for grades K-12 **Paper & Online**
- Terra Nova** for grades K-12 **Complete & Survey**
- former CAT Test (California Achievement Test)
- Woodcock-Johnson® III** for ages 4-99
- BASI™** for grades 3-12
- Brigance®** - up to 7 yrs. developmentally
- CogAT®** for grades K-12
- OLSAT** for grades 2-12 **Paper & Online**
- Interest Explorer™** for grades 9-12
- CLEP® Exams**
- DSST™ Exams**

•The Iowa Practice Test, CogAT/OLSAT Practice Test, Scoring High Test Prep Books

Group discounts available • Some restrictions apply

Your *Child* is Uniquely & Wonderfully Made

Triangle Education Assessments, LLC
2521 Schieffelin Rd., Ste. 102, Apex, NC 27502
Ph. 919.387.7004 • orders@triangleed.com
Toll free or fax order:
1.877.8.GET TEST (1.877.843.8837)



How to Choose an Achievement Test

by Debbie Thompson



Debbie Thompson (www.TriangleEd.com) is director at Triangle Education Assessments in Apex, NC, which helps thousands of homeschoolers each year with their achievement, cognitive, college credit, career and practice testing needs. For questions, email TEA at info@triangleed.com or call toll-free, (877) 843-8837.

Many parents have questions about which achievement test would best fit their students. There have been several factors to take into consideration, but today, there is a new one: Do you want the test to be aligned to the Common Core? If you do not want a test aligned to the Common Core, then choose a test that was designed and normed before 2009.

Below I have listed the tests according to the reasons people choose each test. (This list is not exhaustive but has the most common tests used in NC.) All of the tests mentioned meet NC yearly testing requirements as a nationally standardized achievement test.

TESTS NOT ALIGNED TO THE COMMON CORE:

- BASI (Gr 3-12)—paper and computer versions
- Iowa Tests (Gr K-12)—Form A (not the newer Form C), paper
- PASS Tests (Gr 3-8)—paper, standardized but not nationally normed
- Stanford-10 Tests (Gr K-12)—paper
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)—computer, can be done in home or testing center
- TerraNova2 Tests Complete Plus (Gr K-12) or Survey Plus (Gr 2-12)—paper, substitute for California Achievement Tests (CAT)
- Woodcock-Johnson, III (preschool-adult)—paper and oral

TESTS ALIGNED TO THE COMMON CORE:

- ACT—only through www.act.org

- Iowa-Form C—only through BJU
- Brigance-2010 (for children developmentally seven years or younger)

These lists are arranged according to other considerations.

UNTIMED TESTS:

- PASS Tests (Gr 3-8)—paper
- Stanford-10 (Gr K-12)—paper
- Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)—computer
- Woodcock-Johnson, III (all grades)—mostly untimed, paper and oral

TESTS FOR TESTING IN A GROUP OR WITH MULTIPLE GRADES TOGETHER:

- Iowa (Gr 3-8, 9-12)—paper

Stanford-10 (Gr 3-4, Gr 5-8, Gr 9-12)—
paper

Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)—
computer

TerraNova2 Complete Plus (Gr 4-5, Gr 6-8,
Gr 9-12)—paper

TerraNova2 Survey Plus (Gr 6-8, Gr
9-12)—paper

TESTS THAT GIVE QUICK RESULTS:

BASI Online (Gr 3-12)—immediate
results

Iowa (Gr K-12)—hand scored, results
usually in one week

Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)—
immediate computerized results, in
home or testing center

TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus
(Gr K-12)—hand scored, results
usually in one week

TESTS YOU CAN GIVE AT HOME THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A BA DEGREE:

Brigance (for developmentally seven
years or younger)

PASS Tests (Gr 3-8)—paper

Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)—
computer with immediate results,

Note: You do not have to have
a BA degree or training for the
Stanford-10 Online because the
testing center is proctoring the online
test.

TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus
(Gr K-12)—paper

SHORTEST ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

A survey version of any test if available

Woodcock-Johnson, III (all ages and
grades)—approximately 75
minutes, done by a trained WJ
provider

TerraNova2 Complete Plus (Gr K)—95
minutes

Iowa (Gr 1 Level 6)—163 minutes

TerraNova2 Survey Plus (Gr 2-8)—215 to
235 minutes

Stanford-10 (Gr 9-12)—230 minutes,
can be administered untimed

BASI (Gr 3-12)—2 hours

LEAST EXPENSIVE TESTS:

Stanford-10 (Gr K-12)

CAT tests (Gr K-12)—old norms

TESTS THAT PRODUCE ACHIEVEMENT SCORES FOR NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

Iowa (Gr K-12)

Stanford-10 (Gr K-12)

Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)

ACT

TEST MOST OFTEN USED IN NC PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Iowa (Gr K-12)

TEST MOST OFTEN USED IN NC PRIVATE SCHOOLS:

Stanford-10 (Gr K-12)

PAPER TESTS THAT CAN BE GIVEN AT HOME:

BASI (Gr 3-12)

Iowa (Gr K-12)

PASS (Gr 3-8)

Stanford-10 (Gr K-12)

TerraNova2 Complete Plus (Gr K-12) or
Survey Plus (Gr 2-12)

COMPUTERIZED TEST THAT CAN BE GIVEN AT HOME WITH IMMEDIATE REPORT:

Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)

ONE-ON-ONE TEST:

Woodcock-Johnson, III (all ages and
grades)

- partly oral, listening and writing
- not fill-in-the-bubble
- allows the child to test as low as
they need to but also as high as
they can
- mostly untimed
- immediate report

- comes with a consultation;
- gives a little purer grade
equivalency

TESTS FOR A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD:

Brigance (children developmentally 7
years or younger)

Iowa, Stanford or TerraNova—paper
version of the lowest level available

TESTS YEAR-NORMED, NEWEST UNALIGNED TO THE COMMON CORE:

(The versions of tests carried by test
companies varies.)

BASI, (Gr 3-12)—paper and online, in a
testing center, 2003

Iowa Tests for Gr K-12 Form A—paper,
2005

Stanford-10 Tests (Gr K-12)—paper,
2007

Stanford-10 Online (Gr 3 spring-12)—in
home or a testing center, 2007

TerraNova2 Complete Plus (Gr K-12) or
Survey Plus Tests (Gr 2-12)—paper,
2005

Woodcock-Johnson, III (preschool-
adult)—paper, 2007

REQUIREMENTS TO ADMINISTER THE TESTS:

BASI—none, online in a testing center
Brigance—none when used as a life
skills checklist

Iowa Tests—BA degree

Stanford-10 Tests, paper version—BA
degree and some training (A free
eight minute training video is on
the TEA website under "Testing
Resources.")

Stanford-10 Online Tests—none

TerraNova2 Complete Plus or Survey Plus
Tests—none

Woodcock-Johnson, III—specially
trained tester 



SURVEYING THE SITES

by Lorie Codispoti

Not everyone has the time to survey the Internet to find informative, fun, and educational websites for their family to enjoy. That's why we offer this column. By dividing it into four sections, we work towards our goal—to provide something for everyone. We hope that you will enjoy what we've discovered for you this month.

Articles of Interest

"Screwtape Letter for the Homeschool Mom" by Daniella Dautrich

<http://www.writeshop.com/blog/homeschool-doubts-screwtape-letters/>

"My dear Wormwood, I see with great displeasure that your patient has become a homeschooler. There is no need to despair; hundreds of these well-meaning mothers have been recovered after just a few months of school." (DD)

"Stepping Outside the Grade Level Box" by Sarah Small

<http://simplehomeschool.net/stepping-outside-the-grade-level-box/>

"That hallmark of traditional schooling—the passing from grade to grade—isn't of utmost importance in homeschooling. The age/grade correlation just isn't necessarily present." (SS)

Teacher Feature

Free High School Resources You Won't Want to Miss

<http://something2offer.com/free-high-school-resources-you-wont-want-to-miss/>

Some of the resources listed on this website include planners, online courses, Bible note booking, audio books, and more. This list even includes free high school level textbooks available for your Kindle.



40 Ways to Distract a Toddler

<http://www.simplelittlehome.com/2012/03/50-ways-to-distract-toddler.html>



Are you in need of some ideas that will help you entertain your toddlers? Well, here are some great ideas that will enable you and your older children to concentrate on those subjects that require limited interruption time.

It's Elementary

DIY Spiny Spellers and Repurposing Duplo Bricks

<http://www.filthwizardry.com/2010/07/diy-spiny-spellers-and-repurposing.html>



Turn learning how to read into a fun activity. In this blog entry, the author posts pictures and gives instructions on how to make your own spiny spellers and word blocks as well as all kinds of ideas on how to use them.

What a Ride

<http://ticklestogiggles.blogspot.com/2010/05/my-birthday-was-awesome.html>

Here's an inspiring blog entry that may help to spark the

spirit of giving in your family. This author describes the thirty-five random acts of kindness that she and her family came up with to celebrate her birthday. She describes each one and even includes pictures.

High School and Beyond

Finances 101

<http://www.finances101thegame.org>



This free, online game teaches high school students about the financial demands of the real world. Whether they roll the dice, spin the wheel, or draw a card, they will travel around this board and learn about earning a wage, paying bills and more in this fun game.

How to Create a Website for Teens

<http://www.askwebboy.com/how-to-create-a-website-for-teens/>

Do your teenagers have an interest in creating their own website? What a great project idea. Here's a helpful checklist to review before getting started.

Note: Ideas and opinions expressed on the websites in this column are not necessarily those of the author or NCHE.



Lorie Codispoti is retired from homeschooling after successfully graduating her two children. She and her husband, John, are former NCHE board members. Lorie can be reached at GatesOfEllore@gmail.com.



RAISING RENAISSANCE KIDS

by Matt Bianco

When I was growing up, many of the families I knew had *pizza night* and *game night*. Not mine. We had *go out to dinner night*, usually every other Friday on payday. We didn't have any other family nights, though. With my own homeschooling family, we've committed to family nights but changed them as the children have grown through different stages and interests.

I believe that children are far more moved by the presence and the role that their dad plays in their lives than we tend to think. Personally, one of my goals for the education of my children is to raise up *Renaissance* men and women. Primarily, I want them to know the Lord and to make Him known, but I want them to be able to do so in a Renaissance kind of way. I want them to be thinkers, mathematicians, poets, singers, musicians, warriors, readers and athletes all rolled into one. So I have developed ideas for family nights that mothers and fathers can have to help raise Renaissance children.

STORY NIGHT. I want my children to be readers and writers; I want them to be able to tell good stories. So I read to them. I read them fiction, fantasy fiction, science fiction and especially the classics, including fairy tales and fables. Through these stories, they have the chance to identify with characters they can imitate and love. They learn to love reading. They learn to love the best writers. By loving the best writers, they learn to write well, as good writing sinks into their bones through these stories.

HISTORY NIGHT. History informs us of who we are. It tells us what kind of people we are, whether we consider Western history, American history, family history or Christian history. When my children were younger, I'd tell them the history from the Bible and the Church, then our family history. As they've grown older, we've discussed the history of Western civilization and America.

POETRY NIGHT. Poetry is a great means of communication because it communicates grand ideas using an economy of words. A poet can say so much with so few words—just think of your average haiku! Additionally, poets think very carefully about how to communicate with a precise selection of words and word order. Reading good poetry to our children will help them

to recognize these things and be more conscious of their own word choices. Moreover, the best poets are those who have been immersed in poetry themselves.

MATH NIGHT. Unless you really love math, this may not sound like much fun—but it can be! In fact, helping your children to see math in new and engaging ways can win half of your battle. You can play easy games that will develop the mathematical minds of your children, such as Sudoku. One fun game that children enjoy is to roll three die and have each person create as many equations as they can with those three numbers to get as many answers as possible. For example, if you rolled a 2, 4, 4, you might say $2 \times 4 / 4 = 2$; $2 \times 4 \times 4 = 32$ and $4 + 4 + 2 = 10$. Whoever gets the most answers wins.

ART NIGHT. This can be done a few different ways. You can look at famous works of art and discuss what you see: shapes, colors, lines, people, objects, etc. With older children, you can discuss imagery and symbolism. Or you can print out a famous work of art and have your family members recreate it by sketching, painting, tracing or some other creative method. You will be amazed at what your children will learn to see as their skills of observation grow and develop over time.

These are just five possible family night activities you can do with your children. Pick as many as you can do consistently. If you can do only two a week, then take three weeks to get through them before you cycle through them again. The benefits will be immeasurable, and your children will see that you care about all of these things. They will develop a feel for math, stories, poetry, art and history that they might not get otherwise. You will find you've raised your own generation of Renaissance men and women. The best part is that you will have that much quality time with your little ones, who will love the attention that Mom and Dad show them as they learn.



Matt Bianco, a homeschooling dad of three, lives near Pinehurst, NC. He and his family use Classical Conversations for their homeschooling curriculum and community, and have just graduated their oldest.

Matt is married to his altogether lovely high school sweetheart, Patty. 

Bayside has the **CAT/6** for you!

It's the **California Achievement Test, 6th Edition**, the test everyone's been asking for to replace the CAT/5, the most used and popular achievement test ever for homeschools.

NC and VA Approved
You CAN Do It Yourself
Just \$50 Per Student
Choose CB+ Grades K-12
or SV+ Grades 2-4, 6-12

(The SV+ Grade 4 or Grade 6 test can be used for Grade 5)

◇ THIS IS BAYSIDE ◇

23 years supplying tests worldwide
(missionary & expat families love us!)

Easy ordering, available all year
(SV+ available March - June)

GENUINE CTB McGraw-Hill Scoring
FREE Practice Exercise Grades K-8
FREE Priority postage to you (USA)
Scholarship assistance available
(write or email for information)

◇ ORDERING IS EASY ◇

Mail a check or money order with your name, address, phone#, test form (CB+ or the shorter, not easier, SV+) and your test week. Tell us the grade level for each student. Note that you agree to follow all CTB and Bayside instructions. Or go online! Prices are subject to change. Orders may be revised; there are no refunds or cancellations. Check our website, email your questions and we'll get you your answers right away!

Bayside School Services

PO Box 250

Kill Devil Hills NC 27948

www.baysideschoolservices.com
orders@baysideschoolservices.com
voice messaging 800-723-3057

EXPERIENCING A GOOD MARRIAGE



by Jason Jimenez

There is nothing more heart wrenching than sitting across the table from a Christian couple who want a divorce. I remember meeting with a couple I knew very well and respected highly. So (to my surprise) when they started to share with me their marital problems, I was totally thrown off guard. I thought they wanted to meet to talk about how we can disciple more families in the Word of God—not discuss how to save their marriage!

As my initial shock wore off, I undoubtedly offered my full support and cooperation to see that they received all the care needed to help save their marriage. I remember after I prayed for the couple, and we said our good-byes, I remained in my office for a moment afterwards thinking to myself, *why are so many Christian couples having so many problems in their marriages?*

Maybe you, like that couple, have been there or know someone who has. The sad reality is marriages are falling apart because the spouses have failed to keep God in their marriages. It seems like most marriages start out strong, but in a matter of a few short years, that once-glowing marriage begins to grow dimmer by the day.

Life is certainly busy and carries with it many challenges, especially for homeschooling families. All the school-work planning, daily grind of education, co-ops and extra family activities can be overwhelming at times. And it can often put a strain on the marriage. Whether your marriage is actually stronger than ever or is in need of some work, you will benefit from these three essential truths that are applicable to any marriage.

The first essential for any good marriage is to make a *covenant* with God. It is God who brings the man and the woman together in His presence and unites them as one flesh (Gen. 2:24). This united covenant is not only an acknowledgement that God is to be desired and worshipped, but is also an active submission to one another (Eph. 5:21). When God is central to the marriage equation—that marriage will not be easily broken (Ecc. 4:12).

The second essential is a *companionship* shared between the husband and the wife. A simple component that surfaces in healthy marriages is laughter. That's right. A great indicator of a good marriage is one that is filled with laughter and joy. In Proverbs 17:22 it reads, "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." To achieve laughter and joy in marriage, the husband and wife must seek time together and work hard to be good medicine to each other.

The third essential to a good marriage is a *commitment* to remain faithful and pure.

Without question every marriage will have its ups and downs. But God has called each person who is married to remain committed and He will give the strength to overcome any trial or testing (1 Cor. 10:13). The bottom line is, for a marriage to last, the individuals must surrender everything and be willing to do anything to keep the trust and commitment strong.

In the end, marriages that last are ones in which the spouses stick together, trusting God for their future. Those in a good marriage don't look to win the argument or get everything they want. They work together and seek to use their marriage as a ministry to others (Phil. 2:4). Ecclesiastes 9:9 sums up marriage pretty well: "Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days." Remember, members of a good marriage make a *covenant* before God, cultivate a strong *companionship* with each other and stay *committed* to the very end.

MARRIAGE COMMITMENTS

1. Spend time in daily prayer and meditation in the Word of God.

2. Offer daily intercession for your spouse and family.
3. Deliberately seek the Lord together in prayer.
4. Discuss and agree on a plan for the family.
5. Be open and transparent about your feelings.
6. Be a great listener.
7. Treat your family the way you would want to be treated.
8. Serve the other person.
9. Always forgive.
10. Build fun memories.



Jason Jimenez has been a pastor to children, teens and families for almost fifteen years and absolutely loves teaching, serving and impacting whole families! He is the founder and president of re|shift Ministries (non-profit organization) with the sole passion to equip more Christian families and pastors with a biblical worldview. He is the author of The Raging War of Ideas: How to Take Back Our Faith, Family, and Country. He and his wife have four children, ages two to ten, and have been homeschooling for the past five years. 



WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY *offers students*

- *Outcomes* (>90% of graduates in jobs or graduate school)
- *Small classes with faculty*
- *Personalized attention* in and out of classes
- *Transformational* for students
- *Faith-based*
- *Urban, downtown Raleigh* setting



WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY
Your Success. Our Mission.

919.508.2214 | www.peace.edu | admissions@peace.edu

William Peace University admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

Homeschooling and 4-H Partnership Remains Strong



Photo by Lindsey Hooker, first place at Dixie Classic Fair

by Claudia Whitaker

The youth education program of NC Cooperative Extension, 4-H, is based at NC State and NC A&T State Universities. In 2012 there were 237,591 young people between the ages of five and nineteen who participated statewide with the help of 20,780 adult and youth volunteers. Many of these youth and adults attended 4-H Congress at NC State this summer. An important part of this event was a campaign and the election of state officers to lead 4-H'ers in 2013-14.

Three of the four officers elected this year are homeschooled. Michael Chaney, vice-president, is from Person County. Laura Willis, president, is from Craven County, and Anna Marie Vagnozzi, reporter, comes from Cleveland County.

Many homeschooled youth are 4-H'ers and have received awards on the county, district, state, regional and national levels. This article will spotlight 4-H award winners whose families are members of NCHE.



Alamance County. The senior county team with

members Emma Bailey and Courtney Eckmann took first place honors in the State Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program. Mason King was a district bronze winner in the Fruit and Vegetable Use category, 9-10, of 4-H presentations. Malik King was a district gold winner in 4-H Presentations, Fruit and Vegetable Use, 11-13.



4-H State officers (homeschooled), from left: Michael Chaney (Person County), Laura Willis (Craven County) and Anna Marie Vagnozzi (Cleveland County)



Alexander County. Faith Wahlers was inducted into the NC 4-H Honor Club, which consists of 4-H'ers who have exhibited outstanding 4-H citizenship and leadership throughout their 4-H careers. She also won two all-expenses paid national trips through the Application, Interview, Resume and Essay competition (ARIE) and attended National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. The AIRE competition is designed to prepare youth with valuable skills needed for future interviews and job applications. Faith won a state gold award for her 4-H Cumulative Record in Citizenship and Leadership. This year she placed third in the state as an individual winner in the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program competition. Locally, she has won Best-in-Show for her Bake-off entries for nine of the past ten years. She promotes the Ronald McDonald House Charity through the Pop-tab program on the county, district and state levels.



Davidson County. Several homeschooled 4-H youth won awards at State 4-H Congress this past summer. Richard Tysinger from Lexington won first place in the 11-13 age division with his 4-H Presentation in Environmental Science, dealing with erosion. Cody Gallimore of Winston-Salem was awarded a silver medal in the 9-10 age division for his presentation on packing for a hike in the Forestry and Wildlife category. Taylor Gallimore received honorable mention for her presentation on Lionhead rabbits in Small and Companion Animals, ages 11-13.



Forsyth County. North Carolina was one of thirteen state teams that competed in the thirty-fourth annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational in July, 2013. The invitational was held at West VA University. Hope Arrowood, Samuel Barrick and Jacob Kline were members of this team that placed first in the state and ninth at the national event. Samuel was the third place individual winner in the senior division at the state competition.

State 4-H presentation winners included Hope

Arrowood, gold winner in Forestry and Wildlife, 14-18, Samuel Barrick, silver in Horticulture Production and Marketing, 14-18, and Jady Hooker, who won a bronze medal in Small and Companion Animals, 11-13. On District Activity Day twenty-two youth from Forsyth County travelled to NC A&T State University to compete. Laura Hutchins received a blue ribbon for her vocal performance in the Talent Showcase. Presentation winners in the 14-18 age division included David Allen Pledger, green in Health and Fitness, BJ Hutchins, gold in Hospitality, Etiquette and Social Graces, Sidney Hooker, bronze in Fruit and Vegetable Use, Lindsey Hooker, bronze in Arts and Communications, and Hope Arrowood, gold in Forestry and Wildlife. In the 11-13 age division, Alex Arrowood received a bronze in Forestry and Wildlife, Spencer Cook, silver in Bugs and Bees, Jady Hooker, silver in Small and Companion Animals, Andrew Pledger, gold in Horticulture Production and Marketing, and Jeremiah Smith, bronze in Health and Fitness. In the 9-10 age division, Kierstyn Smith won gold in Small and Companion Animals. In the 7-8 age division, Luke Arrowood and Ethan Cook received green Cloverbud recognition.

Youth ages 13-18 compile three years of work in one project area into a cumulative record form, which is judged on the district level and the winner from each of the five extension districts advances to the state competition. Allison Wise was a state gold winner in Family and Consumer Sciences, ages 16-18, and also received the Eloise Cofer Family and Consumer Sciences Trophy. Other state gold winners in the 16-18 division were Lindsey Hooker in Expressive Arts and Justyn Joyce in Public Speaking. Brandon Joyce was a silver winner in Expressive Arts. In the 13-15 age division, Samuel Barrick won a gold award in Citizenship and Community Service, and David Allen Pledger was a gold winner in Health and Safety. Silver award winners were Hope Arrowood in Family and Consumer Sciences and also in Expressive Arts and Samuel Barrick in Plant and Horticultural Science. Grant Wise won a state bronze in Forestry and Natural Resources. District gold winners in the 16-18 division were Brandon Joyce in Citizenship and Community Service and Allison Wise in Leadership. Justyn Joyce was a bronze winner in Expressive



Forsyth County forestry team placed ninth in national competition—from left to right: Kade Henderson, Hope Arrowood, Jacob Kline, Samuel Barrick.

Arts. In the 13-15 age division, silver winners were Sidney Hooker in Expressive Arts and Grant Wise in Citizenship and Community Service. David Allen Pledger was a bronze winner in Citizenship and Community Service.

District Project Record winners in the 16-18 age division included gold winners Brandon Joyce in Citizenship and Civic Education and in Communication Arts and Allison Wise in Family and Consumer Sciences. Silver winners were Lindsey Hooker in Communication Arts and Allison Wise in Personal Development and Leadership. In the 13-15 age division, silver winners included Hope Arrowood in Family and Consumer Sciences, Samuel Barrick in Plant Science and also in Citizenship and Civic Education, and Sidney Hooker in Communication Arts. Hope Arrowood won a bronze award in Communication Arts. In the 11-12 age division, gold winners were Austin Wise in Environment and Natural Resources and Andrew Pledger in Healthy Lifestyles and also in Plant Science. Austin Wise won silver in Citizenship and Civic Education, and Alex Arrowood received a bronze medal in Environment and Natural Resources. Jadyn Hooker won a silver award in Animal Science in the 9-10 age division.

In the 4-H Photography Contest, in the junior division, 9-12, Alex Arrowood took second place. Spencer Cook's entry received honorable mention in

The Operation Military Kids contest focuses on our country and our military. State winners from Forsyth in the Artwork division included Lindsey Hooker, who won first place in the America the Beautiful category, 16-18. Jaden Hooker won second place in the 11-12 age division, and Andrew Pledger received honorable mention in the 13-15 division. Jadyn Hooker won first place in the Proud to be an American category, ages 11-12, and third place in Celebrating Our Heroes: Past and Present. Sidney Hooker won first place in Patriotic Pride, 13-15, David Pledger received honorable mention in Patriotic Pride, and Jadyn Hooker received honorable mention in ages 11-12. In the Artwork Best of Show category, Jadyn Hooker won in ages 11-12, Sidney Hooker, in ages 13-15, and Lindsey Hooker won in ages 16-18. The Artwork Grand Champion overall was Lindsey Hooker. First runner-up was Sidney Hooker, and second runner-up was Jadyn Hooker.

In the Operation Military Kids Photography Contest, in the America the Beautiful division, Luke Arrowood won first place in ages 9-10, Alex Arrowood won second in ages 11-12, and Hope Arrowood won first place in ages 13-15. In the Patriotic Pride category, Hope Arrowood won first in ages 13-15, and Luke Arrowood received honorable mention in ages 9-10. In the Celebrating Our Heroes category, Alex Arrowood received second place in ages 11-12, and Hope Arrowood was awarded third in ages 13-15. In the Proud to Be an American division, Alex Arrowood won first place in ages 11-12, and Hope Arrowood received second place in ages 13-15. The Photography Best of Show award was won by Alex Arrowood, ages 11-12. Photography Grand Champion third runner-up was Alex Arrowood.

In the NC 4-H Beef Photography and Poster Contest, in the Animal photography category, Luke Arrowood won second place in ages 5-8, and Hope Arrowood won fourth in ages 12-15. In the People category, Hope Arrowood was awarded second place in ages 12-15. In the Landscape



Photo "Boomer" by Sidney Hooker, second place
the Nature's Beauty category. In the senior division, 13-19, Hope Arrowood received honorable mention in the 4-H in Action category. Under Nature's Beauty, Sidney Hooker won second place for the photo, "Boomer." Hope Arrowood was awarded first place in Shadows and Light for her photo, "Eclipsed by a Basketball."



Photo "Eclipsed by a Basketball" Hope Arrowood, first place

category, Luke Arrowood took second place in ages 5-8, and Hope Arrowood won fifth place in ages 12-15. In the State Beef Poster Contest, David Allen Pledger was awarded first place in ages 14-16. Second place went to Andrew Pledger in ages 9-12, and Stephen Pledger won third place in ages 9-12. David Allen Pledger was awarded third place in the 13-15 age division of the



State Dairy Poster contest.

Sampson County. Madelyn Hall won first place for her entry in Junior Entomology at the State Fair.



Wayne County. Three youth from Wayne County, Hannah Lee, Micah Lee and Alec Linton, were inducted into the 4-H Honor Club at State 4-H Congress this summer.

Hannah and Micah also participated in the ARIE competition, and both of them won expenses-paid trips to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. Hannah received a state silver award for her 4-H Cumulative Record in Leadership, Citizenship and Public Service, ages 16-18. She was a district gold winner for her project record in Communication Arts, ages 16-18, and a district silver award winner for her project record in Environmental and Natural Resources.

Micah Lee was the state first place winner in the Dairy Poster Contest this year in the 16-19 age division. She also received a state gold award for her 4-H Cumulative Record in Communication Arts, ages 13-15. In Personal Development and Leadership, ages 13-15, she was awarded a district gold medal for her 4-H Project Record. She won a district silver medal for her record in Environmental and Natural Resources, ages 13-15.

Wayne County 4-H'er Alec Linton has received numerous honors this year. As the state gold winner in Chicken Barbecue, ages 16-18, he will represent NC at the National 4-H Poultry Conference this year. He previously claimed the title of third place National 4-H Turkey Barbecue winner at the National 4-H Poultry Conference. His 4-H Cumulative Record in Sheep/Goats, ages 16-18, was a state gold winner. Alec was declared the State Senior Reserve Archery gold winner at the 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament. At the Wayne County Junior Livestock Show and Sale, his hog was chosen as Grand Champion.

Isaac Linton and Gideon Linton were on the 4-H Souper Bowl Champion Team in Wayne County. Both

received Club Report Achievement trophies and Cloverbud Achievement certificates. Isaac received the designation of Market Goat Super Showman at the NC State Fair. Gideon was chosen as a Market Hog Super Showman at the State Fair.

Wilson County.



The 4-H Envirothon Club in Wilson has won awards on the county, district and state levels. Marco Agostini, Daniela Agostini, Tim Bizzell, Connor Thayer and Rebecca Lee all served as volunteers this summer for a week at 4-H summer camp. Daniela Agostini participated in the AIRE process at 4-H Congress and was awarded an expenses-paid trip to National 4-H Congress. She also received a state bronze award for her 4-H Cumulative Record in Forestry and Natural Resources, ages 16-18. She represented her county as a Youth Voice at the NC Association of County Commissioners. Marco Agostini was a member of the junior team that achieved a bronze award at the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program state competition.

Four outstanding Wilson 4-H members, Ethan Walton, Tim Bizzell, Marco Agostini and Connor Thayer, participated in the L.E.A.D. program this year. Daniela Agostini was chosen as Grand Champion in Senior Poultry Showmanship. Marco Agostini won a district silver award for his 4-H Project Record in Environmental and Natural Resources, ages 11-13. Tim Bizzell won two district bronze awards for his records in Forestry and in Soils, ages 11-13. Marco Agostini won a state gold award for his 4-H Presentation in Careers and Entrepreneurship, ages 11-13. Daniela Agostini was awarded a state bronze medal for her presentation in Open Class, ages 14-18.

For more information about 4-H and the educational opportunities it offers, contact your local county Cooperative Extension Service. Visit www.nc4h.org for a list of county offices.



Claudia Whitaker is a longtime member of her local county 4-H Advisory Board and the Forsyth County Extension Advisory Council. For fourteen years she and her husband Frank homeschooled their children Ellen and Vance. Both of them now have their own families and are homeschooling, one in Raleigh and the other in Tampa.



Persevering Perspective

by Diana Waring

You are facing extraordinary challenges, regardless of how easily your kids are learning. Parenting itself is more demanding, more fraught with difficulties, than ever before, and homeschooling adds layers of complexity, stress and labor beyond that. Don't believe for a moment that this is easy for others and difficult for only you!

So, having acknowledged that it's hard, what do we do? I suppose the answer depends on your goal, your desired end result, your vision.

For me, I wanted relationship. At the end of the day, the end of schooling and the end of life, I wanted an authentic, deeply loving relationship with my children, and I wanted them to have an authentic relationship with God. To reach that goal, we decided to take the unusual path of living our lives fully engaged with our kids—learning together, laughing together, working together, praying together, singing together, traveling together.

But, oh, there were times I wanted to quit! When the money fizzled, the clutter exploded, the kids argued, the energy evaporated, and the sun disappeared, I was ready to throw in the towel, until I remembered why I was doing this. *The term for continuing, even when you're overwhelmed, is perseverance.*

Like a honeybee to flowers, I have been drawn to books that describe those who have had to *persevere* to accomplish their dreams. One particular book emphasized that the only reason the people profiled were extraordinarily successful was simply that they refused to give up!

Which, of course, leads me to Winston Churchill. You remember him, don't you? With a bulldog face, big cigar and a Homburg hat, this Prime Minister was elected just as Britain faced the first onslaught of the Nazi war machine. Listen to what he said

in June, 1940, less than a month from becoming Prime Minister—at a time when many on both sides of the Atlantic doubted Great Britain could survive the month:

“We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender...”

They made a plan that looked like this: “We will persevere. We know we will be attacked, and it will be difficult, but we will not give up.”

Even if you don’t revel in history as I do, you know that Great Britain **did** survive. In fact, along with its



allies, it won the war.

This puts things into perspective, doesn’t it?

Think about your goal, dear friend. What is it you want for your children? If homeschooling will get you there, then I encourage you to prayerfully persevere.

Remember, stay relational!



Diana Waring is the author of Beyond Survival, Reaping the Harvest and Diana Waring’s History Revealed world history curriculum. Diana discovered years ago that the key to education is relationship. Audiences on four continents have enthusiastically received her energetic speaking style. Diana will be a featured speaker at the 2014 NCHC Annual Conference.

Hewitt is the PASS test and so much more!

We love the PASS test:

- 1) It’s untimed—we can take breaks.
- 2) It’s affordable (\$36 for one; \$24 each for a group of 20+).
- 3) It tells mom what I don’t know, not just numbers.
- 4) It’s approved in NC! Yay!



For over 30 years, Hewitt Homeschooling has provided quality.

- **PASS Testing** written for homeschoolers in Grades 3-8.
- **Curriculum**, such as our **Lightning Lit Program** which uses classic literature to teach language arts.
- **Teacher Services** for advice, recommendations, and personalized evaluations.



develop a mind for a lifetime of use . . .

www.HewittHomeschooling.com 800-348-1750



MY HOMESCHOOLING DEADLY Ds

by Jolene Kreiling

I don't know about you, but I find myself beginning every school year with goals paralleling my mental image of a homeschooling Cleaver family. June wakes up cheerfully at least an hour before the rest of her family. She spends time with the Lord, starts one of her many loads of laundry and completes her daily exercise routine with a smile on her face. She quickly showers and gets ready for the day before she cooks a hot breakfast for her happy family while wearing a dress, heels and a pearl necklace. Ward, her husband, compliments her fine cooking skills and the latest successful Pinterest recipe, grabs his briefcase and kisses his well-coifed wife goodbye before he heads out the door to work. Their children (more than just Wally and The Beaver because this is a homeschooling family) quickly and efficiently complete their morning chores without complaining and rapidly settle into their school day routine. They are learning far more than other children their ages: Peter, the eldest, is the first fourteen-year-old in their homeschool group to master Greek; Mary, the next in line, is modeling the most recent dress she designed and sewed herself; John, soon to be ten, is trying to decide the name of his latest composition for their family quartet; and Susie squeezes her six-year-old hands around her workbook, anxious to complete another ten pages. June dries her hands, admires her pristine kitchen and sits down in her neatly labeled and containerized school room to work with her children on their daily lessons.

Fast forward about five months to January. My aspirations to be June Cleaver have been completely decimated. First of all, that perfect schedule isn't so perfect when the stomach flu sweeps through the family one person at a time, or even worse, it hits in waves—first a couple of children, then the next couple, then Mom and Dad. The house, which doesn't clean itself, seems to get messier by the minute as spills, piles and clutter vie for first place. The hot breakfast idea has quickly

disintegrated into choosing your own adventurous cereal or making a creation with what's in the refrigerator. Exercise is a dream of what once was and the reality of what is not. Curriculum that seemed so perfect during the summer just isn't working. Two of the children hate math and are resisting it at every opportunity. The "oh no" feeling keeps re-appearing every time I realize we're missing yet another crucial part of the science supplies. Our writing curriculum was a great idea, but it takes time to make it work with even the most motivated student. On top of all of the academic issues, my calendar has grown so full that I dread looking at it. Spinning quickly out of control, the plates of my responsibilities have multiplied far beyond what I can handle.

It's at this point that the idea of quitting begins to flicker. Images float through my mind: a day with children at school, the house peacefully perfect, dinner simmering quietly in the Crock-Pot and me pursuing a lifelong career aspiration. The serenity of the picture is almost palpable. The possibility of reducing my load tempts me the more it flitters around my mind. The children need a better teacher. Someone else would know how to solve that reading issue. A professional could improve their academic skills. I count the opportunities I think a *real* school would offer: greater detail to daily lessons, subject matter expertise and, of course, quality social time with classmates. I begin to wonder about logistics; surely I can make this dream my new reality.

I have reached the crisis point. I've lost my focus. Not only that, I've also misrepresented the possibilities in our home by comparing my situation to that of those around me or a local school's classroom. In fact, I'm not even comparing it to reality around me. I'm using my distorted perceptions to set a standard that is impossible for anyone to achieve. I don't personally know, at least I don't think I do, a perfect family with a perfect homeschool. After ten years of classroom teaching, I know there isn't an infallible teacher with the ideal class. Matter of fact, the impossibility of such a thought is evident around me. I live in an imperfect world full of imperfect people.

Many years ago I had a sweatshirt sporting the Chinese character for *crisis*. The character is actually derived from two symbols: *danger* and *opportunity*. When I find myself at a crisis point in my life, it's

important for me to recognize both of these aspects. Danger is present. It looms dark, lurking for a ripe occasion to rob me. The whirlwind of danger, and its accompanying *Deadly Ds*, attempts to blind me from opportunity that is coming.

Discontentment can be a primary source of danger in my life. If I focus on what I don't have instead of what I do have, I can quickly find myself sliding into the slough of discontentment. Webster defines discontentment as "the condition of being dissatisfied with one's life or situation." Comparison is a quick method of falling into this trap. When I try to compare my homeschooling, or mothering, or whatever, to someone else's, I am no longer focusing on what God has planned just for me. Instead, I'm doing what he has commanded against: coveting. When I covet, or strongly desire, something that someone else has, I am fueling my discontentment. By looking at other schooling options as ideal and mine as far below that, I'm empowering discontentment.

Doubt dutifully follows discontentment. When things aren't going as I had planned, I can doubt my teaching and parenting. Most importantly, I can doubt my calling. My husband and I didn't choose homeschooling as an escape from a more traditional school experience. We chose it because we know God has provided this opportunity as the best option for our children. We are called to teach them not only academic subjects but subjects of the heart. It's our job to disciple them to be more like Jesus, to raise them up in his Word and to lead by example. As the leader of our home, my husband paves the way in these areas. It's my job to continue to develop our children and train them in the way they should go.

Distraction is a determined detractor. Although I have learned to say no to many good activities, I still don't have this concept mastered. It's easier to turn down temporary invitations or responsibilities that require more time than our family can afford than it is to relinquish positions which can bring me personal satisfaction or pleasure. I am most definitely not suggesting I shouldn't be involved in church, another ministry area or even an employment situation. Instead I believe I need to regularly examine my priorities and rightly determine before the Lord and in agreement with my husband, if they're aligned in a way that blesses, and not hinders, our family.

Dynamically wrapping up the *Deadly Ds* with the most power of all, is despair. When life becomes overwhelming, passes burnout along the way and ends up at exhaustion, something needs to change. Despair has no mercy. It's without hope, dreams or a future. Despair looks inwardly at the failures, frustrations and faults that blot out any glimpse of reality. Despair is filled with "I should" not "I choose to." Despair's depression steals my energy, passion and vision. When I have reached a moment of despair, there's only one option: desperation.

Desperation is opportunity in disguise. It arrives in the form of futility; yet it can transition into a fountain of faith. When I'm at the end of what I can do, whether it's in the form of teaching, planning, cleaning, leading or being a wife, I reach a pivotal point where I have to die to myself and rely on God. I used to not understand this concept well, but as time progresses, I think personal application has helped me grasp it in a new light. As I die to myself and surrender my dreams and desires, I am more able and willing to seek what the Lord has planned for me. This doesn't mean I can't have aspirations or personal hopes for the future. Just the opposite is true. I am able to loosen my hold on the things I was grasping with all my might, and put my priorities back in their rightful order. I'm able to relinquish my grandiose ideas of perfection and achievement. I'm able to release the horribly unrealistic expectations I have repeatedly piled on myself. I'm able to see my children with God's eyes. I can let go of

whether or not the multiplication facts are completely memorized this year. The science experiment can wait. Now I'm able to smile and enjoy the Christian qualities I see developing before me. I can spend time marveling over God's creation and sharing those moments with my children. I can even give up my perfectly planned lessons for a spontaneous field trip or activity. What I thought was a burden becomes beautiful.

Opportunity brings me possibilities, openings and options. It provides a hope for both today and the future. Opportunity allows me to find joy, experience peace and demonstrate love. The stomach flu will still make its appearance. Laundry will continue to multiply. I don't think I'll ever become a morning person. Yet, as I allow the Lord to use opportunity to change me, I will be more able to reflect the character of Jesus to my husband, children and others.



Jolene lives with her husband and best friend, Bill Kreiling, in Fayetteville, NC. Together they actively parent eight children ranging in age from ten to twenty-three. In fifteen years of homeschooling, they've had many experiences with both doubts and opportunities. One of their favorite sayings to describe their philosophy of life is, "Life's not crazy; it's exciting!"

Thurber's Educational Assessments, LLC

Over 20 years of educational testing experience

**Publisher-scored
CAT/6® (TerraNova 2)®
NOW AVAILABLE!**

- Providers of nationally standardized achievement testing
- Offering the CAT/5® as well as the CAT/6 (TerraNova 2)®
- Complete Battery, Survey and practice tests
- Individual and group testing options
- Order securely online with a credit or debit card, or via mail/fax with a check or money order

Learn more and order tests at
www.thurbers.net

e-mail: test@thurbers.net
tel: 919-967-5282 or
toll-free: 877-418-8232
hours: Mon-Fri 9-4, Sat 9-12



A Photo Finish!

by Ernie Hodges

The NCHE Athletic Commission (NCHEAC) Cross Country Championships ended with the closest race in our history in the boys division with only 0.53 seconds separating first and second place. James Dorris of the Asheville Trailblazers passed Hunter Sawyers of the Surry Runnin' Patriots on the final 100 yards of the 5k course to claim the championship with a rain-slowed time of 18:22.38. In the girls division, Nan Gordon of the Forsyth Hawks bested teammate Leslie Woodley by 12 seconds and finished at 20:31.57. Both the girls and boys division team championships were won by the Forsyth Hawks.

The top five times in the boys and girls divisions for individuals are listed below.

Boys

- 1—James Dorris, Asheville, 18:22.38
- 2—Hunter Sawyers, Surry, 18:22.91
- 3—Austin Garner, High Point, 18:59.66
- 4—David Hamilton, Forsyth, 19:06.35
- 5—Quinn Jenkins, Forsyth, 19:07.43

Girls

- 1—Nan Gordon, Forsyth, 20:31.57
- 2—Leslie Woodley, Forsyth, 20:43.38
- 3—Anna Hamilton, Forsyth, 21:45.82
- 4—Kenzie Collins, Forsyth, 22:47.62
- 5—Krissa Hill, Surry, 22:54.68

The team championship results were:

Boys

- 1—Forsyth, 27 points
- 2—Asheville, 48 points
- 3—High Point, 57 points

Girls

- 1—Forsyth, 16 points
- 2—Asheville, 52 points
- 3—Chatham, 84 points (won on a tie breaker)
- 4—Surry, 84 points 



Forsyth Home Educators first place team



Forsyth Home Educators first place boys team



Ernie and his wife, Iris, homeschooled their three children to high school graduation. Ernie served on the NCHE board of directors for many years and now serves as the NCHEAC state director.



Elissa Dawson Will Attend UNC on Diving Scholarship

Elissa Dawson diving twist

by Ernie Hodges

Elisabeth Andrews Dawson (Elissa) is the daughter of Mark and Robin Dawson of Durham, NC. Elissa has been homeschooled all her life and is a member of the Capital Area National Homeschool Honor Society. She has received the President's Volunteer Service Award four times.

Elissa is a national level diver who has been diving for eight years on club teams. While with Tarheel Diving, she was named Diver of the Year three consecutive years. At Duke Diving, she was a member of their National Team. Elissa has wanted to be a collegiate diving coach since the age of seven. She began coaching summer league at Chapel Hill Country Club in 2012 and coached with Duke Diving for the past year with their JO, Training, and Talent Teams.

Elissa received scholarship offers from UNC, Duke, Kentucky and Tennessee and signed her National Letter of Intent to dive for UNC on November 15, 2013.



*Robin Dawson, Elissa Dawson, Mark Dawson and Ernie Hodges
(photo in background used courtesy of Clay Revels)*



Cabarrus Claims State Championship in Boys Soccer

by Dale Brown

Top Photo: 2013 NCHEAC Boys Soccer State Champions (Cabarrus Stallions) L-R Front row: Brian Stepanek (MVP), Parker Sorensen, Joel Levinson, Ike Easterbrook, Christian Frey, Harper Hicks, Back row: Peter Williams (Coach), Andrew Moore, Zach Bailey, Marshall Frank, Mark Gossage, Tyler DeVlieger, Michael Carter-Barkman, Samuel Barker, Joey Desloge, Stan Brockinton, Justin Sweet

The 2013 NCHEAC Boys Soccer State Championship was held in Winston-Salem, October 18-19 at the Sara Lee Soccer Complex. Six teams competed in the tournament and seeding of those teams was based on regular season results. The regular season consisted of two conferences, east and west, with both conferences containing three teams each. In the west conference, the teams were Asheville, Cabarrus County and Forsyth County. Fayetteville and two teams from Wake County, East Wake and Northeast Wake made up the east conference. From the regular season results, Cabarrus and Northeast Wake each earned byes into the state semi-final round of the tournament. They both had to await the winners of the games that started on Friday morning, which involved the number two and number three seeds in each conference playing against each other. Number two Asheville defeated number three Forsyth, 4-0, in the west match up, and in the East contest, number two East Wake defeated number three Fayetteville, 4-2. On Friday afternoon in the state semi-finals, a rematch from the 2012 state title contest saw Asheville once again prevail as they defeated Northeast Wake, 3-0. Cabarrus then defeated East Wake 8-1 to advance to the championship game on Saturday afternoon. Asheville came in as the two-time defending champion, but Cabarrus had already defeated the Trailblazers once during the season and had taken them



Tournament MVP Brian Stepanek of Cabarrus battling against Asheville in the state title contest

to overtime in the other regular season contest. The Cabarrus Stallions prevailed again as they defeated the Trailblazers, 5-2, to earn their first state title. Northeast Wake defeated East Wake in the consolation contest 6-2. All-tournament team members were: from Cabarrus, Zach Bailey, Michael Carter-Barkman, Joel Levinson, Andrew Moore and tournament MVP, Brian Stepanek; from Asheville, Matthew Batchelder, Corban Crosley, Phillip Gibson and Logan Woody; from Northeast Wake, Taylor Dougherty, Luke Miller and McKenzie Smith; from East Wake, Phillip Crapo and Matthew Whitlow; Nathan Stewart (Fayetteville); and Chase Crosby (Forsyth).

Asheville Three-Peats in Varsity Volleyball at the STATE TOURNAMENT

by Dale Brown

Three athletic programs—Asheville, Greensboro and North Wake—claimed a state title at 2013 NCEAC Girls Volleyball tournaments held in Winston-Salem, October 18-19. East and West Regional tournaments were played on Friday at Piedmont International University (PIU) and at the Gateway YWCA. The top two finishers on Friday from each region's divisions (middle school, junior varsity and varsity) advanced to play on Saturday in the state championship tournaments, which were held at Salem Baptist Christian School, and again at PIU.

There were a total of twenty-nine teams represented among the three divisions. The teams participating from the east were: Alamance, Cary, Durham, Fayetteville, Harnett, Johnston, North Wake and West Wake. Teams participating from the west were: Asheville, Cabarrus, Forsyth and Greensboro.

In the varsity division, the Asheville Trailblazers repeated as state champion for the third consecutive year, as they downed the up and coming West Wake Ravens, 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-17). This was Asheville's fifth state title in seven attempts. Asheville defeated the Cabarrus Stallions in the West Regional on Friday and then defeated the east's number two seed, Alamance County Acers to get to the state title match. West Wake, the number one seed from the east, defeated the Acers and then the Stallions, to reach the title match. Asheville's Emily Strange was named tournament MVP. Joining Strange on the all-tournament team were: from Asheville, Alex Arnette and Rachel Taylor; from West Wake, Kimberly Hovey and Serena Rezentes; Emily Hedrick (Alamance); Kayla Funderburk (Cabarrus); Shira Wells (North Wake); Christine Patterson (Fayetteville); Madison Long (Forsyth); Caroline Kelly (Cary); and Hannah Lawrence (Harnett).

In the junior varsity (JV) division, the Greensboro Panthers claimed their second state title as they rallied to defeat Asheville 2-1 (25-27; 25-10; 25-18). Greensboro also claimed the JV title in 2009. The Panthers defeated Asheville in the west regional on Friday and then downed the east's number two seed, West Wake Ravens, before earning the rematch with Asheville for the state title. Asheville had won the last three state titles prior to this season. Asheville knocked off the east's number one seed, North Wake Storm, to reach the state title contest. The Panther's Maggie Richardson was named tournament MVP. Joining her on the all-tournament team were: from Greensboro, Victoria Goldin and Sarah Meiser; from Asheville, Ashley Downer and Rachel Mathis; Miciah Drane



Asheville's Katie Kania high in action in the state semi-final vs. Alamance



2013 NCHCAC Varsity Girls Volleyball State Champions (Asheville Trailblazers) L to R: Brenda Watt (Coach), Katie Kania, Bethany Burnette, Marta Bloemsma, Rebekah Downer, Rachel Taylor, Gabie Marshall, Alex Arnette, Emily Strange (MVP) and Hope Burnett

advanced to the title contest by defeating Johnston County in Friday's east regional final, and then downing the west's number two seed Forsyth Hawks in the state semi-final on Saturday. Asheville, reaching the title match for the sixth consecutive year, defeated Johnston County in the other semi-final. North Wake's Brittany Stone earned MVP honors. Joining her on the all-tournament team were: Susan Conley and Shelby Cooper from North Wake; Sydney Howard and Lydia Jimison from Asheville; Emma Ferrell (Johnston); Jessie Malchuk (Forsyth); Katie Esses (Greensboro); Macenzie Desrosiers (Cabarrus); Kate Rezendes (West Wake); and Rachel Bramble (Cary).

(West Wake); Kira Rosemond (North Wake); Emily Thomas (Fayetteville); Stormi Abernathy (Durham); Lexi Dupre (Cabarrus); Caroline Vaile (Forsyth); Emily Rexford (Harnett); Cornelia Barnwell (Alamance); Rebecca Sharrett (Johnston); and Elizabeth Compton (Cary).

A new champion was crowned in the middle school division, as five-time defending champion Asheville was defeated by the North Wake Storm, 2-0 (25-17, 25-18) in the state title match. The Storm turned the tables this year, as both teams met in the title match in 2012. North Wake



Dale Brown has served with the NCHC Athletic Commission for the past seven years and has been the director of the volleyball and boys soccer tournaments since 2007. He and his wife, Angela, have nine children and live in northern Orange County. They are in their twenty-first year

of homeschooling and have five graduates. 

We've been going to bat for homeschool freedom since 1983.



www.hslda.org • 540-338-5600



BREWER TESTING SERVICES www.brewertesting.com 336-699-3997

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL & CONFIDENTIAL TESTING TO HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES

ONLINE TESTING! NO DEGREE REQUIRED

We are pleased to be offering cutting-edge, innovative online achievement and cognitive ability testing, requiring minimal computer system requirements, with a secure browser that ensures security of the test and student data. You usually receive your score reports within hours. No degree required.

- **STANFORD 10® ONLINE 2007 NORMS**

UNTIMED achievement test for grades 3-12 Latest norms available for homeschool testing.



- **OLSAT 8® ONLINE**

Evaluates student's cognitive abilities Some refer to this as IQ testing. Grades 4-12.



- We use the latest norms available - All of our achievement tests are approved by the NC Department of Non-Public Education.
- Order with confidence that you will receive professional service with quick response, quality materials, quick and accurate grading and homeschool friendly score reports.
- You will get superior service regardless of whether you order 1 test or 100. We are also homeschool parents, so we know the challenges you face.
- We provide excellent communication, continually giving you status updates on your order, test materials, grading and score reports.
- We also retain your score reports for you in case you need them later.
- We gladly offer our services to everyone, and know the special challenges of missionaries, military families and other families abroad.



STANFORD 10®
grades 3-12



New! Updated
TerraNova®/CAT6
grades K-12



IOWA®
grades K-12



BASI®
grades 3-12

Lexile scores available for all achievement tests. No one offers more recent norms.

WOODCOCK-JOHNSON III Individualized achievement test, professionally administered by Pat Brewer, M.Ed. Pat is a homeschool mom and retired curriculum/testing coordinator with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. You can test only what you need for the state or customize your testing to include instructional strategies that are tailored to meet the individual needs of your students. Pat is a certified Orton-Gillingham instructor. She has experience working with dyslexic students, those with learning disabilities or differences, autistic students, as well as those that are gifted. She has worked with diagnostic achievement testing and with adapting and individualizing curriculum for over 25 years.

KBIT2 - Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test This test, administered by Pat Brewer, is an individualized IQ test.

IOWA COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST™ (CogAT®) Intelligence Test This test, administered by the parent, assesses students' reasoning and problem-solving abilities, giving you information in your report about how you can best adapt your instruction to your child's processing strengths, learning abilities, and preferences. Your score report will tell you your student's cognitive abilities profile. It will give you information about your student's learning style, abilities and preferences.

Testing since 1988 - providing year-round services - FREE PRIORITY MAIL shipping of test materials to U.S. addresses - No hidden shipping or handling charges - Quickest grading possible: 1-3 weeks or less- 24-hour turnaround available

We offer an extensive selection of Test Preparation Materials! – Much more than just practice tests!!



Scoring High for the ITBS® or TerraNova® or Stanford®



Test Ready®



Test for Success®

BREWER TESTING SERVICES - Pat & Dempsey Brewer 2853 Davis Road, East Bend, NC 27018

NCHE Board of Directors (Statewide Officers and Regional Directors)

Kevin McClain, President (919) 576-0696 • President@nche.com
 Davis Carman, Administrative VP . . . (704) 243-2511 • AdminVP@nche.com
 Vacant, Education VP EducationVP@nche.com
 Spencer Mason, Legislative VP . . (704) 541-5145 • LegislativeVP@nche.com
 Nancy Coleman, Conference VP . . . (828) 458-1535 • ConferenceVP@nche.com
 John Kirkland, Secretary (704) 753-9320 • Secretary@nche.com
 Tanya Dickens, Treasurer (336) 383-7020 • Treasurer@nche.com
 Vacant, Advisor A AdvisorA@nche.com
 Ronda Marshall, Advisor B (828) 633-0060 • AdvisorB@nche.com
 Kathy Fletcher, Advisor C (704) 847-1534 • AdvisorC@nche.com

NCHE Office - Raleigh (919) 790-1100 • nche@nche.com

1. Jerri Neal (828) 349-0647 • region1@nche.com
 2. Lee Oakes (828) 288-1047 • region2@nche.com
 3. Vacant region3@nche.com
 4. Anita Hudson (704) 661-3930 • region4@nche.com
 5. Amanda Wares (336) 210-7449 • region5@nche.com
 6. Kristin Jones (336) 817-9208 • region6@nche.com
 7. Jonathan Shockey (919) 776-7868 • region7@nche.com
 8. David Henderson (919) 676-2923 • region8@nche.com
 9. Jolene Kreiling (910) 818-4678 • region9@nche.com
 10. Scott Anderson (252) 321-3436 • region10@nche.com
 11. Kathryn Landoli (910) 398-7172 • region11@nche.com
 12. Justin Nale (252) 904-9751 • region12@nche.com



North Carolina Homeschool History

Although home education is the oldest form of education, it was not officially recognized in North Carolina until a Supreme Court decision in 1985 ruled that a homeschool could operate under the existing private school law. Through the efforts of concerned members of North Carolinians for Home Education, a bill was passed in 1988 that specifically named home education as an alternative for complying with compulsory school attendance requirements.

About NCHE

Our purpose is to protect the freedom to educate at home, to provide encouragement and support to families choosing home education for their children and to promote home education as an excellent educational alternative. Since its beginning in 1984, NCHE has grown from a few pioneering families to a statewide association of home educators that promotes home education and supports home educators. NCHE is governed by a working board of directors who volunteer their time and efforts to represent homeschoolers in every part of the state. A non-profit organization, NCHE operates on the basis of biblical principles and living faith. NCHE welcomes members of all races and religions.

NCHE Membership

Membership in NCHE is available to anyone who pledges to uphold the ideals of NCHE and comply with the North Carolina homeschool law (if they are homeschooling residents of NC). Membership is obtained by donating any amount to NCHE (suggested donation is \$25). The service of NCHE is made possible by the generous and consistent contributions of its supporters. The NCHE ideals are: educational excellence, parental authority and responsibility for education, protection and promotion of the family, diligence in moral and ethical instruction, responsible citizenship, freedom of choice among educational alternatives, and defense of constitutional rights.

ADVERTISERS

Apologia Educational Ministries	IBC
Bayside School Services	17
Brewer Testing Services	34
Hewitt Homeschooling	25
Homeschool Gathering Place	11
HSLDA	33
Regent University	5
Seton Testing Services	4
Thurber's Educational Assessments	28
Triangle Education Assessments	11
William Peace University	19

Visit Us Online at nche.com

BULLETIN BOARD

NCHE Thirtieth Annual Conference and Book Fair will be May 22-24, 2014, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC.

Conference recordings. MP3s of conference sessions are available on the NCHE website, nche.com, under the NCHE store link.

GREENHOUSE Online. GREENHOUSE articles are made freely available online. Users may access a digital version (PDF) of the magazine in its entirety at nche.com. Users may also enjoy a mid-week update every Wednesday as NCHE makes one article from the current volume available in an online readable format at greenhouse.nche.com.

Email addresses wanted. Since NCHE uses email for much of its communication, your email addresses are needed in order for us to stay in touch. If you would like to receive our emails, you can go online to nche.com and sign up to get the emails.

From Our Friends

2014 HINTS Annual Book Fair. The HINTS Book Fair will be held July 11-12, 2014 at Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, NC (Charlotte area). The Book Fair will feature over twenty-five educational vendors, dynamic speakers and informative workshops. Hours are 9:30 A.M.-6:00 P.M. on Friday and 9:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Saturday. The cost is \$6 per couple/individual and \$1 per child. For more information visit hintsonline.org.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

To receive GREENHOUSE, subscribe today.

To subscribe, go to nche.com or call the NCHE office (919) 790-1100.

HOW WILL SHE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Bible tells us that in the last days, people will be selfish, abusive, ungrateful, slanderous, and without love (1 Timothy 3). She sees it every day on the TV programs she watches, in the news she hears, and in what she reads on the Internet. Will she grow up to become salt and light to the world or merely part of the problem?

Prepare your children to make a real difference in the lives of others by teaching them to see the world around them through the unerring lens of God's Word. Give them a strong foundation and clear biblical worldview with the **What We Believe** curriculum.

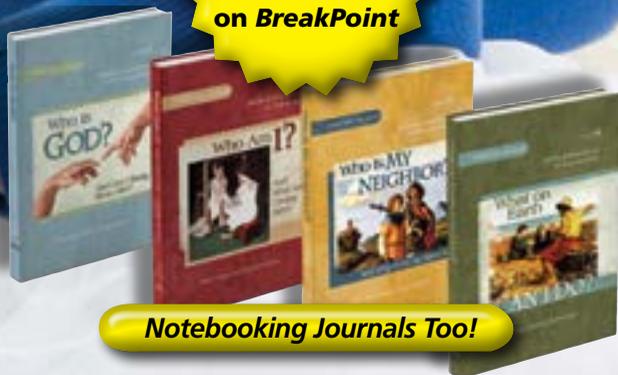
Beautifully illustrated and written in a conversational style, the What We Believe series makes the study of God's Word exciting and memorable for boys and girls of all ages. Through engaging stories and creative notebooking journals, your kids will develop a generous heart and courageous spirit to share the love of God with a world in need.

"Excellent, Bible-rich worldview curriculum."
World Magazine

"Absolutely wonderful!"
The Old Schoolhouse Magazine

"A fantastic and much-needed resource. I'm looking forward to taking my own kids through these valuable lessons."
Sean McDowell

Recommended by
CHUCK COLSON
on *BreakPoint*



Notebooking Journals Too!

 **apologia.**
in partnership with

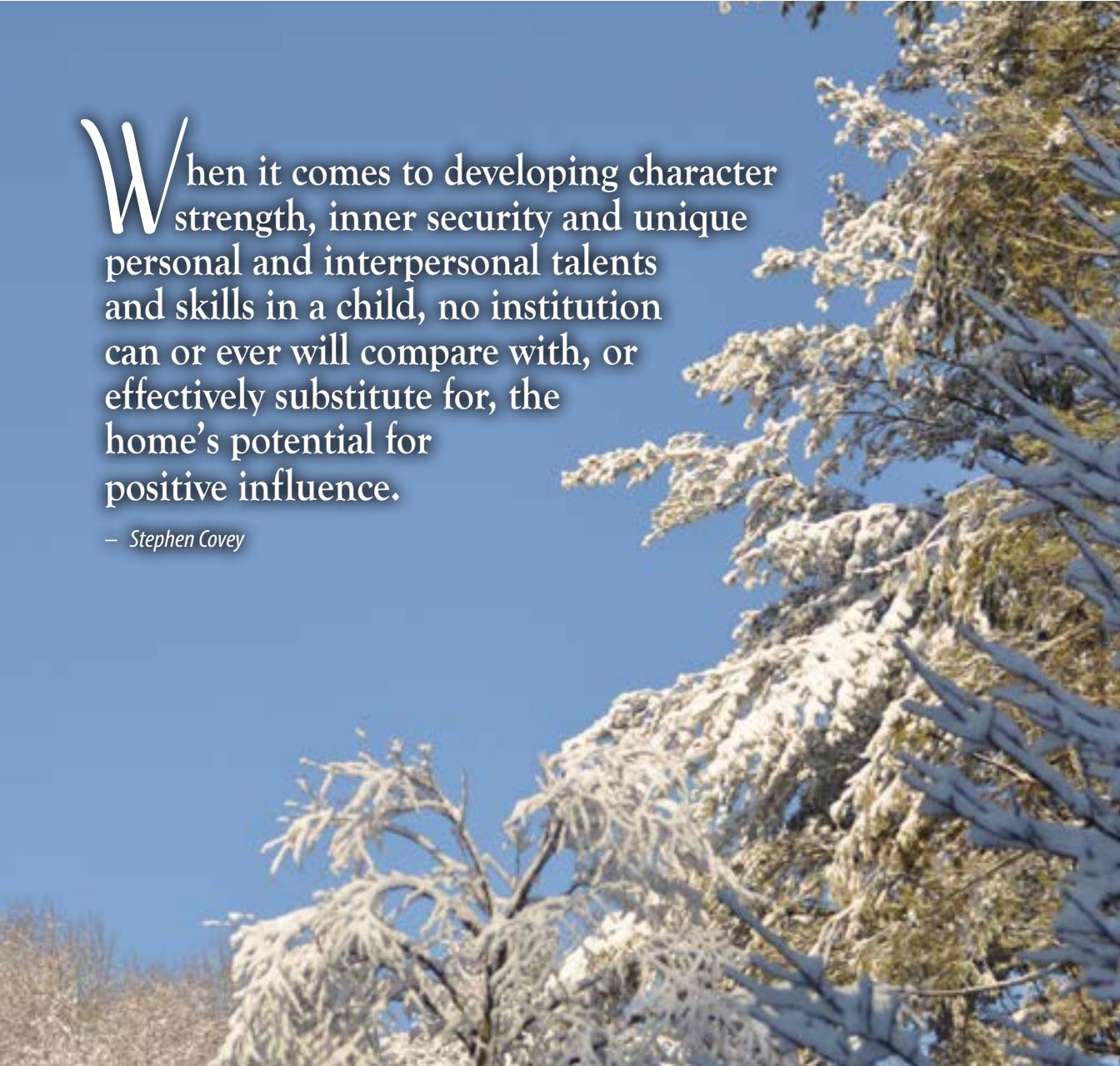


VISIT APOLOGIA.COM OR CALL 1-888-524-4724

North Carolinians for Home Education
PO Box 30243
Raleigh, NC 27622

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ECP



When it comes to developing character strength, inner security and unique personal and interpersonal talents and skills in a child, no institution can or ever will compare with, or effectively substitute for, the home's potential for positive influence.

— *Stephen Covey*