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The purpose of the *Virginia Home Educator* is to
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SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

Fall 2012 (Issue 3)—June 15
Winter 2012 (Issue 4)—September 15
Spring 2013 (Issue 1)—December 1
Summer 2013 (Issue 2)—March 15

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PREREGISTER & SAVE \$10

The deadline to preregister is Monday, May 21.

NEW WEB ARTICLES

Check out the articles on our website by convention speakers Dr. Catherine Millard, Amanda Bennett, Michele Zavatsky, Jessica Rondina, and Mike Snively. Read these and more at www.heav.org/the-virginia-home-educator/volume-18-issue-2.



FROM THE EDITOR

Mary Kay Smith

As I look through the articles our convention speakers have sent in, I am struck this year by a similarity in many of them. It is the idea of “reclaiming.” We need to reclaim biblical teaching and worldview, reclaim our Christian heritage, reclaim our families, and reclaim our right to educate our children the way we believe is best for them.

Last fall my husband and I had the opportunity to visit Greece and Italy. Having just finished a Precepts study of Isaiah, I was struck by our guide’s comment in Athens that “acropolis” means “high place.” All over Greece we saw acropolises. While some of them may also have been used for defense, all of them had temple ruins for the worship of false gods. Do you know what Israel was supposed to do with their high places? Tear them down and reclaim that land for God.

Reclaiming can be a tough thing. Sometimes we don’t even realize something needs to be reclaimed. We see our “homeschool pillars” as history, tradition, architecture—and don’t notice that maybe they are crumbling ruins that should have been torn down. It’s easier to preserve the culture and history of our choices than to tear them down, but God might want to use that space for something else.

So—reclaim. How do we know when to do that? Jeremiah 23:18 and 22 say we are to stand in the council of the Lord to know what is right.

As we reclaim our choices, we reclaim and redeem our time. While touring St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, we saw an interesting statuary display of four figures. One figure is holding an open book—a Bible—and looks as though she is contemplating a passage she just



read. I thought of Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (NIV ’84). Behind the reader sits an angel pointing to an hourglass she holds, warning us that time is moving along. Putting those statues together in the exhibit was a great thing. Together they look like a picture of Psalm 90:12: “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

You’ll find wisdom in these articles, and you’ll hear some wisdom from the HEAV convention speakers. Keep an open mind, listen to what they say, and then stand in the council of the Lord to find out if there is any area you need to reclaim. ☺



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NEW FROM THE CONVENTION DIRECTOR

Lauren Bell

It will be from a totally different perspective that I will be viewing the HEAV convention in June. For the past eighteen years, my husband, Antoine, and I have homeschooled our four children—Kiana (21), Kaela (16), Kwan (13) and Karina (11). During these years, homeschool conventions have played a major role in my life. In the past, I attended the convention in order to gain wisdom, encouragement, inspiration, and empowerment to help me continue homeschooling my own children. However, this year, as the new convention director, I have been praying those things for each of you, and it is my special desire that your heart would be touched by God.

It has been an interesting journey that has prepared me for the role of convention director. I enjoyed eight years of university studies, during which time I obtained a B.A. in elementary education, a master's degree in education, and completed all but my dissertation for a doctorate in school psychology. Prior to starting a family, I worked as a school psychologist in New York, where I had the opportunity to help plan the National School Psychologist Convention. In addition to my love of learning, I enjoy teaching and have been blessed to teach high school math and SAT prep at our local co-op for the past eight years. During three of those years, I served as the academic director.

I especially enjoy sharing my love of books and curricula with other homeschool parents. On the last Thursday evening of each month, you can find me at Moore Expressions in Virginia Beach, where I serve as a "Curriculum Doctor." This has been a wonderful opportunity to touch the hearts of many homeschooling families. I also had the honor of serving on the 2010–2011 Review Crew for the *Old School House Magazine*, where I enjoyed trying out various curricula and writing weekly reviews on their homeschool blog.

I believe I am similar to many homeschool parents whose hearts have been touched by God to homeschool their children. I was expecting our first child when God revealed to me that I was to homeschool our children. In the beginning, I thought it was God's desire for us to provide the best possible education for our children. However, it was during my first convention, listening to speaker Greg Harris, that I glimpsed God's bigger picture: Homeschooling is not just a means to teach reading, math, and history. Homeschooling is a gift given to me by God to help fulfill His desire to lead my children to Christ.

Our theme this year—**Home Education: Touching the Heart**—captures the essence of our roles as homeschooling parents. God would have us touch our children's hearts, so they will know Him.

The convention team has prayed faithfully
(continued on page 19)

Letters

MAGAZINE EDITORIAL

Love the editorial about the birds and pelican! Great analogy about how God sees us...good material for a devotional in a Bible study. Thanks so much for writing!

Lydia Weeks

MILITARY OPTION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

My husband and I are/were both military. I am now a stay-at-home mom of five who homeschools, and would be overjoyed if our little arrows served our great country in the military! A wonderful life experience of learning, traveling, and being greatly challenged while serving just can't be matched! (I got saved while serving in the USMC! Semper Fi!)

Dwight & Shannon Hubacher

THANKS TO HEAV

I just wanted to let the team at HEAV know how much I appreciate all the hard work you do for the homeschooling community. In September I will be starting my sixth year, and I couldn't have done it without HEAV. My questions have always been answered, and I have received guidance and encouragement.

Thank you and God bless!

TJ Ross

Just wanted to say thank you for an absolutely wonderful Day at the Capitol! Thanks for all that you do.

Ron Taconet & Family

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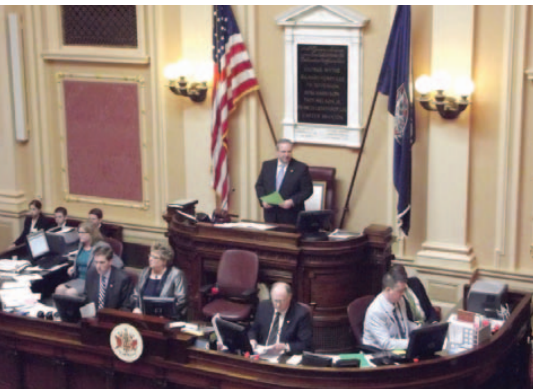


HOMESCHOOL LAW CHANGE:

REQUIRED CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION DEFINED

Governor Bob McDonnell signed homeschool legislation that will clarify the meaning of "curriculum description." The two bills, initiated by HEAV during the 2012 legislative session, will limit the required curriculum description to "a list of subjects to be studied" during the coming year. This change clarifies the information superintendents can require, and will provide consistency in all school districts.

The new law goes into effect July 1. After this date, any parent who complies with §22.1-254.1 by filing a Notice of Intent or writing a letter to the local superintendent, will meet the curriculum requirement if he or she provides a list of subjects to be studied during the coming year. *Parents can no longer be required to include course descriptions, outlines, textbook titles, methods of instruction, tables of contents, or scope and sequences.*



The new language is in italics:

§ 22.1-254.1 B. Any parent who elects to provide home instruction in lieu of school attendance shall annually notify the division superintendent in August of his intention to so instruct the child and provide a description of the curriculum,

limited to a list of subjects to be followed for studied during the coming year, and evidence of having met one of the criteria for providing home instruction as required by subsection A.

Please thank the House and Senate sponsors of HEAV's legislation: **Delegate Brenda Pogge** (R-James City/York County) and

Senator Dick Black (R-Loudoun/Prince William). Both legislators spoke with strong conviction in the face of opposition from the Virginia Education Association (VEA) and the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), and defended the rights of parents to teach their children at home. ☺

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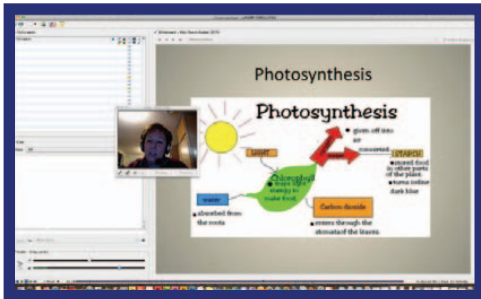
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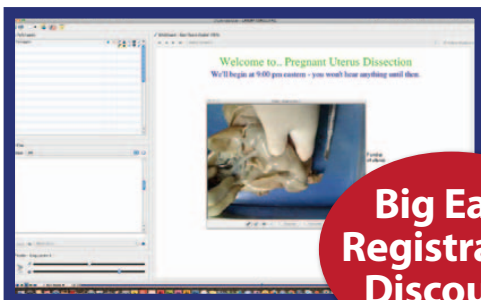
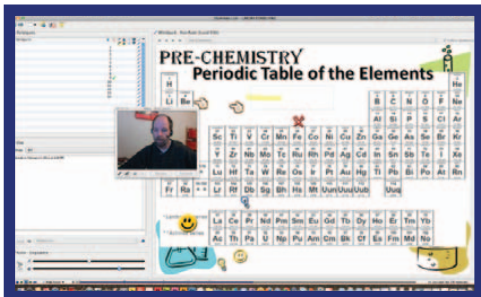
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Kay, Vancouver, Canada

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Beth, Dallas, TX



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Mediocre to Momentous: THE CLEAR DISTINCTION

Woody Robertson



What is it that separates exceptional students from average students? What takes one homeschool graduate to a life of success or significant impact and another to mediocrity and commonality? In a word, it is vision. But not just any vision—a vision for a life of purpose and meaning.

Now, more than a decade beyond my high school graduation, I realize my parents were sailing uncharted waters and blazing new trails for other homeschool families to follow. They sacrificed so their children might be blessed. At that time, homeschooling was even illegal in many states.

Many new homeschoolers do not experience similar sacrifices to those of twenty years ago. Those new to homeschooling see the plethora of offerings and enjoy the many systems and tools designed to make the life of the homeschool parent easier. Many also lack a clear vision and philosophy behind their educational decisions. The unfortunate side effect is that these parents treat homeschooling simply like school at home. They take the curriculum of today's public schools (or the Christian counterparts) and make it school at home with a "Christian" label.

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION

I do not fault these families because they are seeking to find the same success as their predecessors. They look to these graduates and say, "We want our kids to turn out like theirs" and assume that those parents used the same curriculum and tools now offered to homeschoolers today. But let's not forget that it is the vision that motivated these families to homeschool that contributed to their success. When we replace vision with curriculum, and expect to foster an "exceptional" academic program, the results will likely disappoint.

Academics are good, but they do not replace the need for vision and purpose.

The proper order and perspective on education is set in II Peter 1:5: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge." Note that knowledge is last in the priority order. Paul in I Corinthians 8:1 says that "knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." In other words, academics alone will not cause our students to be successful; rather, it is their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the realization that they were "formed before the world began" for a significant purpose. It is the vision connected to this that catapults a student towards a momentous life.

CREATING THE VISION

So how do we help our students understand their purpose and practically work this out in tangible steps? One resource I've personally found very helpful is Life Purpose Planning (www.lifepurposeplanning.org). This resource will help you explore how God uses your children's interests, talents, and abilities—and molds those together into a unique purpose statement that includes the student's passions and clear ways to pursue his or her God-directed calling.

ACADEMICS DUAL-CREDIT OPTION

So what about the academics? Today's homeschoolers should know that the first two years of college are little more than a glorified review of high school. Therefore, it makes sense to combine or even replace high school with college.

Through dual credit, thousands of students—some as young as fourteen years old—are combining high school studies with college by preparing for and passing college-level exams. Many are earning their entire bachelor's degree from home at the

same time their peers are graduating from high school. Students who utilize dual credit can earn their bachelor's degree years ahead of their peers and position themselves extremely well to pursue graduate-level study at the school of their choice. Beyond school, the extra time and cost savings allows them to pursue internships and gain valuable work/life experience that further equips them to turn their world-changing vision into reality. CollegePlus is one organization leading the way in helping homeschoolers maximize dual-credit opportunities.

Go to www.collegeplus.org/prep/ebook to download their information-packed free e-book *The Official Homeschooler's Guide to Dual Credit*.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Another trend emerging in education is the reality that real-life learning doesn't take place in a classroom. It takes place through on-the-job learning. Internships and apprenticeships are the new/old way of learning that has been used with success for centuries. Students who engage in this form of learning understand the real-life application of learning, and as a result, are drawn to study harder. I saw this clearly in my life when I went to pursue my degree at age twenty-five and saw how important my studies were to my future.

EXCELLENCE, PASSION, AND DRIVE

I'm convinced that students are capable of achieving far more than we give them credit for. All they need is vision and the appropriate encouragement to live their lives to the fullest. Mentors (older friends who come alongside and offer advice) were invaluable in my life and inspired me to push harder and step beyond what I thought possible.

The world steps aside for young people passionately pursuing their calling and pur-

pose. These young adults are marked by excellence, passion, and drive. Let's inspire our children to greatness with the expectation that they will cast aside mediocrity and truly accomplish something momentous! ☺



Woody Robertson is the vice president of admissions for CollegePlus (www.collegeplus.org), an organization committed to launching the next generation of worldchangers who are passionate and prepared for life.

Woody guides students through the college process and presents creative college options to thousands of homeschoolers annually. You can connect with him on Twitter at WoodyCP, and you'll have the chance to hear him at the HEAV convention!

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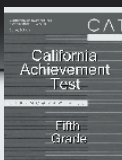
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Leadership Luncheon

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MEDIA & CULTURE



Modern media is defining our culture, from YouTube videos to multi-million-dollar Hollywood productions. There's a tremendous need for movies with a redemptive message for students and parents alike. Crystal Creek Media's Film Camp is a two-day, intensive, interactive program to teach teens practical filmmaking skills through hands-on experience and information-packed sessions. **Cost:** \$99/person, or only \$69 if you purchase a convention ticket or shopping-only pass.

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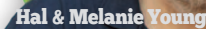
DISCOVER RESOURCES















































Looking for resources for next year? Preregister to shop early in the giant Used Curriculum Sale! Need money for new materials? This is a GREAT opportunity to make some extra cash by selling materials you no longer need.

Tell Your Community!

Know a family thinking about homeschooling? Invite them to the FREE how-to-begin sessions on Thursday. How about parents of preschoolers? Qualified parents of preschoolers attend for FREE!* Every year thousands of distressed and fearful parents call seeking help. Often someone told them about HEAV. YOU can be that someone who can help a struggling family! Put out magazines, fliers, and posts online. *See details at www.heav.org.

This is a tentative schedule subject to change.

**Reb & Bev**

Thursday, June 9	Room	Friday Session 1 9:00 – 10:00 AM	Friday Session 2 10:30 – 11:30 AM		Friday Session 3 1:30 – 2:30 PM	Friday Session 4 3:00 – 4:00 PM	Friday Session 5 4:30 – 5:30 PM	
FREE BEGINNER SESSIONS ROOMS E–10 A-D 2:00–3:00 PM Introduction to Homeschooling  <i>Yvonne Bunn</i> 3:30–4:30 PM How to Begin: What You Really Need to Know  <i>Yvonne Bunn</i> 5:00–6:00 PM Know the Law: Notifying and Testing Demystified  <i>Yvonne Bunn</i> ~ SPECIAL CONVENTION FEATURES ROOM E-11 A/B/C 2:00–5:30 PM Transcript Boot Camp <i>Inge Cannon</i> ROOM E-21 A/B/C 2:00–3:00 PM  Dinosaurs! <i>Mike Snavelly</i> 3:30–4:30 PM  To Make a Movie <i>Daniel & Kathleen Knudsen</i> 5:00–6:00 PM  Hero Tales from American History <i>Hal Young</i> ~ WATCH FOR MORE THURSDAY OPTIONS ~ WORKSHOP TRACKS  <i>Beginners</i>  <i>Exhibitors</i>  <i>Teens</i> ~ EXHIBIT HALL HOURS THURSDAY 5 PM – 9 PM FRIDAY 9:30 AM – 8 PM SATURDAY 9:30 AM – 6:30 PM	B-10 Ballroom Building	Make American History Come Alive <i>Dr. Carol Reynolds</i> 	Daughters of the King <i>Jeannie K. Ryan</i>	LUNCH 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM ~ Leadership Luncheon: Marriott Salon G/H/I with Melanie Young 11:30 AM – 1:15 PM	I'd Throw in the Towel— If Only I Could Find a Clean One ~ <i>Crystal Paine</i>	The Five Critical Elements of Reading <i>Kristen Eckenwiler</i>	How to Teach Your Child with Living Books Like Charlotte Mason ~ <i>Sue Pruett</i>	
	B-15 A/B/C Ballroom Building	Errors in Reasoning: Spotting Logical Fallacies  <i>Dr. Jason Lisle</i>	Top Ten Tips for Successful Homeschooling  <i>Amanda Bennett</i>			The Ultimate Proof of Creation <i>Dr. Jason Lisle</i>	Nurturing Competent Communicators— The Power of Linguistic Patterns! ~ <i>A. Pudewa</i> 	The Stricken Earth <i>Mike Snavelly</i>
	B-16 Ballroom Building	Acceleration and Gifted Girls <i>Mary Baldwin College</i> 	College Preparation and the Homeschooled Student ~ <i>Regent University</i> 			Heritage Foundation Products for Homeschoolers <i>The Heritage Foundation</i> 	Abacus-Based RightStart Mathematics <i>RightStart Mathematics</i> 	How to Build Lifelong Learners with Math-U-See <i>Math-U-See</i>
	B-17 Ballroom Building	Movies and Curriculum:  Making Them Work To- gether ~ <i>Zeezok Publishing</i>	Healthy Eating Simplified  <i>Bread Beckers</i>			Rosetta Stone Homeschool  Foreign Language Curriculum ~ <i>Rosetta Stone</i>	Raising Accountable Kids One Step at a Time  <i>Accountable Kids</i>	The Way You Wish You'd Been Taught... Guaranteed!  <i>Sonlight Curriculum</i>
	B-18 Ballroom Building	Curriculum for Hands-on, Creative,  and Gifted Learners <i>Moving Beyond the Page</i> 	Great Spelling Made Easy! <i>Latin Road/Phonics Road</i> 			Intentional Parenting <i>Knight's Book Knook</i> 	Teaching Science Requires a Belief in God ~ <i>Applied Inspirations, LLC</i> 	Combining Classical Education, Charlotte Mason, and Unit Studies with a Biblical Perspective  <i>My Father's World</i>
	B-19 Ballroom Building	Experience Excellence in Writing ~ <i>Institute for Excellence in Writing</i> 	Teach Your Child Music <i>Ebaru Publishing/ Theviolinbook.com</i> 			Breathing Life into Your Language Arts ~ <i>Total Language Plus</i> 	Classical Education Made Doable <i>Classical Conversations</i> 	Preparing Your Children for the Student- Professor Relationship <i>Professor Carol</i> 
	B-21 C Ballroom Building	Determining Your Child's Learning Style <i>Debra Bell</i> 	Parenting Teens with the Wisdom of Solomon <i>Reb Bradley</i>			Solving the Crisis in Homeschooling <i>Reb Bradley</i>	Raising Real Men <i>Hal & Melanie Young</i>	Giving Children a Vision for the Glory of God <i>Dr. Tedd Tripp</i>
	E-10 A/B Ballroom Building	God is Faithful <i>Rick Andreassen</i>	So You Want to Make a Movie? <i>Anthony & Jessica Rondina</i> 			The Making of Mountain Movers: Using the Secrets of High Achievers in Educating Your Kids ~ <i>Rick Boyer</i> 	Careers Without College <i>Rick Boyer</i>	How to Cut Your Grocery Bill in Half <i>Crystal Paine</i>
	E-10 C/D Ballroom Building	Toddlers and Preschoolers (Ages 2-5) <i>Inge Cannon</i>	A Servant's Heart— The Path to Honor <i>Marilyn Boyer</i>			Filmmaking 101 <i>Anthony & Jessica Rondina</i> 	Helping Teens Overcome Learning Challenges <i>Kathy Kuhl</i>	Overcoming Learning Difficulties Together <i>Ashley Wiggers & Debbie Strayer</i>
	E-11 A/B/C Ballroom Building	How to Choose a Curriculum that Works for Your Child and for You! ~ <i>Yvonne Bunn</i> 	25 Ways to Significantly Cut Your Grocery Bill Without Clipping Coupons ~ <i>Crystal Paine</i>			Bachelor's Degree by 18: What Colleges Don't Tell You  <i>Woody Robertson</i>	Gotta Love Those Preschoolers! <i>Marilyn Boyer</i>	The Rewriting of America's History— Colonial Era  <i>Dr. Catherine Millard</i>
E-21 A/B/C Exhibit Hall Building	Shining Armor—Your Son's Battle for Purity <i>Hal & Melanie Young</i>	Never Give Up—The Critical Importance of Finishing What You've Started <i>Hal & Melanie Young</i>		Unit Studies— Powerfully Simple Tools <i>Amanda Bennett</i>	Study-Smart Student Strategies <i>Debra Bell</i> 	Homeschooling Teens  <i>Debra Bell</i>		
E-23 A/B Exhibit Hall Building	Financial Aid: A Road Map to Get You Through the Wilderness ~ <i>Lee Andes</i>	Eight Practical Steps to Life After High School  <i>Woody Robertson</i>		The Joy of Teaching High School Science <i>Dr. Lainna Callentine</i>	 Touching a Heart: A Hands-on Dissection <i>Dr. Lainna Callentine</i>	 Touching a Heart: A Hands-on Dissection <i>Dr. Lainna Callentine</i>		
E-24 A/B Exhibit Hall Building	Writing an IEP for Your Child ~ <i>Judi Munday</i>	Teaching Students with Communication Challenges: Autism and Asperger's ~ <i>Judi Munday</i>		Math from a Biblical Worldview <i>Katherine Loop</i>	The Blessing of Hospitality <i>Sue Becker</i>	Families Love Travel: Let's Plan Some Field Trips Around the Mid-Atlantic on a Budget ~ <i>Michele Zavatsky</i>		
	E-25 A/B Exhibit Hall Building	Day One of Film Camp – 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM						
		Coliseum to Cinema— Christianity & Entertainment	Storyboard to the Future—Redefining Modern Media	How to Make a Film and Not Go to Jail: The Business of Media	YouTube to Oscars: Strategically Planning Your Project	Taking Center Stage: Acting for Film	Writing a Winning Script	



Friday Session 6 6:00 – 7:00 PM	Room	Saturday Keynote 8:30 – 10:00 AM	Saturday Session 7 10:30 – 11:30 AM	Saturday Session 8 1:30 – 2:30 PM	Saturday Session 9 3:00 – 4:00 PM	Saturday Session 10 4:30 – 5:30 PM		
When Math Doesn't Come Easily <i>Kathy Kuhl</i>	B-10 Ballroom Building		Generation of Giants <i>Marilyn Boyer</i>	<div>11:30 AM – 1:30 PM</div> <div>LUNCH</div> <div>11:30 AM – 2:00 PM</div> <div>Single Parents' Luncheon in the Marriott Hotel Restaurant – 11:30 AM</div>	Sports, Christian Worldview, and Homeschooling <i>Rob & Lainna Callentine</i>	Becoming a Work-At- Home Mom—Without Losing Your Sanity ~ C. Paine	Seeing the Big Picture of Homeschooling ~ <i>Ashley Wiggers & Debbie Strayer</i>	
Developing the Essayist <i>Andrew Pudewa</i>	B-15 A/B/C Ballroom Building		Homeschooled from the Beginning—What to Do When Your Children Are Young ~ <i>Melanie Young</i>		Warrior Mother: Fighting FOR the Kids and Not WITH Them <i>Beverly Bradley</i>	The Grace of the Gospel and Its Impact on Your Family <i>Reb Bradley</i>	Loving and Teaching the Difficult Child <i>Beverly Bradley</i>	
The Great American Experiment ~ <i>Educational Materials Associates, Inc. (EMA)</i>	B-16 Ballroom Building		A Different Approach to Grammar <i>Analytical Grammar</i>		AD/HD, Dyslexia, Learning Disorders, and Asperger's: Overcoming These Problems Without Drugs <i>Brain Balance Achievement Center of Richmond</i>	Hope for Discouraged Learners: How Deep Learning Works <i>BJU Press</i>	Using Box of Ideas in Co-ops and Homeschool Groups <i>Box of Ideas, LLC</i>	
LapBook Creations <i>Finding Christ Books</i>	B-17 Ballroom Building		Dynamic Models to Teach Worldview ~ <i>Recon</i>		Occupying Preschoolers While Teaching Older Children <i>My Father's World</i>	Effective Computer-Assisted Foreign Language Learning <i>Tell Me More/Auralog</i>	Affordable, Flexible, Tax-Advantaged College Savings ~ <i>Virginia 529!</i>	
Dr. Berard Auditory Integration Training <i>Cheri Moore</i>			B-18 Ballroom Building		Giving Your Students the Winning Edge! Earn College Credit Now <i>Liberty University</i>	The Ultimate Planning Tools for Homeschool Moms <i>Apologia</i>	Changing Lives with Words <i>Wordbuild (Dynamic Literacy)</i>	Raising the Standard: The Importance of a Christian Math and Science Education <i>Digital Interactive Video Education</i>
The Phonics Foundation Every Student Needs <i>Tracey Tutor</i>	B-19 Ballroom Building	KEYNOTE A B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building Getting to the Heart of Behavior <i>Dr. Tedd Tripp</i>	How to Travel the World and Have Someone Else Pay for It <i>Linda Vista Pictures</i>	Weaving History with His-Story <i>Biblioplan for Families</i>	The Struggling Reader <i>The Struggling Reader</i>	Piano Keys and the Piano Bench <i>Classic Studio of Music</i>		
Overcoming the Distractions of Motherhood: Keeping Priorities in Focus <i>Beverly Bradley</i>	B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building		Helping Children Understand How to Identify Attitudes of the Heart ~ <i>Dr. Tedd Tripp</i>	3:30 PM – 5:30 PM Class of 2012 Graduation Ceremony <i>Bound for Greatness ~ Rick Boyer</i>				
Reviving Your Teaching and Your Students <i>Debbie Strayer</i>	E-10 A/B Ballroom Building		The Power of Homeschooling <i>Amanda Bennett</i>	Planning Your Year with Unit Studies <i>Amanda Bennett</i>	How to Fight So You Both Win <i>Hal & Melanie Young</i>	Using Graphic Organizers to Promote Learning <i>Debra Bell</i>		
Classical Music in Classical Education <i>Dr. Carol Reynolds</i>	E-10 C/D Ballroom Building		Roots Have Fruits— Where is Your Curriculum Taking You? <i>Debbie Strayer</i>	Top Five Academic Skills Needed for College Success <i>Carol Reynolds</i>	The Rewriting of America's History— Revolutionary War Era <i>Dr. Catherine Millard</i>	The Rewriting of America's History— Civil War Era <i>Dr. Catherine Millard</i>		
The Rewriting of America's History— Discovery Era <i>Dr. Catherine Millard</i>	E-11 A/B/C Ballroom Building		Take Back the Land <i>Rick Boyer</i>	Would Your Kids Say You're Media Savvy? <i>Daniel Knudsen</i>	Learning to Delight in Your Children <i>Marilyn Boyer</i>	Teaching and Evaluating Writing <i>Andrew Pudewa</i>		
Homeschooling a Houseful <i>Melanie Young</i>	E-21 A/B/C Exhibit Hall Building		The Horror of the Flood! <i>Mike Snavely</i>	Creation: Science Confirms the Bible Is True <i>Dr. Jason Lisle</i>	A Biblical Tour of the Solar System <i>Dr. Jason Lisle</i>	Grand Canyon— The Puzzle on the Plateau <i>Mike Snavely</i>		
Nature Studies— The Natural Way <i>Sue Pruett</i>	E-22 A Exhibit Hall Building		When Writing Doesn't Come Easily ~ <i>Kathy Kuhl</i>	Revealing Arithmetic <i>Katherine Loop</i>	Homeschooling Classically Through High School <i>Val Deutsch</i>	Eating for Excellence <i>Sue Becker</i>		
Families Love Travel On the Cheap <i>Michele Zavatsky</i>	E-23 A/B Exhibit Hall Building		A Time of Encouragement— Ministering to the Heart of a Parent ~ <i>Rick Andreassen</i>	Does My Child Have a Learning Disability? <i>Kristen Eckenwiler</i>	Legislative Issues—Law Change, Sports Access, and Q&A ~ <i>Yvonne Bunn</i>	Now Calling All Entrepreneurs <i>Woody Robertson</i>		
Mastering Multiple- Choice Tests <i>Kathleen Knudsen</i>	E-24 A/B Exhibit Hall Building		Advanced Couponing Techniques <i>Crystal Paine</i>	Why and How You Should Teach Your Children Etiquette ~ <i>Inge Cannon</i>	Plastic Cinema <i>Anthony & Jessica Rondina</i>	The Extras That Aren't Extra <i>Sue Pruett</i>		
	E-25 A/B Exhibit Hall Building	Day Two of Film Camp – 10:30 AM – 5:30 PM						
		The Celebrity's Guide to the Galaxy	Not Letting the Mud Stick	Introduction to the “Film” Camera	Design for Art and Screen: Cinematography & Lighting	Question & Answer Session	Editing a Blockbuster	Winning with the Audience

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM LUNCH

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Single Parents' Luncheon in the Marriott Hotel Restaurant



And I will give them a heart to know me... Jeremiah 24:7

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VOLUNTEER Yes! I'll volunteer at the convention. ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

☐ Contact for specific area ☐ Wherever Needed

FOR MILITARY RECOGNITION (you or family member) ☐ Active ☐ Retired

*UCS: Used Curriculum Sale **Does not include Children's Program †Spouse and Dependent Children admitted FREE



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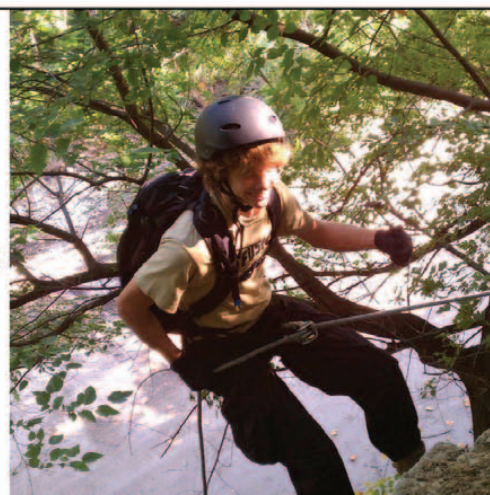
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Back to SCHOOL?

KATHY KUHL

Do schools know best? Should we do it their way? Some of us wonder if our children might be better off in school, even if we don't like to say that out loud.

Every family needs to choose how to educate their children, and I want to help them consider the options wisely. I know families committed to homeschooling who have put children in school because of extreme circumstances, but if you are merely discouraged about your homeschool, it is easy to idealize the alternatives. I have, and that is a mistake.

LEAVING IT TO THE PROS

The first way we can idealize schools is to think that professional educators must teach better than we do. Especially if we are struggling, it is easy to assume that a teacher would do a better job.

But even if you live near a great school with wonderful teachers—and not all of us do—it won't be trouble-free. As deeply as the teach-

ers may care for your child's success and as experienced as they may be, they have limited options and resources. They have many other children to help. In January, they may not be able to change curriculum as homeschoolers can. They cannot let the wiggly girl chew gum to help her focus or put the distractible boy to work in a quiet room by himself. They cannot let the child do math under the dining-room table as I did one year. They can't build a unit around your child's special interest.

Teachers have lots to do: prepare students for standardized tests, attend meetings, complete paperwork, prepare lessons, grade papers—and teach! Society keeps thinking of more for the schools to do, leaving less time for reading and the arts. Though every teacher I know puts in extra hours, they cannot give your child much time one-on-one. And being in a special class is no panacea. A homeschooler who had been a special-education teacher thought that teaching was tougher in school than at home. "In a special-education classroom," she wrote, "there may be up to twelve students with different strengths and weaknesses. What works for two might not work for all twelve."

SOCIALIZATION

When children are shy or slow to pick up social cues, their parents may think that spending the day with many people will lead to more friendships and improved social skills. It might for some children. But crowds can be lonely places. Several families I interviewed said that having to work on social skills and academic skills simultaneously in a classroom made school much harder.

PARENTAL BURNOUT

Feeling burned out? Putting your child in school won't free you of responsibility for your child's education. You will spend hours communicating with the school. And if your child has special needs, it's even harder. You will attend meetings and learn laws, acronyms, and policies. You may struggle to get

your child the help he or she needs. And after school, you'll tutor your child when you both are tired. Don't think enrolling a child in school will make everything easy. Some parents told me they homeschool to avoid the stress of dealing with school.

PRACTICING SCHOOL AT HOME

A second way we idealize schools is to let them be the standard for our homeschools. Anxious new homeschoolers may buy school desks or ring a bell at the start of the day. While a child-size chair and a writing surface at the right height for your child are great ideas, you can homeschool anywhere and any way that suits you and your child.

It is easy to forget the freedom we have when we homeschool. We may adopt methods our teachers used. The danger is in adopting approaches without thinking about whether they serve our children and us well. Schools have lectures, bells, and textbooks because that is the most efficient way to teach a large group of students, not because it is the best way to teach every child. As one mother of a struggling learner told me, "When you are trying to duplicate the school environment in a home, keep in mind that it didn't work in school; that's why he's at home!"

Veteran homeschoolers can slip back into the "school mentality" as the years go by. If your homeschool is in a rut, have you been unconsciously assuming that the ways you were taught are the only ways to teach? There are new methods and resources to explore. ☺



Kathy Kuhl is a writer and speaker who helps parents assist children with learning challenges. Visit her at <http://learndifferently.com>.

*This article is adapted from Kathy's book *Homeschooling Your Struggling Learner*. Also read "Encourage Your Child" by Kathy at www.heav.org/the-virginia-homeschooler/volume-18-issue-2, and come and hear her speak at the convention!*



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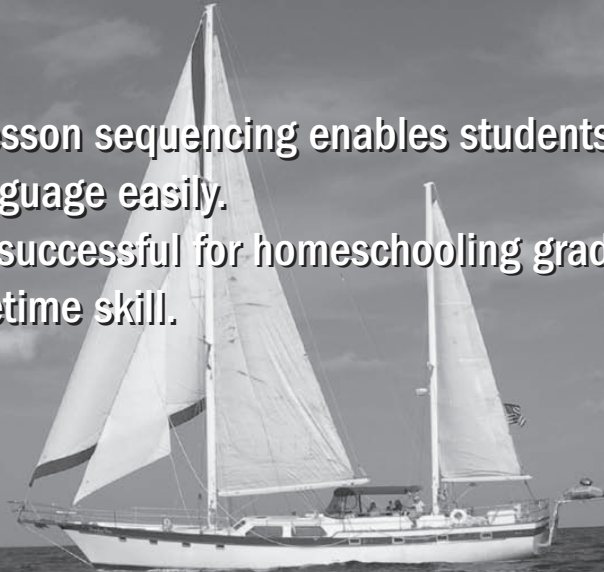
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HAL AND MELANIE YOUNG



There are days when we look at our sons and think, “If they were in school, they’d be on so many pills they’d rattle when they walked.” At one point Melanie was teaching six boys ages six to eighteen. Was it noisy? You bet. Active? Quite. Chaotic? Oh boy.

It sure doesn’t look like a traditional classroom in operation here, but the boys still learn and do well on outside measures like standardized tests. Our oldest moved comfortably into one of the most challenging colleges in the U.S.

Don't Forget THE VALUE OF ACTIVE LEARNING

It’s not easy for a lot of boys today. Classrooms have become less friendly toward boys. Emphasis on high-stakes testing locks students to their desks where they fill out worksheets and practice exams. Recess has been eliminated in some districts, and rough-and-tumble games have been banned in others.

What’s more, the diagnosis of attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has mushroomed. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2006 nearly twelve percent of American boys had been diagnosed with ADHD, while less than 4.8 percent of girls were identified as suffering from it.

We’re not about to argue the definition of the disorder or how it should be treated; however, it does raise the question of how one boy out of eight ends up “dysfunctional” and in need of medical intervention. If nearly two-and-a-half times as many boys as girls are finding themselves out of sync with the culture, could it be that the cultural standard may be playing against something commonly found in boys?

MAKE LEARNING BOY-FRIENDLY

What we’ve found in raising a houseful of active boys demonstrates to us why many of them may be struggling in the traditional classroom. Boys and girls respond to different things—whether social and emotional cues, educational techniques, or even the setting of the thermostat.

We had an illustration of this when our son visited Hampden-

Sydney College, an all-male school in Virginia. He came back completely charged up from a freshman economics class.

“Mom, it was great!” he crowed. “The professor yelled at them, called them knuckleheads, and they argued. It was awesome.” His mom, no stranger to vigorous debate, was taken aback. He didn’t find that intimidating? No, and apparently the rest of the class ate it up as well. Point one: Young men respond to louder voices, stronger statements, and verbal challenge. It’s one reason that experimental single-sex classrooms are reporting great progress among students who were academic washouts and disciplinary problems the year before. Instead of aiming for a calm, low-key environment, these teachers have found a way to fully engage male students and get them where they live.

KEEP LEARNING ACTIVE

A second fact is that boys are active—always. They are like cats. Cats are rarely still—even asleep, their tails twitch and paws flex. Yes, it may distract the teacher if boys drum their pencils while they read, or tap their feet while they listen. But, that’s natural. Give them something quiet to handle—a tennis ball to squeeze or something similar.

Give boys an opportunity to use large muscle groups. Instead of filling in worksheet blanks, maybe they will work better on a whiteboard or large sheets of paper. Or maybe they need to be challenged to run up and down the stairs ten times when they just can’t focus on math. Using those big muscles and burning up that excess energy can make it easier to sit down and focus afterward.

How do your boys sit? We’ve all read the recommendations for feet flat on the floor, light coming over the left shoulder, proper posture, and so forth. On the other hand, Thomas Jefferson did much of his writing at a tall desk without a chair. Winston Churchill did the same, or else dictated his speeches and books to a secretary while he paced the room and made wide hand motions. If your son is more comfortable doing math with his feet propped higher than his head, can you live with that? Of course you can!

Don’t forget the value of active learning. Experiments, demonstrations, and anything that will make ideas more concrete will help your sons absorb the concepts in their books. You can even turn mundane exercises into a competition—who can finish his math drills fastest and with the best accuracy? Who can read and report on the most

books this month? Field trips and visits with special people—veterans, professionals, specialists of any sort—are not only fun but extremely valuable for connecting textbooks with the real world.

MAKE THE ENVIRONMENT COMFORTABLE

Research has found that boys work best in a cool environment. Warm rooms (heated for the girls' comfort) make boys drowsy. If you're teaching a mixed group, consider putting your daughter's seat in a sunny spot and your son in the cooler part of the room. Maybe even give him a small fan!

Is homeschooling the only way to educate a son? We won't claim that it is. But we can't think of a better way to take a boy as God made him and help him become what

God intends him to be—without forcing him through a mold that is convenient for an institutional program. ☺



Hal and Melanie Young are the parents of eight homeschooled children.

Their book, Raising Real Men: Surviving, Teaching and

Appreciating Boys, is available from Great Waters Press at www.RaisingRealMen.com.

Come and hear Hal and Melanie at the HEAV Convention! Also read their article on marriage, "Hey, That's Not Fair," on our website, www.heav.org/the-virginia-home-educator/volume-18-issue-2.

NEW FROM THE CONVENTION DIRECTOR

Continued from page 5

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Reclaiming MATH

KATHERINE LOOP

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We live in a culture in which secular thinking has infiltrated all different aspects of life, including science, history, politics, literature, and the arts. One of the beauties of homeschooling is that we can “reclaim” these subjects by building our approach to them upon God’s Word.

As a homeschool graduate, I’m very grateful for the way my parents sought to instruct us in a biblical worldview. I learned to see God’s Word, not just as the source for spiritual truth, but as the foundation for understanding every area of life accurately.

One subject, however, stood out as a stark exception: math. We simply could not see how math could be approached from a biblical worldview. How could “ $1 + 1 = 2$ ” be anything but neutral? How could math facts be approached biblically?

APPLYING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW TO MATH

While the Bible does not specifically talk about math, it offers principles through which we can view and understand each aspect of life, including math. For example, the Bible teaches us that Jesus created and sustains all things (Colossians 1:16-17). Thus He created and sustains math! This does not mean He created the symbols on the piece of paper we have come to associate with math; it means He created the real-life principles those symbols represent.

Think for a moment about why math works. Why do equations we solve on paper apply in real life? They apply because they describe the consistent way God holds things together! One plus one consistently equals two because God keeps objects adding together consistently. We can only rely on math to work because a faithful, never-changing God consistently sustains this universe by His Word. Math’s very ability to work testifies to God’s power and faithfulness.

Biblical principles can also govern our use of math. The Bible teaches us that God has given each person work to do—work we are to do as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:17). So, we want to learn to use math to help us in the work we do—as unto the Lord!

There are lots of direct applications of math to everyday life. Math helps us learn logical thinking, structured thought process, and problem-solving skills—thus serving indirectly as a tool at a deeper level.

THE SECULARIZATION OF MATH

Pick up nearly any math textbook, and you’ll notice it does not mention where math came from or why it works. Math “facts” are taught and drilled into students, but students are never given a foundation on which to understand those “facts.” They’re left looking at math as a neutral, self-existent structure.

While calling something neutral may not seem like a worldview, it is! Neutral means indifferent or “not engaged on either side; not

aligned with a political or ideological grouping.”¹ When taught to view math as neutral, students are subtly being taught that there are certain absolutes and principles that exist independently from God.

This is a very dangerous twist on reality. Math should remind us to trust God, the One who day in and day out sustains this universe with such faithfulness that math facts can be used to describe how objects will operate. Instead, math facts taught alone encourage students to place their faith in human reasoning and math itself, and to view math as the source of truth.

Looking back, I can see how the things I learned in math subtly harmed my heart. When I began wrestling to make my faith my own, I approached the topic with the thought that I needed to see what math and science proved or disproved before I could commit myself to God. My understanding of math, which should have been reinforcing God’s faithfulness, was actually drawing me away from Him and encouraging me to trust math itself and human reasoning.

RECLAIMING MATH

So how do we teach the next generation to base their thinking in every area, including math, on God’s Word?

Adding a Bible verse to a secular lesson does not fix the problem. That is similar to taping Bible verses over a bomb. We might succeed in hiding the danger but not in diffusing it.

If we really want to reclaim math, we need to totally change our approach and look at concepts not as neutral facts, but as useful ways of describing the consistency in the universe God created and sustains. We will want to present different math methods as ways that men, using the ability God gave them, have recorded that consistency. And we will want to teach students how to use math to help in their daily tasks and in exploring God’s creation.

Math needs to be reclaimed. Its very existence serves as a fascinating glimpse of God’s character and a testimony to His faithfulness and power. Let’s not miss out on seeing Him in math, for when we do, we will be encouraged to trust Him in every area of our lives. ☺



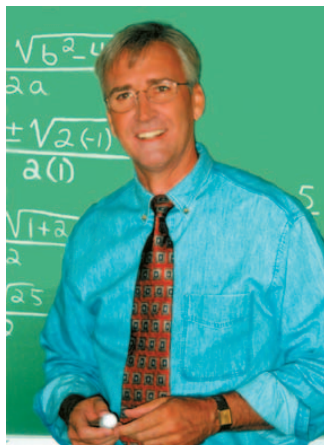
Katherine Loop, a homeschool graduate, is the author of various homeschool resources, including two books on teaching math from a biblical worldview. Check out her website, www.christianperspective.net, for more information and to sign up for her free e-newsletters.

This article was excerpted from the Home School Enrichment Magazine. Reprinted with permission. Read the full article and “Teaching Math from a Biblical Perspective” by Katherine at www.heav.org/the-virginia-home-educator/volume-18-issue-2, and be sure to come and hear Katherine speak at the convention!

1 Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, 1974 ed., s.v. “neutral.”

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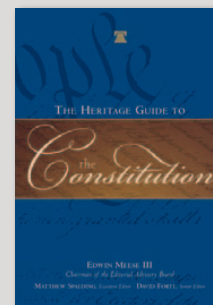
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