

GREENHOUSE

Nurturing Home Education in North Carolina and Beyond



In This Issue



Wisdom for the Next Phase of Life

What's Next? When Your Child with Special Needs Is Graduating or Moving into Greater Independence

The Gift of Graduation - Reflections

Changes and Expectations: From the Rear-View Mirror

Structure or Flexibility?



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No legacy is so rich as honesty.

William Shakespeare

MEDIA MANAGER

Sarah Hicks *media@nche.com*

EDITORS

Matthew McDill *president@nche.com*

Debbie Mason *events@nche.com*

Sarah Hicks *media@nche.com*

Submissions *greenhouse@nche.com*

Ad Sales *greenhouse@nche.com*

DEADLINES

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

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Connect with Mereda on Instagram @brit.at.hart



GREENHOUSE

grace notes

It is officially graduation season! It's also officially wedding season and basketball playoff season. At first thought, these things might not seem related, but they have a lot in common. We buy special clothes for them, we anticipate their arrival, and we celebrate them *big time!* But the biggest thing they all have in common is that months (if not years) of work usually go into planning and preparing for them, and once they're over, we can be left wondering what's next.

If we've learned anything this school year, it's that the future isn't fully known to us. Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. (Proverbs 19:21) The same can be said for weddings, ball games, and life after homeschool. There is a tremendous amount of comfort knowing that an education is no more about a cap and gown than your wedding is about the dress and tuxedo. Ultimately, education is about the years that you have spent sowing into, praying over, nurturing, and preparing your children to recognize their gifts and use them for good. What an encouragement to know that the eternal treasures you have been building do not end and cannot ever be lost or stolen! (Matthew 6:19-20)

From cover to cover, the graduate issue of GREENHOUSE is such a great read for every member of the NCHE homeschooling community. It's easy to feel excited about our future when we look at the smiling graduates on these pages. Congratulations! You have crossed the homeschool finish line! You did it!

Together.

At home.

As a family.

Sarah

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NCHE's 2020 Graduates



Breanna Elizabeth Adamick, daughter of Mark and Arlene Adamick of Oak Ridge, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. Bree has always been athletic in gymnastics, aikido—in which she has her brown belt—soccer, and volleyball

(which she has played for the last seven years with the FHE Hawks). She plans to pursue interior design and exercise physiology at Greensboro College where she has been accepted and awarded a merit scholarship.



Brayden Lee Adams, son of Lee and Kristy Adams, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He is a faithful member of Maple Lawn Baptist Church. Brayden has been a member of the Greensboro Fire Department Explorer program for three years. After graduation, he

plans to attend GTCC and potentially follow in the footsteps of his father as a firefighter. *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* Philippians 4:13



Megan Aydelette is the daughter of Phillip and Rebecca Aydelette of Oak Ridge, NC. She is a lifelong homeschooler, has been dually enrolled at Guilford Technical Community College for her junior and senior years and plans to pursue a degree in industrial

design. Megan has enjoyed summers at Camp Don Lee as a camper, a leader in training and will return this summer as a staff member.



William Barron, son of Chad and Anne Barron of Hamptonville, will celebrate his last day of homeschool on May 8. William has always been homeschooled and has participated in CCPP at Surry CC. He enjoys many sports and working out. He has played football since

third grade. William plays guitar and enjoys listening to music. He has been a tremendous help on our family blueberry farm. William plans to finish his Mechatronics degree next year.



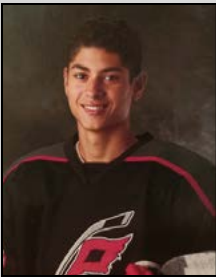
Samantha Leigh Barth, daughter of Daniel and Sherri Barth of Charlotte, will graduate in June after thirteen years of homeschooling. Sam has enjoyed singing with CHEA's CYC and participating in Opus Deum, serving as vice president this year. Sam

played for East Lincoln LL Softball and is receiving her black belt in karate this spring. She plans to continue serving her church and community while taking a gap year before pursuing theological studies.



Jesse David Zaragoza Battelstein, son of Jessica and David of Pittsboro, is a lifelong homeschooler. We're so proud of you! You grew up on a farm and love animals. Mr. Outgoing, Mr. Social, a friend to everyone, who's lived in Spain, learned Castellano, skied

the Pyrenees, and become an amazing hockey player! God is always pushing you beyond your limits. He has wonderful plans for your life! Have a great time at Liberty playing hockey! God loves you!



Josiah Gabriel Zaragoza Battelstein, son of Jessica and David of Pittsboro, is a lifelong homeschooler. We're so proud of you! You grew up on a farm, hunting, camping, caring for animals, living a three-year adventure in Spain, discovering your identity, learning

a new language, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, and you've become an amazing hockey player. You're going to have an amazing life at Liberty. Have fun; enjoy the ride; God loves you!



Andrew Kent Brazinski, son of Michael and Shelly Brazinski of Colfax, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. He is also graduating from GTCC with an associate's degree. He serves on his church worship team and with the youth. He is a talented drummer

and guitarist. He is a loyal brother and friend. God has gifted him with wisdom, kindness, boldness, humor, steadfastness, and so many other great qualities. We are so proud!



Madison Elisabeth Breedlove, daughter of Todd and Susan Breedlove of Monroe, graduates after homeschooling for six years. Madison has been training in classical ballet for fourteen years with Bonita's School of Ballet, has performed with the Union County

Youth Ballet and is a member of Monroe City Ballet. She is a member of the NHS for Dance Arts. Madison has enjoyed

being a student teacher at dance for the past five years. In addition to school and dance commitments, she has also held a part time job. Madison will be attending Appalachian State University to study industrial design.



Anna Lee Brennan, daughter of Daniel Mark and Theresa Lee Brennan of Youngsville, graduates in May after homeschooling her entire life. She has participated in piano, photography and yearbook club throughout high school and enjoys volunteering. Anna will

attend Wake Tech while she decides on her career path. We can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for her future.



Josiah Nathanael Brinson, son of Cliff and Christi Brinson of Holly Springs, graduates after homeschooling all his life. He has a very creative mind and enjoys solving problems in mathematics and physics. Josiah loves food; he has cooked our family's meals since

he was nine, and served the community by volunteering at the Holly Springs Food Cupboard. He is a faithful member of Ambassador Presbyterian Church. He enjoys playing tennis and is a highly rated chess player. Josiah plans to attend Wake Forest University, where he has been awarded the Ledford Scholarship to study physics.



Aaron Brown, son of Kelly and Brenda Brown of Concord, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Aaron loves apologetics, defending his faith, and has been involved in politics since he was eleven years old. Aaron attends Central Piedmont CC in the

Career and College Promise program and completed his Associate in Arts degree in May. He will attend UNC Charlotte with a major in accounting.



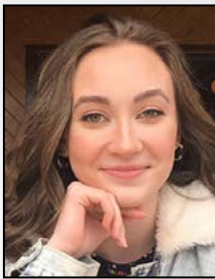
Benjamin Brown, son of Kelly and Brenda Brown of Concord, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He loves being involved in politics, volunteering on his first campaign at age eleven. Benjamin attends Central Piedmont CC as part of the Career and College

Promise program. He plans to finish an AAS degree at CPCC and then transfer to UNC Charlotte to finish a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology.



Christa Joy Burns, daughter of Michael and Joy Burns of Raleigh, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. A gifted artist and athlete, Christa has participated in New Life Storm athletics since middle school. She led the Storm Varsity Girls Volleyball team to victory at the 2019

NCHEAC State Tournament and was named tournament MVP. Christa currently attends Wake Tech Community College and plans to attend UNCG to study communications.



Anna Carman, daughter of Sky and Michelle Carman, is graduating after thirteen years of homeschooling. Anna is dually enrolled through CCP at Forsyth Tech CC and is working toward an AS in science. Anna has taken two years of ASL and has a passion for helping people. She volunteers at

therapeutic horseback riding facilities. She will pursue a career as a physical therapist. Anna enjoys learning new hobbies and spending time with family and friends.



Olivia Joyce Carroll, daughter of Frank and Melanie Carroll of Kernersville, graduates after ten years of homeschool. Olivia is passionate about living an authentic life with her community of friends and chasing after Jesus. She is a photographer's assistant

and interned with Hope City Church. Olivia will complete an AA at Forsyth Tech CC this fall. She is excited to see what the future holds and what cute dogs she will meet along the way.



John Frederic Cassidy IV, son of John and Kimberly Cassidy of Denver, graduates after homeschooling fourteen years. He has had the privilege in participating in the following activities: archery, swim team, varsity soccer, Civil Air Patrol (Wrights Brothers Award) and EAA

Young Eagles (Ray Scholarship Award). He is currently working on obtaining his private pilot's license and plans to attend college to study ministry, music and business. He enjoys playing various instruments and is such an encouragement and blessing. We love you so much and are proud of you! Congratulations! Jer. 29:11



Colton Scott Causey, son of Chris and Ashley Causey of Greensboro, graduates after homeschooling for seven years. He attended Classical Conversations and completed the Challenge program. Colton played varsity basketball for Guilford County Heat. He enjoys working out, playing

golf, watching and playing sports, and spending time with family and friends. He volunteered working each summer at local YMCA youth baseball camps. Colton plans to attend Guilford Tech CC before transferring to a university. We love you and are proud of you! We know God has amazing plans for your life! Jeremiah 29:11



Alaina Taylor Chase, daughter of Jason and Crystal Chase of Oak Ridge, graduates today from homeschooling, dual enrollment, private schools, honors charter schools, and even one year of public school. She is an active member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

She has enjoyed piano, cheer, and dance since she was two years old. She has participated in the National League of Junior Cotillions annually. Alaina will continue the Aquinas College Catechist Formation Curriculum, NC State online classes, and attend College of Cosmetology in the fall.



Whatever you do,
do your work heartily,
as for the Lord rather
than for men, knowing
that from the Lord you
will receive the reward
of the inheritance.
It is the Lord Christ
whom you serve.

Colossians 3:23-24

Alaina Chase

Today is your day!
You're off to great places!
You're off and away!
You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose...
I hope you dance!

Número tres, you will always
be número uno to us.
Congratulations!



CLASS OF 2020



Albert Luke Clay, son of Mark and Debbie Clay of Fuquay Varina, graduates after homeschooling for his whole life. Luke has been active with his church youth group, leads a boys' Bible study on Sunday mornings, and served on a mission trip to Jamaica. He has enjoyed

acting since he was three. His most recent role was Hopeful in *Pilgrim* with Spiritual Twist Productions. He plans to pursue a career in theatre.



Erik Andrew Coonrad II, son of Erik and Gina, of Durham, graduates after nine years of homeschooling. He is an active member of the Cary Church of Christ where he recently participated in CYC in TN. He loves to spend time with family and friends. Erik has an aptitude for video games

and is hoping to pursue a career in that industry. He also loves to put a smile on children's faces by putting on his various superhero costumes and performing.



Ethan Johnson Council, son of John and Charlotte Council of Laurel Springs, is the youngest of six homeschooled children. He was the recipient of the First Responder of the Year award for 2019 from the local volunteer fire department. As a JOAD recurve archer, he has

competed and earned medals in GA and NC. He collects coins and invests in gold and silver. He tracks currency on WheresGeorge.com. Ethan is considering options for his future.



Angelina Marie Cozort, daughter of Tirea Cozort and Ian Gross, graduates after homeschooling for five years in Albemarle, NC. She enjoys volunteering, singing, and playing guitar. She plans to attend Stanly Community College to pursue a career in nursing.



Makenzi Crews is the daughter of Josh and Christa Crews and has three siblings: Dakota, Hunter, and Ryleigh. She loves reading her Bible, journaling, swimming, dancing, and being with her family. She is currently attending DCCC, completing general education

classes, and will transfer to Forsyth Tech to pursue a degree in respiratory therapy. She will be traveling to Belize this summer to pursue her calling to missions.



Michaela Kaimana Dela Cruz, daughter of Darryl and Kat, sister to Ellie and dog-mom to Kenta, is a former wanna-be-preschool-dropout and successful graduate of Lifelong Learning Academy. A gifted singer, compassionate animal lover, and skilled make-up

artist, Michaela leads worship at her church youth group and volunteers in the nursery. Born with an adventurous spirit, Michaela's plans include wild animals, performing arts and world travel.



Madison Nicole Desien, daughter of Tiffany Howell of Coats, graduates after homeschooling for six years. Madison is a member of NBHA. Madison also barrel races in other organizations and rodeos. Madison is working as a CA for Chiropractic Partners in Clayton, and

in her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and horses. After graduation, Madison plans to attend Triangle Dental School to peruse a career as a dental assistant.



Joshua DeVliieger, son of Troy and Jill DeVliieger of Sherrills Ford, graduates with honors after thirteen years of homeschooling. Throughout high school, he participated in moot court and team policy debate in the NCFCA, making it to Nationals in his sophomore,

junior, and senior years. He was president of the Zeta-Epsilon chapter of the National Homeschool Honor Society in his senior year. He plans to attend law school after college.



Samuel Alexander Diehl, son of Davis and Sarah Diehl of Hamptonville, graduates from Seven Meadows Christian Academy after a lifetime of homeschool. Sam, an accomplished classical/jazz pianist, plays accessory keys/Hammond organ with the EVBC praise band.

He is active in EVBC youth group and plays lead piano for Valley United Youth Band. Sam is an aviator and earned his private pilot's license. He plans to attend GTCC to become a commercial pilot.



Colin Thomas Evans, son of Bruce and Amy Evans of Matthews, graduates after homeschooling for nine years. He enjoys fencing and participating in youth group at his local church. He has also been a member of FRC Team 3506, YETI Robotics, serving as controls team lead for two years, and a Chairman's Award submission

presenter for three. He has a heart for community service and, with his love of engineering and technology, encourages younger students to pursue careers in STEM. After graduation, Colin plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in French.



Melanie Fitts, daughter of Sean and Teresa Fitts of Holly Springs, graduates after homeschooling for twelve years. Melanie has been a member of a competitive dance team for four years and has also been a member of the Capital Area National Homeschool Honor Society. She will be attending High Point University in the fall to double major in dance and psychology. She plans to become a dance therapist.

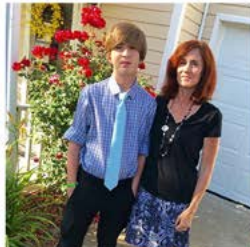


ASHTON SHAWN FREEMAN

We are proud of the fine young man that you have become!

GOD BE WITH YOU.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Padda, Linden & Chloe





Ashton Shawn Freeman, son of Shawn and Angie Freeman of Greensboro, graduates after two years of homeschool. He is the oldest of three kids and a brother to Linden and Chloe. Ashton enjoys traveling, all things Disney, gaming, graphic design, and being with his family.

Ashton plans to pursue a job in the film industry and dreams of a job with Walt Disney Company. He will attend GTTC in the fall.



Graham Patrick Goedeck, son of Henry Goedeck and Sharon Petersen, graduates after three years of homeschooling. Graham enjoys music, animals, arts and crafts. His family and friends are so very proud of him and all his accomplishments. We are certain

that he will succeed at whatever he endeavors to do.



Javeer Xavier Frett, son of Rex and Evelyn Frett of Cameron, graduates after four years of homeschooling. He enjoys soccer, running track, walking, exercising, traveling and eating different culture foods. He has volunteered in his community at different

churches, organizations and schools. Javeer served the State of NC as a governor's page with Governor Roy Cooper. He participated in the Central Carolina Community College Workforce Development, and he received a certificate in 2019 for Career and Finances. Continuing his secondary education, his interests are technology and criminal justice.



Rebekah Gouch, daughter of Harvey & Kristi Gouch, Jr. of Mooresville, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She competed in NCFCA for six years where she discovered her love for public speaking. She was a pro-life speaker and intern for

LoveLife Charlotte and a 2019 National Youth Correspondent for WJMC. She plans to attend Liberty University and double major in Strategic Communication Biblical Studies. Her life verse is Micah 6:8



Chudney Mala Gobin, daughter of Parasram and Davida Gobin of Kannapolis, graduates with honors after homeschooling since kindergarten. With an inherited gift of singing and acting, Chudney trained at Children's Theatre of Charlotte in musical theatre for seven

years. Upon graduating, Chudney will continue her education at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles while building her business brand as an entrepreneur and rising pop star.



William Greyson Greenwood, son of Kevin and Briggs Greenwood of Durham, graduates having always been homeschooled. During that time, he has also enjoyed serving as a short-term missionary on several occasions. He is a regular volunteer for local charities and his church.

Greyson has played seven seasons of Durham Flight basketball and served as captain. He has a love for fishing, hunting, traveling and spending time with friends and family. He looks forward to continuing his education, studying sports marketing and has plans for more short-term missions work in the near future.



Caleb Christopher Goedeck, son of Henry Goedeck and Sharon Petersen, graduates after being homeschooled for three years. Caleb is a faithful member of Lawndale Baptist Church and leads a Bible study for young men. He participates each summer in FUGE and mission trips to

Kentucky. Caleb plans to continue spreading the Gospel. His family and friends are very proud of all his accomplishments. Hebrews 11



Aaron Joseph Hanamean, son of James and Sabine Hanamean of Garner, graduates after homeschooling for two years. He is very active in his church youth group and Teen Band. He participated in a Christian football league where he played the positions of wide

receiver and strong safety. He plans to attend Carolina Career College, studying Information Technology, and he is looking forward to the plans God has for him.

ALGIA E. DOCKERY ACADEMY OF SUCCESS

Javeer Xavier Frett



*Congratulations
We are So proud of you*



*Never Doubt You Were Born
To Do Great Things !*



Justus Elijah Harless, son of Daniel and Gina Harless of Mount Pleasant, graduates from Faith Christian Academy after thirteen years of homeschooling. He has earned thirty-four college credits towards an Associate in Science degree through Career and College

Promise at Stanly Community College. Justus has held a part-time job for Kannapolis City Parks and Rec. He will attend Western Carolina University in the fall to pursue a degree in business.



Chance Alexzander Hawkins, son of Roger and Barbie Hawkins, graduates after homeschooling for eight years. He has been a member of the Boy Scout Troop 235 and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2019. His Boy Scout Project made a significant contribution to his church when he built a security gate for the children's area.

Chance has worked for the last two years with the building and grounds director at his church. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and four wheeling. Chance is a welding dual enrollment student at Cape Fear Community College and plans to continue to earn a diploma in welding.



Cole Benjamin Henson, son of Jeremy and Sheri Henson of Hillsborough, graduates after homeschooling thirteen years. He has enjoyed playing basketball for Durham Flight. His other interests include piano, swimming, and photography. He is active in his youth group. Cole will travel to Zimbabwe to serve in local villages and children's homes this summer before attending Alamance CC in the college transfer program. His life verse is James 1:12.



Joshua Ryan Higgins, son of Eddie and Amy Higgins of Ocean Isle Beach. Joshua has maintained a high GPA throughout high school and is graduating with a GPA of 3.95 despite being dyslexic. Joshua is a history buff, and when he is not playing video games or his guitar,

he enjoys watching old movies, visiting historical sites and museums, and roaming thrift stores for historical movies or artifacts. He is a kind and compassionate person with a heart for helping others. Joshua looks forward to a career with something involving history. Joshua's life verse is Joshua 1:9.



Samuel Hill, son of Jan and Chris Hill of Sanford, graduates with academic honors from Hill Christian Academy. He has been dually enrolled for two years at CCCC where he will complete his AAS degree in Business Administration. Samuel is a member of NSHSS and

PTK Honor Society. He plans to attend Sandhills Community College and complete his baking and pastry arts degree with the long-term goal of owning his own bakery.



Andrea Micalyn Hogan, daughter of Michael Hogan and Jessica Hogan (stepmother) and Chad Taylor (stepfather) and Teresa Taylor, of Seagrove, graduates after homeschooling for five years. Her parents are proud of her accomplishment, despite the

difficulties and life struggles she has faced due to her health. Andrea loves literature, modeling, photography, art, music, singing and songwriting. She's attended John Casablanca's and has enjoyed modeling designer clothing at Belk. She is an amazing person and has grown to be a beautiful lady inside and out. Her life's Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11.

Humility is not a tone of voice. It's a posture of the heart that shows up in how you live, not how you sound.

Jackie Hill Perry



Autumn AnnaLeigh Holmes, daughter of Shannon and Susan Holmes of Fuquay-Varina, graduates after homeschooling for the last six years. She is involved in the Wake County EMS junior program, and she enjoys participating in her dance company. She is very active in

the pro-life community and volunteers weekly at her church. After graduation, she plans on pursuing EMS and becoming a paramedic. We love you and are so proud of you! Jer. 29:11



Amari Grace Ferguson Hooker, daughter of Sean and Talya Hooker of Charlotte, graduates from Excellence in Christ Academy after homeschooling for four-and-a-half years. She enjoys drawing, dancing, styling hair, and all things creative. She works at Kumon

learning center. She participated in Key Club, helped at VBS, and served as a library volunteer and summer camp junior leader. Amari completed CPCC graphic design and graphic art classes during her junior and senior years. She hopes to explore her interest in illustration while prayerfully seeking out the path the Lord has for her life.



TrishaJean Ciess Holt, daughter of Rich and Ashley of Wendell, graduates from Shepherd's Walk Academy after homeschooling for twelve years. TJ was blessed in earning a four-year scholarship to study business at Liberty University. She loves dance and serving in her

church's preschool ministry, and she has been a hard-working Chick-fil-A employee for several years.

*To make an end
is to make a beginning.*

TS Eliot

AMARI HOOKER



We love you and are excited to see God's direction for your life.

Remember 1 Tim 4:12.

Love, Daddy, Mommy, Arielle,
Rachel, Josiah, Isaiah, & Elijah



CLASS OF 2020



Hailey Grace Hucks, daughter of Scott and Julie Hucks, graduates after ten years of homeschooling. She enjoyed playing softball and volleyball. She has played clarinet in the Hayworth-High Point Homeschool Band for six years. She has always attended church and

is active in her youth group. She plans to attend DCCC, then transfer to a four-year college to double major in education and business with a minor in missions. Her favorite verse is 2 Chron. 15:7 which reminds her that the work she does for the Lord is never in vain even if she can't see the results. We're so proud of you, Hailey!



Elijah Cade Huffman, son of Jason and Dawn Huffman, graduates after homeschooling for seven years. He participated in Classical Conversations for three years where he successfully competed in a mock trial. He is very active with his church youth

group and teaches on occasion. He enjoys watching and playing sports—specifically basketball and football. He has completed courses in the Career and College Promise Program at Catawba Valley Community College and plans to continue college there to pursue an associate of science degree.



Kayla Hull, daughter of William and Tamela Hull of Winston-Salem, graduates high school with two years of homeschooling. Kayla enjoys spending time with friends and family, going to hockey games, and reading. Kayla plans to attend Forsyth Technical Community

College for two years, and then transfer to Appalachian State University to pursue a degree in psychology.



Ashleigh Genice Jones, daughter of Michael and Paula Jones, graduates in May as a dually enrolled student at Belmont Abbey College after thirteen years of homeschooling. She is principal harpist of the Youth Orchestra of Charlotte and performed at the

Kennedy Center in February 2020. She has performed at Carnegie Hall with the CSYO and was selected for the Honors Harp Ensemble AHS national conference. She loves traveling to China and is in her third year of Mandarin studies. Ashleigh has earned silver and gold medals for the NLE. She plans to pursue a liberal arts college education. Phil. 4:8



Emma Conway Kane, daughter of Paul and Sabrina Kane of Cary, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Emma enjoys youth group, Bible study and her church choir. In her free time, she volunteers with children at the YMCA and at St. Michael's. She has

completed her Wake Tech Career and College Promise program with a Certificate in Early Childhood Education. She looks forward to continuing in her position as a preschool assistant.



Ian Keith, son of Brian and Connie Keith of Greensboro, graduates after homeschooling thirteen years. The youngest of three, he is quick-witted, fiercely loyal, and has a heart to pursue God. Ian has a passion for photography and videography. He uses his skills

to serve in his church and a homebased business. He attends DCCC, pursuing an associate degree in IT with an emphasis in Digital Media. Ian hopes to work in a church setting. Mark 11:22-23



Diamond Nicole Kinard, daughter of Dr. Stephen and Donna Kinard of Rocky Mount, graduates after homeschooling for two years. A competitive level ten gymnast, she has been active in the sport fifteen years. She has been a member of the Jamaican

National Team for three years. She is involved in Beta Club, Key Club, and volunteers at the animal shelter. Diamond plans to major in pre-medicine after she decides which university offer she will accept.



Caleb Andrew Lee, son of Frank and Hannah Lee of Statesville, graduates after homeschooling twelve years. This year he has been dually enrolled at Mitchell Community College and has earned his CNA. As a scout of troop 607, he has earned the Arrow of Light, the rank of Eagle Scout, and Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow. He has become a strong Christian and provides leadership at the Church of Christ that meets at Salisbury. One of his favorite verses is Phil. 4:13. Caleb is interested in a career in the medical field. We love you and are so proud of your accomplishments!

been on several short-term mission trips and helped rebuild a home for a victim of Hurricane Matthew. When she is not serving others, Victoria enjoys photography and cooking. In recognition of her love to serve others, Victoria will attend WTCC in pursuit of an AAS Degree.



Jaeden Bryce Love, son of Michael and Christine Love of Hayesville, graduates after homeschooling for seven years. Jaeden is a member of the Junior Appalachian Musicians through the John C. Campbell Folk School. He plays several string instruments—his favorite being the banjo. In addition to music, he enjoys science and games of strategy. Jaeden hopes to further his knowledge of music and technology in the future.



Victoria Rae Lentini, daughter of Angelo and Kimberly Lentini of Fuquay-Varina, graduates with honors after homeschooling for eight years. She has a passion for helping others. Victoria has packed and delivered Thanksgiving meals to local families in need. She has

*The will of God will not take us
where the grace of God cannot sustain us.*

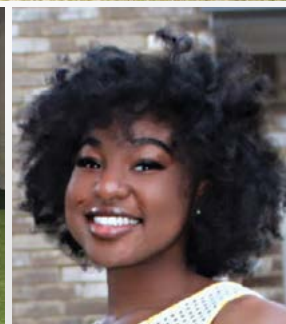
Billy Graham

Congratulations Diamond!

Your parents and brother are so proud of your accomplishments! You are smart, gifted and resilient.

You did it!

CLASS OF
2020





Graham Evan Maggart, son of Don and Amy Maggart of Denver, enjoys Destiny 2 and Apex Legends video games and is a formidable machine gunner on the airsoft battlefield. He has homeschooled from kindergarten through high school. Graham is an apprentice

at Poppelmann Plastics and is working on a mechatronics AAS at CVCC. His future plans are to finish his four-year apprenticeship, earn a Journeyman certificate, and complete his bachelor's degree.



Ava Nella-Marie McLamb, daughter of Alex and Vanessa McLamb of Fuquay-Varina, graduates with honors after a lifetime of homeschool. Passionate about people and culture, she volunteers with Swordcircle LLC and New Life Camp. Ava studies

Japanese and German and hopes to incorporate these skills in her future career. She is excited to share her hope in Jesus Christ with the world as she pursues a degree in international relations. 1 Peter 3:15-16



Alexandra Grace Marland, daughter of Wade and Bari Marland of Tyner, graduates after homeschooling thirteen years. Her desire is to follow the Lord by seeking Him first above all things (Matt. 6:33). Alex is active in her church and enjoys singing with her sisters and

playing the violin. She loves painting, writing stories, reading, playing basketball, and hunting with her dad. We love you, Alex, and look forward to what God has in store for you!



Eli McLean, of Kernersville, graduates with honors after homeschooling for four years. Eli has played basketball with High Point Home Educators for three years, and he earned numerous awards. He is also the lead drummer of the praise team at Branch of Hope

Church. Eli has been accepted to High Point University where he plans to study business administration in the fall.



Noelle Martin graduates with honors after four years of homeschool, plus private and public school. She earned college credits through the CCP program at ACC. She enjoys playing the violin in a strings ensemble, participating in cosplay, and volunteering at a local

arts alliance. She will be attending UNC Asheville, with interest in studying music and creative writing. She is the daughter of Stephanie and Ben, and the older sister of Christian.



Joshua Clayton Meade, son of Kale and Pam Meade of Fallston, graduates after being homeschooled his whole life. Joshua is a compassionate young man who loves his Lord, Jesus Christ, and brings glory to Him through serving in his church and community. He enjoys

working with technical production at church and playing sports. He plans to attend ICC and study Electronics Engineering Technology to prepare for a career in electric utility.



Grace Lauren Zhu Matthews, from Greensboro, graduates from Long Valley Christian School after thirteen years of homeschooling. For five years Grace has participated in a variety of roles in FIRST Robotics Competition on Team 2655: The Flying Platypi. She has also enjoyed

competing in indoor rock climbing and serves her church as a preschool Sunday School leader. Grace will be majoring in biology at Anderson University.



Jaelynn Alexandria Medina, daughter of Gus and Laurie Medina of Mint Hill, graduates from El Elyon Christian Academy with honors after thirteen years of homeschooling. She loves the Lord and has served Him in numerous ways through music, volunteer work, and service projects.

She has participated in Key Club, Bandburg, M-Fuge, and Archery Club. She is an amazing singer and songwriter. While she has recorded four songs, her passion is writing. She is seeking the Lord's direction as she actively pursues a career in writing.



ELI MCLEAN

We are so proud of you!
Congratulations!!
When you keep God first, there is so limit.

-Love, Mom & Jesse





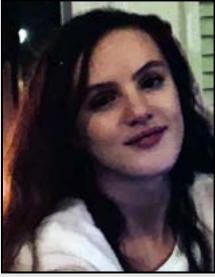
Graham Medlin is the son of Isaac and Melissa Medlin of Stokesdale. He is graduating from Medlin Christian Academy after homeschooling for twelve years. Currently, he is a dually enrolled student at Guilford Technical Community College in the Collision

Repair and Refinishing program. He plans to continue there until he receives his Associate of Arts degree. His hobbies include working on cars, playing basketball, and watching football.



Emily Christine Morgan, daughter of Steve and Missy Morgan of Newton, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She enjoys being active in her church and community, especially working with pre-K and elementary children at church, at

Classical Conversations as Nursery/Pre-K leader, and assisting in a first grade class at an elementary school. She plans to attend Catawba Valley CC before transferring to a university to become an elementary school teacher.



Tiffany Dawn Miner, daughter of David and Heather Miner of Raleigh, is graduating from Dawning of Wisdom Academy. She is dually enrolled at Wake Tech Community College and is looking forward to studying biomedical engineering for her bachelor's

degree. She is working toward her private pilot's license and enjoys serving through search and rescue and disaster relief. As a cross country runner, her favorite Scripture is 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.



Machaela Michelle Murrell is a gift from God! She graduates with honors from Daniel Academy and has grown in faith, knowledge, wisdom and skill. (Daniel 1:17) Machaela plays piano and organ. She competed in cross country, soccer, basketball, Mock Trial and

the National Bible Bee. Machaela attended Worldview Academy leadership camp and is a District C alumni. She's earning a Bookkeeper Entrepreneur Certificate at DTCC and plans to attend Meredith College. Steve, Selina, Machaela and Steve live in Durham where they attend church and enjoy everyday adventures in the odds and ends of family life.



Kyndal Moore, daughter of Dan and Tanya Moore, has been homeschooled for thirteen years and is continually growing in her relationship with the Lord. She enjoys drawing, painting, LEGOs, and singing. She currently tours as the lead singer for the band, The

Moores. Kyndal is looking forward to furthering her education with a college degree in graphic design, and she seeks to always honor God in her life throughout the years to come.



Isaiah Foster Nelsen, son of Roger and Leslie Nelsen of Durham, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Isaiah participated in Carolina Elite track, Teen Pact, and NCFCA Speech and Debate. He volunteered at church and worked at Chick-Fil-A and Hope Valley Country

Club. He attends DTCC College and Career Promise Program and is a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society. He plans to attend UNCW and major in political science and history.



Andrew Christopher Morgan, son of Steve and Missy Morgan of Newton, graduates in May after homeschooling for thirteen years. Andrew has enjoyed serving on his church media team for the past five years, is an active member in his church youth group, and regularly

assists in many church functions and events. He plans to attend Catawba Valley Community College to pursue the trade of an electrician.

*I have no special talent.
I am only passionately curious.*

Albert Einstein



Connor Joseph Newell, son of Joe and Beth Newell of Oak Island, graduates after four years of homeschooling. He loves history, animals, learning, and electronics. When he isn't saving the universe online with his friends, Connor enjoys long walks on the beach with his dog, Riley. He is also an avid coastal kayak fisherman, placing in local tournaments. He has enjoyed volunteering with youth through organized camps. He plans to transfer from Brunswick CC to UNCW to pursue a BS degree in Information Technology. Bear, you are loved, and we are blessed that you are our son!

Scouts, in her church, and in military ceremonies. Isabella has performed, directed, and volunteered as a camp counselor, teaching musical theater. Isabella intends to pursue a BFA in musical theater at Marymount Manhattan in NY.



Meredith Jayne Parks, daughter of Scott and Amanda Parks of Hamptonville, graduates from Deerfield Christian Academy after thirteen years of homeschooling. She participated in Classical Conversations for seven years. Meredith is a farrier/blacksmith and a member of the North Carolina Horseshoers Association. She has a passion for riding and training her horses, donkeys, and mule. She also enjoys trail riding and camping with her equines on the weekends. With God's direction, she hopes to continue shoeing in the future, and she plans to pursue a degree in Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology.



Isabella Orosco, daughter of Gilbert and Brittany Orosco, is graduating after homeschooling eleven years. She dual-enrolled at College of the Albemarle and is a member of the National Homeschool Honor Society. She is an Ambassador for Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast and earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards. She has performed the National Anthem for the Girl



Isabella Orosco Class OF 2020

You're in the right place at the right time, and you care enough to do what needs to be done. Sometimes that's enough. Congratulations! Love, Us





Jarred Dalton Peterson, son of Jessie and Tammy Peterson of Supply, graduates with honors after homeschooling for thirteen years. He is involved in his community by serving through Outreach with Elevation Church. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He

plans to attend Brunswick CC for a degree in science and transfer to NCSU to pursue a B.S. in Animal Science and Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. He plans to become a veterinarian.



Brooke Elizabeth Pulliam, daughter of Doug and Cathy Pulliam of Timberlake, graduates with honors after being homeschooled since kindergarten. She is enrolled in the CCP program at PCC and is on the Dean's List. She plans to continue there next fall, then transfer to a

university to pursue a career in the medical field. She is an accomplished pianist and has taken dance since the age of three. Brooke has a love for the outdoors and enjoys caring for the animals around the farm. She is involved in her church youth ministry. We are proud of her and can't wait to see what her future holds.



Hayden Polston, daughter of Crystal and Floyd Traywick of Ellerbe, NC and Jamie Polston of Bennettsville, SC, graduates after four years of being homeschooled. She is the best mom to Grayson Stubbs, and we all cannot wait to see what the future has in store for this beauty.



Elijah Purdom, son of David and Dawn, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling, with a double major in PE and Fine Arts. He is passionate about music and Belegarth medieval sport. He has been a camp counselor for several years and is a role model for youth.

He is a compassionate young man with a heart for those less fortunate. He plans to enter the workforce while exploring other opportunities. We look forward to watching his light shine!



Nathan Curtis Pope, son of Curt and Tanya Pope of Havelock, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. Nathan is a skilled pianist who plays for his church and has successfully competed in piano competitions across eastern North Carolina. He has several years of

experience volunteering in ministries such as soup kitchens and VBS. He is an avid reader and enjoys historical literature. He will attend college and continue his studies in music.



Caleb Sebastian Rambis graduates after homeschooling Pre K-12 in three states. He has achieved an AS through dual enrollment. As a self-taught small engine mechanic, he started a business four years ago. He's a budding author, enjoys trap, snow skiing, and clogging.

He enjoys tinkering on machinery, researching for a story, or building models. He has gained leadership skills in Toastmasters, Trail Life, and as president at 4-H. As a School of Honor alumnus, he strives to live with honor. He pursues an undergrad degree next. Congrats, Caleb! This is here too quickly. We love you. 1 Sam. 2:30



Eli Nathaniel Powers, son of David and Cindy Powers of Summerfield, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He enjoys playing guitar and being outdoors. Eli volunteers with the Greensboro Fire Department and has been in the Fire Explorer program for

three years. He has completed his EMT at Rockingham CC and plans to pursue a career as a firefighter. He is also an entrepreneur. He started a livestock business that he plans to expand.



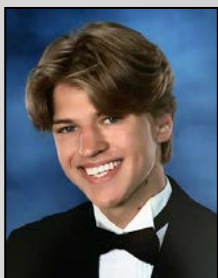
Nathaniel Richardson Jr., son of Nathaniel and Evangeline J. Richardson of Knightdale, graduates after homeschooling twelve years. He was a top runner, competed in the National Junior Olympics and earned medals in swimming. A 4-H Junior Master Gardener, he is active

at church, excels in guitar, is ASL proficient, and plays chess. He has strong character and currently maintains two jobs. He plans to be what the Lord wants and go where the Lord leads.



David James Sperling, of Smithfield, graduates in May after homeschooling thirteen years. David has been an active member of Civil Air Patrol, and has earned the Billy Mitchell Award, achieving the cadet rank of Second Lieutenant. He currently attends JCC in the Career

and College Promise Program. David plans to seek a degree in Aviation Studies at Bowling Green State University, join AFROTC, and eventually become a pilot for the U.S. Air Force.



Dallas Andrew Robinson, son of Todd and Ginger Robinson of Bakersville, graduates after six years of homeschooling. He has completed dual enrollment classes in Christian Ministries at Fruitland Baptist Bible College. He is active in his YoungLife group and enjoys

hiking, hanging with friends, and being outdoors. Dallas is exploring career options and hopes to serve in youth ministry.



Robert (Rob) Allen Strickland II, son of Robert and Lisa of Newport, graduates May 30. Rob loves the outdoors. His interests include biology, hunting, fishing, playing the guitar and basketball. All of his interests are eclipsed by his desire to honor God. He loves

the Lord with all his heart and desires to follow His will for his life. We love him and are very proud of him. We know he'll succeed as he follows the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11



Rachael Russell is the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Russell of Raeford, and has been homeschooling for four years. Rachael has been a Girl Scout since 2006, where she has earned her Bronze, Silver (and this past fall), her Gold awards. She has now become a

leader to first-year Girl Scouts so she can pass her passion for scouting on to a new generation of girls. Rachael also attends Sandhills Community College as a dually enrolled student.



Marisa Suedbeck, daughter of John and Dorothy Suedbeck of Greenville, graduates from Green Acres Academy. Since kindergarten, she has been homeschooled and is a member of East Carolina 4-H Club. She has participated in 4-H National Congress, 4-H Electric Congress, the

2019 NC 4-H Skillathon Team, and is in 4-H Honor Club. She enjoys singing, hand bells, gardening, and entomology. Marisa plans to pursue a degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences.



Serena Nicole Smith, daughter of Christopher C. and Michelle M. Smith of Oxford, graduates after homeschooling for twelve years. Serena will attend Vance-Granville Community College in the fall and subsequently pursue a degree in music therapy.



Jonathan Mark Swain, of Columbia, will graduate this May after thirteen years of homeschooling. JonMark has been active in 4-H throughout his schooling and is very involved with his church youth group. He has been on several mission trips and enjoys

playing the cajon in the youth praise band at his church. He has been a coach for Upward basketball, and he himself loves a good pick-up game. JonMark plans to attend MACU and COA in Elizabeth City.



Anthony Alexander Sy, son of Annabel and Alexander Sy of Raleigh, graduates after a lifetime of homeschooling with part-time attendance in public and private schools. His interests include comedy, writing, biomedicine and disability advocacy. He is inspired

by past opportunities which include a DNA project at the Maryland STEM Festival with Johns Hopkins University and the NIH and empowerment through the NC STEM Career Showcase for Students with Disabilities. His dream is to work with advocates and lawmakers to further advance disability rights and open inclusion opportunities for everyone.



Thomas David Teeters, son of John and Mary Teeters of Wilmington, has been homeschooled since pre-school along with his two sisters. He has competed in NCHAC's swim meets and cross country meets. He currently holds two records in

swimming. He has been dually enrolled in the engineering pathway at Cape Fear CC. He plans to study mechanical engineering at UNC Charlotte or NCSU.



Azarel M. Theodore, son of Ken and Nannette Theodore of Burlington, graduates after homeschooling eight years. Azarel has been enrolled in the Career and College Promise program at Alamance CC. He has a desire to help others, so he has been involved with

student government on campus, youth leadership ministry at church, and served on mission trips with Christian Adventures. He plans to help others in a career in law after graduating from college.



Bryon Gilbert Thomas, son of Benjie and Anne Hope of Morganton, graduates from Honor Academy. Always homeschooled, Bryon has sought to honor the Lord with his life (1 Sam. 2:30). In his local church, Faith PCA, he has enjoyed running sound for

worship, organizing youth events, playing basketball, and spending time with friends and mentors. Bryon will study civil engineering at NCSU. Praise God for continuing His good work in Bryon! Phil. 1:6



Jenna Elizabeth Thomas, daughter of Sarah Thomas of Burgaw, and granddaughter of Steve and Trudy Wilder, graduates after homeschooling for eight years. She has a servant's heart and has served her community through being Miss Southeastern North

Carolina and Miss Tri-county 4th of July. She enjoys playing the piano and working with the elementary youth at church. She plans to study Culinary Arts at Cape Fear Community College.



Gladys Marie Toebes, daughter of James and Mary Toebes of Wake Forest, will be graduating in May 2020. She has danced at Dance Dynamics since she was two years old. She has been involved with Servants with A Tool (S.W.A.T.) since she was nine years old. She has volunteered

and been on staff at New Life Camp. She is very active in her church youth group. She plans on being a special education teacher.



Nelson Elijah Wagoner, son of Nelson and Angie Wagoner, of Granite Falls, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He enjoys playing basketball, video games, and spending time with his family, friends, and girlfriend. His future plans include attending CCC and TI to pursue a career

in electrical maintenance. He is trusting God to guide him with his future. We are very proud of you, Elijah! We love you!



David Benjamin Wallace, son of Dan and Marilyn Wallace of Huntersville, has completed twelve years of homeschooling. David is very outgoing and a friend to all. He earned his Dan 1 in taekwondo in 2019 and is a competitive swimmer. He enjoys his bowling league and has

taught himself two handed bowling. Community Bible Study has been a part of his life for thirteen years. David plans to enroll in the I-Lead program at CPCC this fall.



Jonathan Harrington Weeks, son of Jimmy and Paige Weeks of Rocky Mount, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He has played basketball and soccer for DASH and was the MVP for the 2018-2019 NCHE JV state champion basketball team. Jonathan has been

an honor student at Nash CC for the last two years. He plans to study electrical engineering at NCSU or Clemson. Jonathan, we are proud of your hard work and mostly your trust in Christ.



Brier Hampton Ward, son of Michael and Kathy Ward, an honor graduate of Grace Christian Academy, has halfway completed an AS degree at JCC and is an Eagle Scout. He has traveled to fifty states and desires to go to all continents. An adventurous spirit led to rock

climbing, paddle boarding, Thailand, green hair, lifeguard and SCUBA certifications. He enjoys science, reading, Spiritual Twist Productions, spending time with friends, Ellie, and Grammy.



Jocelyn Alexis Wieczynski, daughter of Tiffany and Timothy Wieczynski, graduates from Ski Family Academy after beginning homeschooling in eleventh grade. She's a talented artist and has displayed her work in galleries. Jocelyn loves the outdoors and has

fond memories of her times camping with her fellow Girl Scouts. As a military child, she can adapt to any environment and has built many friendships. Jocelyn plans to become an orthodontic assistant.



Joshua Dean Walker

We know you will succeed at anything you set your mind on and are so excited for you.

We love you very much and are very proud of you!

Love you, Mom & Dad

Philippians 4:13





Charity Joy Williams, daughter of Paula D. Forte and Kenneth Williams, graduates in June. Charity excels in several areas including track, cosmetology, make-up, and fashion. Charity is excited to return to her hometown, Phoenix, Arizona, to run on a track

scholarship while pursuing her college degree. She is held in prayer and love by a community who trusts she will accomplish every good work for which God has created her. Ephesians 2:10



Chayil Destiny Williams, daughter of Paula and Kenneth, graduates in June. Chayil has excelled in several areas including ballet, cosmetology, make-up, and fashion. Chayil looks forward to returning to her hometown, Phoenix, Arizona, to pursue her

educational interests. She is held in prayer and love by a community who trusts she will accomplish all that God has purposed for her since the beginning of time. Jeremiah 29:11



Keanu Matthew Williams, son of Matthew and Janell Williams of Mooresville, graduates after homeschooling thirteen years. Keanu has enjoyed competing in men's gymnastics throughout the past six years, and he has spent his twelfth grade season as a level 10 pommel

horse specialist. Additionally, he has spent the last four years coaching gymnastics. Keanu plans to pursue a military career—beginning with attending one of the senior military colleges.



Sophia Williford, daughter of Danny and Kristine of Oxford, graduates after seven years of homeschool. She attended dual enrollment at VGCC. Sophia loves competing in barrel racing and pole bending with her horse, Comet. She enjoys her job at Chick-fil-A, loves

running cross country and cheerleading, and she maintains a 3.8 GPA. Sophia wants to attend Catawba College or Quincy University and pursue her career as a cryptanalyst.



Aden Wyatt, son of Brian and Toni Wyatt of Farmville, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He is a member of Baywood Racquet Club and has participated in events for Aces for Autism and Rally for Ally. Aden loves playing the drums and plays in a band

with his friends. He enjoys listening to music, playing video games, and caring for animals. Aden has been accepted to East Carolina University and will start in the fall.



David Tadashi Yamashita, son of Darryl and Carrie Yamashita of Lewisville, graduates in May from Moving Mountains Academy after homeschooling his whole life. An avid swimmer, he has lettered with Forsyth Home Educators Men's Varsity Swim Team for four years.

David currently works as a YMCA lifeguard and would like to pursue coaching. He plans on taking a gap year to discover where God will lead him in the future.



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Wisdom for the Next Phase of Life

by Matthew McDill

[A Note to Parents]

This year two of my boys are moving out to go to school. My hope is that we have given them the skills and wisdom they will need to live a meaningful life that makes an impact for God. I hope that we have also built relationships with them so that we can continue to guide and teach them. Whether you are graduating your first student or last, whether they are going to school or staying home, our young people are transitioning into a new phase of life.

I would like to share with you some of the principles of life that I consider most important for young people to observe as they move into this next phase of life. May these reminders encourage your graduates and stimulate meaningful conversation with you during this transition.

[A Note to the Graduate]

1. Remember who you are.

By now you have begun to establish some of the most important aspects of your worldview, character, and identity. These will be challenged. You will probably experience an increasing intensity of pressure to move in a life direction that is counter to who you are. One of the greatest sources of this pressure will be your own desire to receive the respect and acceptance of others. Remember what you've probably already discovered: you'll never be able to please them all. Many do not have your best interest at heart. Many are headed in the wrong direction. Do not worry about what people think about you, but instead, focus on developing the foundation you've previously built.

2. Be teachable.

Even as you stand strong in who you are, you can still remain humble and teachable. Please understand that one of the most common mistakes of young people is to be overly confident in their own views and understanding. Be open to new ideas and ways of thinking. Practice thinking and saying this: "I could be wrong. . ." Ask questions, listen carefully, read voraciously, thirst for knowledge, and surround yourself with wise people.

3. Stay in community.

Closely related to being teachable is the importance of staying in community. Be sure to surround yourself with people who are for you, who are wise and honest, who will hold you accountable, and lift you up, not tear you down. If you are a Christian, you'll want to make sure that you are a part of a biblical, local church.

4. Think critically.

Although you are striving to be teachable, being open-minded doesn't mean you believe everything you hear. A wise man once said, "The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps." (Proverbs 14:15) This means that you must think critically. When you hear a claim, identify and analyze the argument that is behind it. What assumptions are being made? Are they true? What is the logic of the argument? Is it valid? Do you see any logical fallacies?

5. Do what you love.

When I say, "Do what you love," I don't mean you can do whatever you put your mind to. The fact is, work and learning are hard. You'll have to do things that you don't want to. You often can't make a living with your favorite hobby or pastime (at least not at first). What I do mean is that you should observe the gifts and talents that you have been given. There are activities that you are good at and enjoy that can be a valuable service or commodity to others. Find out how you can make a living in that field and work to become proficient in it. These gifts and abilities will also be avenues for volunteer service and ministry in your community.

6. Seek God.

Many of you are followers of Jesus Christ. If so, then you know that Paul's advice is vital: "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:15-17)

You will be making some of the most important decisions

of your life over the next few years. The choices you make now will establish the foundation and trajectory of your life. Do you believe that God's ways and plan for you are the best? Then seek to know Him and His will.

We can understand what God's will is by studying the Bible, praying, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and listening to our parents and pastors. God has promised that if you ask Him for wisdom, He will generously give it to you. (James 1:5) Do you believe that He will? Then ask Him in faith! (James 1:6-8)



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

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The Gift of Graduation - Reflections

by Briggs Greenwood

I stand in the back of a ballroom filled to the brim with families and friends—my eyes tearing and my heart overflowing. I'm sure I also look stressed and tired, and it's very likely that my shoes are in a corner somewhere. By 7:00 PM, I will be ready to drop, but it's my favorite day of the year.

I have had the extreme privilege to coordinate NCHE's graduation ceremonies for the last several years. I took on the role because I like to organize events and create hospitable experiences for people. I still enjoy those aspects, but I love graduations for so many reasons that I could never have predicted.

Graduations are always occasions to celebrate, but somehow homeschool graduations are extra special. It's truly a success of the whole family and often a success that stems from great sacrifice, immense trials, and celebrating even the tiniest of victories. I have the honor to help all of these families celebrate each spring. One of the most inspiring things about the NCHE graduation is the opportunity to create a sense of community amongst hundreds of individual families all coming together in a common goal.

To celebrate that achievement, and indeed, to celebrate the family, we have the parents present the diploma to the graduate on stage. The graduates will also hand a rose to their mom. These moments get me every single time. It's less than one minute per family, but the memory it makes and the journey it represents is long lasting.

I have a unique look into these families; each situation is different. The Lord has opened the door to many conversations and opportunities to minister in small ways to these folks.



Our team has been able to make accommodations for physical and developmental needs, tricky family dynamics, and we have sometimes had to ask for grace in mistakes. One of the very best memories of those grace moments happened when I had missed that a graduate's parent needed a wheelchair lift. I was so upset and felt that I had ruined their day. Our fantastic emcee and my dear friend came up with a solution on the spot. Another dad literally offered to carry that dad onto the stage. They had never met before, but I believe their families ended up having dinner together after the ceremony. That is the community that God wants to build. I was shown grace in a way that went so far beyond the forgiveness I needed. I saw sacrifice, humility and love. That is why NCHC graduation is so special to me.

We have several volunteers who return every year and always want the same role. Two wonderful veteran homeschoolers love to hand the diplomas to the parents just before they are presented. They love having a moment to congratulate them for the dedication taken to get there, because they have lived it. Another mom really loves standing on the grads' side of the stage and making sure they get a rose for their mom, because she loves telling those young adults how proud she is of their success—and she means it. Several friends and my older children dedicate their entire Saturday to the set up and logistics needed to make this day as wonderful and

smooth as possible because they are part of your community, and they care about your family. And finally, a dear friend always serves as our parent escort leading parents through so the ceremony runs smoothly. Without all of these people, plus our terrific speakers and emcees, my job would be much harder, and the day would be much less personal — *yet another blessing.*

The ways that being a graduation coordinator has blessed me are innumerable. The greatest blessing to me has undoubtedly been the opportunity to pray for each individual young person as they are launched into the world with all that we, as parents, have instilled into and prayed over them.

The first year I was in this role, I was getting very frustrated over the logistics. I had begun to feel bitter about too many email replies asking questions that had been answered *in* the email they were responding to. I had ceased to see His image bearers and was only seeing data. The Holy Spirit (not so) gently nudged me to stop, write each graduate's name on an index card and pray for them *all*. Since that day, I have made this tradition a part of my preparation. It has helped me to remember the community I so love helping to create. I am grateful for the opportunity to know our homeschool community better in this way.

Many of you reading this issue will have students participating in the ceremony. This year, for the third time, my husband and I will also have a graduate. Because we have experienced this before, we understand the wish for the perfect day and want to make this ceremony as personal as possible. That's not always easy when the group is large, but please know that we share this goal for you—for each and every family. We look so forward to sharing this day with you, both as parents of a graduate, and as the folks who are honored to serve you in this way. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing this special day with us.



Briggs Greenwood enjoys connecting with other mommas in her role as NCHC marketing director and especially in her day-to-day life. She lives and loves with Kevin at home in Durham. They have four sons (three homeschool graduates and one still learning at home, plus one wonderful daughter-in-love). She has seen and tried almost every conceivable homeschooling option in her eighteen-year journey and can't wait to see what else the Lord has in store.



What's Next?

When Your Child with Special Needs Is Graduating or Moving into Greater Independence

by Sandra Peoples

My sister, Syble, was born and diagnosed with Down syndrome in 1977. Just a few years later, my mom was thinking about what my sister would do as an adult. Our small town in Duncan, Oklahoma, didn't have a lot of resources at that time in the early eighties. But Mom had a vision for a work activity center for people with disabilities. She met with leaders in the community, family friends, and parents of adults with disabilities to see what they thought would be most helpful for their children.

In September 1980, five adults met and started working at what they called The Power Shop. There were challenges, like finding work contracts with the businesses around Duncan, and getting transportation for the adults who would work off-site at those businesses. However, The Power Shop has continued to grow and thrive, now employing one hundred twenty-one people. My mom wanted Syble and her peers to feel safe, productive, and appreciated. It's amazing to me that the vision she had when chasing Syble and me around in 1980 (when we were both toddlers) would impact so many families and businesses in Duncan, Oklahoma, over the decades.

For parents like me, a big topic of discussion (and sometimes worry and stress) centers around what our children with disabilities and special needs will do as adults. What will the future look like for my son, James, who has autism? Is further education possible? What jobs will he be able to have? And where will he live?

I am thankful that we have generations of parents who have gone before us. Like my mom, these parents had dreams for their children and blazed a path for us to follow! We have options my mom never dreamed of! We can face the future with hope and optimism as we consider what comes next.

Here's a list of helpful resources as you plan for your child's next stage. The list includes college options, work programs, and housing possibilities.

- Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disabilities. Website: <https://thinkcollege.net>
- College Autism Spectrum (CAS) is an independent organization of professionals whose purpose is to assist students with autism spectrum disorders and their families. They specialize in college counseling (helping students find the right college) and work readiness (skill building for interviews, jobs, and work skills). Website: <http://collegeautismspectrum.com>
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program's goal is to enable beneficiaries with disabilities to receive accurate information and to use that information to make a successful transition to work. Website: <https://www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA.html>
- The LOMAH podcast provides information on the types of housing available to our adults with disabilities, including

the family home, community care facility, campus model, and adult foster homes. Website: <https://www.lomah.org/new-blog/housing>

The transition to adulthood for our children with disabilities doesn't have to be scary. They can continue to learn new skills, grow in independence, and find fulfillment. My sister's life gives me hope when I think about my son's future. She is a valued member of her church, she volunteers weekly at a community food pantry, and she's the best aunt my boys could ask for. I can't wait to see what's next for her and for my son!



Sandra Peoples is a special-needs mom and sibling. She's the author of Unexpected Blessings: The Joys and Possibilities of Life in a Special-Needs Family and the host of the podcast, Self Care and Soul Care for the Caregiver. You can connect with her at sandrapeoples.com.

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Amanda Wares

NCHE Homeschool Helps director



Changes and Expectations: From the Rear-View Mirror

by Diane Helfrich

It has been six years since I graduated my last homeschooled child and sent her off into the world. In these six years, I have had a bit of time to reflect on things I might have done differently. The wisdom I hoped to impart to both of my children is this: there are no wrong decisions. There are only decisions, and if this decision isn't working, then make a new decision. I did the best I could (as we all do) in the process of watching my chicks fly from the nest. I can say that there are no regrets here, but I do carry some observations that would have made life with young adults easier.

Having your children leave home is the most significant change that you will face in your relationship with them until they marry and begin families. They enter the adult-zone of making life decisions and social choices on their own; they are no longer under the protection of your wings. They may be living in that great social experiment called the university environment—which is unlike anything they will experience before or after schooling. They may be launching into a job and living solo or with friends. Some of our children will marry earlier and leave our house to create homes of their own. Regardless, their relationship with you is now differently flavored. Now they will sort through and establish their vision for their life, and their vision may look like the home in which you reared them, or it may look quite different.

As hard as it can be for some of us to watch, we need to let our children bumble through this time as they learn the responsibilities and patterns that come with independent living. We need to be hesitant to chime in; we need to resist giving guidance unless we are asked. We have been the recipients of unrequested assistance, and we know how that feels—ugh! Our children do not like interference any more than we do. So how and what do parents do to properly influence their adult children? I would suggest that before

their departure, you have a conversation about expectations for your family relationships from this time forward.

1. On which holidays do you want them to come home? Which traditions do you hope to protect? You may have to pick your battles here!
2. What are your expectations for communication: daily, weekly, texts, phone calls, videos, letters? What is an acceptable timeframe for them to return your calls before you become concerned? Twenty-four hours can seem like an eternity.
3. What are your ground rules when they come home? Remember they are adults now, so will they have curfews? Do you still expect them to help around the house? Do they need to communicate to you about meals? Or if they have moved to a dorm or apartment, do they need to tell you before they drop by?
4. What are your expectations about family activities and how much they participate with things like going to church, visiting Grandma, or siblings' birthday parties?
5. And when they come home, how much laundry may they bring? From a voice of experience, this is a question worth asking in case they don't already realize that they can't go

shopping every time they haven't done the washing! And not just laundry, how many friends can they bring over? Without clear communication, your open-door policy can become expensive, or you may be embarrassed if you hadn't planned to feed a crowd.

There are other conversations that your family may want to include, but these are the bigger ones. You get the idea: clear communication is paramount. Decide what is important to you, and have that conversation before they leave. In the absence of a prompting event, it will reduce tension more than you might expect. Blessings to you and your family in your new relationship. Let the adventure continue!



Diane Helfrich currently serves as the NCHC development director and as the region 8 liaison. She is married to David, who is soon to retire as a civilian serving the Department of the Army. They have two children: Ian is a Ph.D. candidate at Georgia Tech, and Anna works as a case manager for abused and

trafficked children in Yakima, Washington.

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Structure or Flexibility?

by Dava Banner

The ideal homeschool schedule has both structure and flexibility. The purpose of a schedule is to help you accomplish the things you think are most important. A schedule also helps you make the most of your time. Your life will usually run more smoothly when you have a schedule. Many children love structure, but too much structure can be stifling. Flexibility can still be built into a routine. Creating margins in your routine means that you don't have to miss out on good things that were unscheduled.

We have basic schoolwork to complete each day. We actually start the school year two weeks earlier than most families, with half days, doing only our math and grammar, so we will be able to

take a day off now and then without getting behind. This is one type of built-in flexibility.

For us, some homeschool activities start at lunchtime. In order to do them, we have a shortened school day on those days. Then other days of the week, we have longer days and complete all of our subjects. A combination of longer and shorter workdays is another type of schedule that has built in flexibility.

Our family doesn't go by the public-school calendar. We don't take a long fall or spring break. We do take holidays off when my husband is off work. Some years, we might finish our 180 school days in May. Other years we might take an off-season vacation and finish later. Our family's schedule doesn't need to look like yours. Maybe one of your children attends a brick and mortar school, and your entire family needs to follow that school's calendar. Make a schedule that works for your family, and remember that it doesn't need to fit anyone else's mold.

As your students become teens, you might need to adjust your schedule to include their job, volunteer work, or time spent with friends and extra-curricular clubs. You might find

it helpful to adjust the time of day that your student does schoolwork, or you can adopt a university model schedule with classes only on certain days of the week—leaving some days completely open. You might need to change your school schedule more than once to find the right fit, and that's okay, too. You still have structure and flexibility!

Please don't try to be all structure; you'll miss many opportunities for fun and fellowship. And please don't try to be all flexibility—you won't get anything done. To succeed (and avoid frustration) customize *your* homeschool with a balance of both structure and flexibility. You and your family will love it!



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



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10 CONFERENCE TIPS

from the veterans

HAVE FUN! ENJOY YOUR SPOUSE AND CHILDREN (IF THEY ARE COMING); VISIT WITH FRIENDS. MAKE IT A FUN MEMORY!

DON'T BUY ANYTHING THE FIRST TIME THROUGH THE BOOK FAIR! TAKE NOTES AS YOU SHOP, REVIEW AND THEN BUY.

LAYER YOUR CLOTHING. SOME ROOMS ARE HOT, AND SOME ARE COLD.

WHILE THE BOOK FAIR IS GREAT, PRIORITIZE THE SPEAKERS. IT'S THAT ONE TIME A YEAR YOU GET FED AND ENCOURAGED BY SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE.

DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE OVERWHELMED. THERE IS A LOT TO TAKE IN, BUT DON'T EXPECT TO SEE IT ALL AND HEAR IT ALL.

PACK SOME FOOD SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEEK OUT A RESTAURANT AND CAN EAT QUICKLY BETWEEN WORKSHOPS.

IF YOU HAVE TEENS GOING AND YOU WANT TO BE IN YOUR PJS READING AT 10 P.M., STAY AT THE MARRIOTT OR EMBASSY SUITES.

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE RESEARCH VENDORS, MAKE A LIST OF PRIORITIES & RESOURCES YOU'D LIKE TO CHECK OUT, AND DECIDE ON YOUR BUDGET.

PLAN YOUR SESSIONS AHEAD OF TIME AND DON'T OVER-BOOK YOURSELF. PLAN TO BUY RECORDINGS OF TALKS YOU MISS IN ORDER TO TAKE BREAKS OR ATTEND ANOTHER WORKSHOP.

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We're here for you. Connect with other homeschoolers when you join an NCHE Facebook support group. Find a complete list of all the groups when you visit our website at nche.com and choose the Community tab.

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As this issue of GREENHOUSE went to print, the status of the Thrive! Conference was still unknown. To find out the current status, check our website at nche.com/thrive.

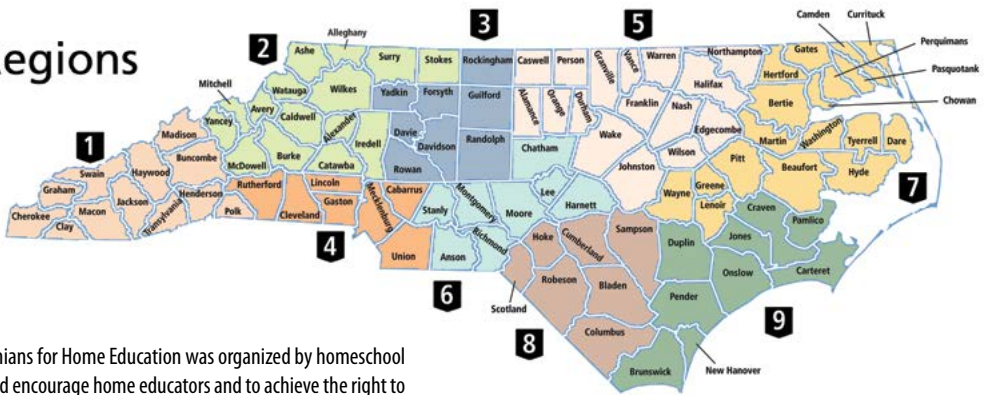
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About NCHE

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

GREENHOUSE Information

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

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

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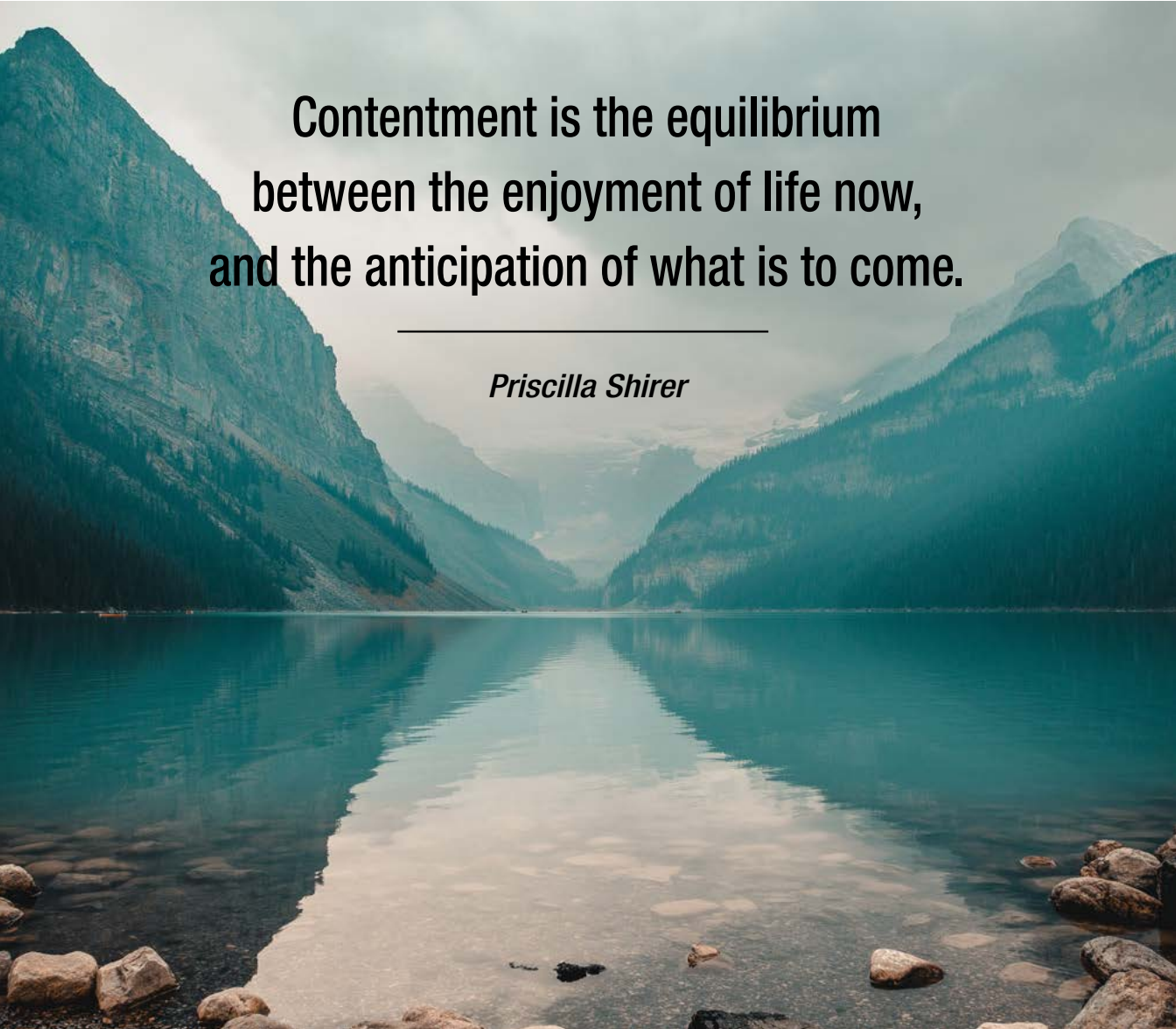
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between the enjoyment of life now,
and the anticipation of what is to come.**

Priscilla Shirer