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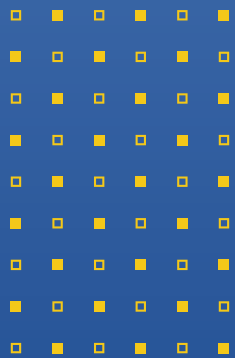
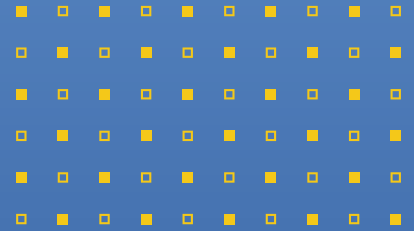
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Kimberly Hahn & Mary Hasson



DEADLINES

ISSUE DATE	ARTICLES	ADS
Fall – <i>September</i>	July 20	July 31
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Protecting Children without Undermining Freedom: The Truth about Homeschooling and Abuse

by Matthew McDill

In June, another story made national headlines of a child being abused in the home.¹ A girl finally escaped from her home and claimed that she had been locked in a dog crate, handcuffed to the toilet, and sexually abused. As Grace C. MacAulay, the Camden County prosecutor, expressed, “These are beyond horrific, absolutely abominable acts.” This is a heartbreaking tragedy that we all want to prevent from happening.

The solution most commonly presented is reflected in this *New York Times* headline: “They Said She Was Homeschooled. She Said She Was Locked in a Dog Crate.” The authors, Sarah Maslin Nir and Rachel Wisniewski, write, “Prosecutors, in part, blame the lax rules around homeschooling—New Jersey is one of many states with little oversight once a child leaves traditional schooling—for perpetuating her suffering.” Many are now claiming that increased government oversight of homeschooling will make children safer.

One of the most vocal proponents of this position is the Coalition for Responsible Home Education (CRHE). In mid-2024, CRHE released the *Make Homeschool Safe Act*, a comprehensive model bill that proposes parental credential requirements, CPS involvement for families under investigation, mandatory assessments, and proof of immunization.² The group claims these measures would prevent abuse and educational neglect.

This year, CRHE's model legislation found a test case in Illinois. House Bill 2827, titled the *Homeschool Education and Accountability Act*, mirrors much of CRHE's model. It includes provisions for an annual notice, teacher qualifications, student portfolio reviews, expanded regulatory authority, and severe penalties. Homeschool leaders and families in Illinois responded swiftly and powerfully. Over 50,000 witness slips were filed, and more than 8,000 people testified in person. As of this writing, the bill is stalled—thanks in part to this overwhelming public opposition and concerns about its constitutionality.³

These events raise three essential questions:

1. Are homeschooled children at greater risk of abuse than their public school peers?
2. Will increasing government oversight of home education actually make children safer?
3. Is it justifiable to restrict the parental rights of an entire group because of the misdeeds of a few?

Homeschooled Students Are As Safe As Their Peers—or Safer

With so many news stories framing terrible abuse cases as a homeschooling problem, it can be easy to accept that narrative. However, a growing—though still relatively small—body of research has examined whether homeschool students experience abuse more frequently than their peers. To date, the evidence is clear: homeschooled students are just as safe as those in other educational settings.

In August 2022, Brian D. Ray and M. Danish Shakeel published *Demographics Are Predictive of Child Abuse and Neglect but Homeschool Versus Conventional School Is a Non-Issue: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Survey*.⁴ They draw from “nationally representative data from 1,253 previously homeschooled and conventionally schooled (public and private schools) adults to anonymously report about their abuse and neglect experiences during school age.” They conclude, “We find no clear association between a child’s school sector and his or her experiences of abuse and neglect while growing up. Instead, demographic variables such as family structure, years in foster care, large family size, and household poverty bear a strong relationship with child abuse and neglect.”

Ray conducted a review of “the few extant studies that directly address, in some way, the abuse or neglect of homeschool students,” including data from CRHE.⁵ He concluded, “At this point, there is little evidence that public schooled or private schooled children are abused, neglected, or otherwise maltreated at any higher or lower rate than the homeschooled.”

In fact, if there is any correlation between educational setting and risk of abuse, it may suggest that homeschooled children are somewhat

safer. Rodger Williams analyzed data from a ten-year period to examine child fatalities resulting from abuse and neglect. He found that “legally homeschooled students are 40% less likely to die by child abuse or neglect than the average student nationally.”⁶ Similarly, a nationwide survey of adults revealed that those who were homeschooled reported lower rates of abuse than those who attended conventional schools.⁷

Some may argue that it doesn’t matter how many studies show no higher rates of abuse among homeschool families; what matters is that homeschooled children are not around mandatory reporters all day, making it easier for abuse to go undetected. This line of reasoning leads us to our next important question: Will increasing government oversight of home education actually make children safer?

There Is No Evidence That Regulation Improves Safety

There are several noteworthy aspects of the New Jersey abuse case that must be considered:

- Abuse was already taking place in the home before the children were (allegedly) homeschooled.
- The mother was not actually homeschooling. As Maslin Nir and Wisniewski report, “Spencer told police that she had given up on educating her older daughter after a week. In a police interview, the girl’s younger sister could not recall any lessons being taught.”
- While the younger sister was still in school, a neighbor saw signs of abuse and “called her elementary school to express her concerns. She said she had later been interviewed over the phone by someone from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, but she never found out what happened next. A spokesperson for the department said it does not comment on cases, citing privacy laws.”

This is not a case of homeschool parents abusing their children—it is a case of abusive parents using homeschooling as a cover for abuse. That concern is understandable and is often at the heart of calls for increased oversight of homeschooling. However, as with many other cases, this is not an example of abusive parents escaping accountability because of lax homeschool regulations. The abuse had already been observed and reported to the state.

A similar situation occurred in Illinois, where the tragic death of Zion Staples was cited as justification for H.B. 2827. Yet, the Staples family had been investigated multiple times over the past decade by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Stricter homeschool regulations would not have prevented this terrible crime. The real question in these instances is why existing child protection

systems are not functioning as they should.

Let's return to the issue of whether more state regulation of homeschooling might reduce abuse. This question has been studied in *The Relationship between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students)* (Ray, 2018). In the abstract, Ray explains: "The investigation considered the homeschool laws by state and whether they had a relationship to homeschool child abuse. Regression analysis of eighteen years of data from all the U.S. states found no relationship between the degree of state control or regulation of homeschooling and the frequency of homeschool abuse."⁸

More recent studies support this finding. Angela Dills (2022)⁹ and Luck et al. (2025)¹⁰ also conclude there is no evidence demonstrating a connection between levels of state regulation and child safety.

If public school students are not experiencing less abuse, then the oversight, regulations, and mandated reporting mechanisms currently in place are not effectively keeping those students safe. Rodger Williams of HomeschoolingBackgrounder.com provides a table tracking the 2023 federal child abuse data. He notes, "Federal child abuse data displays no protective effect as children enter public schools. Abuse rates continue a gradual descent as children get older. There is no visible dip in abuse rates as children cross the line between not being in school to being in school."¹¹

Even if we could demonstrate that increased government regulation of schooling would help keep children safe, we would still need to answer one final question: Is it justifiable to restrict the parental rights of an entire group because of the actions of a few?

Targeting All Homeschooling Families Is neither Just nor Constitutional

In the United States, citizens are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Unless there is clear, data-driven evidence that homeschool parents as a group present a notably heightened risk, they should not be subject to greater scrutiny. As we've already established, no such evidence exists. Therefore, we must presume their innocence and protect their parental authority.

In a recent article by Jim Mason,¹² president of the Home School Legal Defense Association, addressing proposed homeschool regulation, he reminds us of what the U.S. Supreme Court stated in *Parham v. J.R.*:

"That some parents 'may at times be acting against the interests of their children,' creates a basis for caution, but is hardly a reason to discard wholesale those pages of human experience that teach that parents generally do act in the child's best interests. The statist notion that governmental power should supersede parental authority in all cases because some parents abuse and neglect children is repugnant to American tradition."

Homeschooling is a legal expression of parental rights. Requiring all homeschooling families to comply with restrictive measures in the name of preventing abuse is to assume guilt rather than innocence. Instead, we must ensure that existing laws are enforced and that intervention is focused on individual cases where there is substantiated concern.

Conclusion

It is important to recognize that many advocates of increased homeschool regulation are motivated by a sincere desire to protect children. Their goal—to prevent abuse—is one we all share. However, the proposed solution of sweeping regulatory oversight risks undermining the rights of all families without effectively targeting those truly at risk. The better path forward is to improve the enforcement of existing child protection laws, ensure appropriate intervention in cases with credible red flags, and preserve the constitutional freedoms of the vast majority of parents who are faithfully educating and nurturing their children at home.

Fortunately, in the case of home education in the U.S., there is no basis for curtailing the freedom of parents to raise and educate their children as they see fit. This is because:

- Homeschooled students are as safe as their peers—or safer.
- There is no evidence that regulations improve safety, and
- Targeting all homeschool families is neither just nor constitutional.

1. Sarah Maslin Nir and Rachel Wisniewski, "They Said She Was Homeschooled. She Said She Was Locked in a Dog Crate," *The NY Times*.

2. "Make Homeschool Safe Act," responsiblehomeschooling.org.

3. Michael Tobin, "Homeschooling at Risk: The Most Significant Legislative Battles This Year," hsllda.org.

4. Brian D. Ray and M. Danish Shakeel, *Demographics Are Predictive of Child Abuse and Neglect but Homeschool Versus Conventional School Is a Non-Issue: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Survey*, tandfonline.com.

5. Brian D. Ray, *Homeschool Abuse and Neglect Research: How Many Homeschooled Kids Are Abused?*, nheri.org.

6. Rodger Williams, *Homeschool Child Fatalities Fewer than the National Average*, homeschoolbackgrounder.com.

7. Brian D. Ray, *The Transmission of Culture, Religion, and Affinity for Four School Choices to Adults Who Were Homeschooled, Public Schooled, and Private Schooled*, papers.ssrn.com

8. Brian D. Ray, *The Relationship between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students)*, nheri.org.

9. Angela Dills, *Homeschooling and Child Safety: Are Kids Safer at Home* Angela Dills, tandfonline.com.

10. Anneliese Luck, Wan-Ting Chen, Stephanie Cuccaro-Alamin, John Prindle, Jill Duerr Berrick, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein; *Homeschooling and Child Maltreatment: A Review of the*

11. Rodger Williams, *Why Public Schools Fail to Protect Students from Child Abuse*, thehomeschoolbackgrounder.com.

12. Jim Mason, *The Road to Homeschool Freedom Is Getting Hairy*, hslsda.org.

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.*

(Proverbs 16:3)



Matthew McDill and his wife, Dana, homeschool four of their nine children (five have already graduated) in Clemmons. 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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Ernie Hodges
Scholar
Athlete

Miles
Carter
Academic



Garrett
Lee
Apologia
Missions &
Ministry



2025 NCHE Scholarship Winners

by Evelyn Bickley

For twenty-eight years, NCHE has been awarding college scholarships to deserving high school seniors, and 2025 continues that tradition. Six students were selected to receive scholarships based not only on their scholastic abilities, but also on their community service, leadership, athletic and artistic abilities, and their likelihood of achieving their future goals.

The recipient of the NCHE Academic Scholarship is Miles Carter of Durham, son of Alexa and Daniel Carter. Miles achieved a perfect score of 36 on the ACT, plays classical guitar, and is a state champion in two events in the NC Science Olympiad. He has filled officer positions in the Durham chapter of the National Homeschool Honor Society. He aspires to earn a PhD in physics and teach others about the world of science that excites him. He also hopes to homeschool his own children someday and to be involved in the homeschooling community.

The Ernie Hodges Scholar Athlete award goes to Isaac Nobles, son of Zachary and Alev Nobles of Greensboro. Isaac is a triathlete and a five-year starter for the Forsyth Home Educators varsity soccer team. During his tenure, his team won the NCHEAC State Tournament twice and the D1 Homeschool National Championship once. His personal accolades include West All-Conference MVP. He has placed in the top five percent in the American Mathematics Competition 12 and qualified for the American Invitational Math Exam three times. He plans to study math and business administration before pursuing a career in finance.

Alanabeth Duncan, daughter of Tisha and Alan Duncan of Roxboro, receives the NCHE Arts Scholarship. Alanabeth is an accomplished—and already professional—banjo player, having performed at venues as intimate as the NC Governor's Mansion and as large as 5000 people. Her heart's desire is to perform "at least once in that cherished golden circle of the Grand Ole Opry and at the Ryman Auditorium, the Mother Church, of traditional music." Her immediate goal is to

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- Civil Engineering Corps Collegiate Program (CEC)
- Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP)
- Health Services Collegiate Program (HSCP)



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study music and visual communications at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

Colby Townsend, son of Scott and Kristen Townsend of Denver, receives an NCHE Community Service Scholarship. He has served over 800 hours in his community with Wreaths Across America, American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony, First Tee as a coach, with a food pantry, and Lincoln County as a junior firefighter, earning the 2024 Lincoln County Junior Firefighter of the Year Award. He engages in multiple athletic activities and serves as the command chief petty officer of the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps (Charlotte Division). He plans to attend the Massachusetts Maritime Academy before pursuing a career as a merchant mariner.

Benjamin Traylor, son of Sarah and Michael Traylor, Fayetteville, also receives an NCHE Community Service Scholarship. Ben is gifted musically and has used that talent as a music director for his church worship team, as a teacher/mentor for the future worship leaders group at his church, and as bass guitarist/vocalist/keyboardist for numerous other places of worship. He also serves in his church's children's ministry with *Backpack Buddies* (children's food outreach) and a variety of other community services—amassing more than 900 hours of service during high school. Ben will be pursuing a degree in math at Fayetteville State University.

The Apologia Missions and Ministry scholarship is awarded to Garrett Lee, son of Regina and Nathanael Lee of Midland. Garrett is

an exceptional student, a member of the National Homeschool Honor Society Zeta Epsilon (Charlotte) chapter where he has filled officer positions, and an active church and community volunteer with more than 900 hours served. He has scored either Summa or Maxima Cum Laude in the National Latin Exam for four years. He plans to study philosophy and politics at Ave Maria University (Florida) before pursuing a career in service to our country.

North Carolinians for Home Education is honored to award these highly deserving students with scholarships to continue their pursuit of excellence. Congratulations to them and to all the class of 2025. To donate toward future scholarships, go to nche.com/scholarship-donations/. To learn more about the scholarship program, visit nche.com/helps/high-school/scholarship/.



Evelyn Bickley is a retired homeschool mom and serves on the NCHE board as activities director.



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Lessons from the Briar Patch

by Jessica Frierson

I love plants. I dream of having a flourishing garden, an orchard with multiple types of fruit-bearing trees, and multiple species of berries growing around my yard. Sadly, the reality is that I am terrible at growing plants. Apparently, they need a lot of care and attention. You can't just plant them and forget them. Every attempt to achieve my garden dreams has failed—except blackberries. The only plant I have yet to grow successfully is blackberries. That's not to say that blackberries don't have their own share of needs. But somehow, they have not only thrived in my yard, but they are popping up in new places where we don't even want them. I have ignored them for the past two years as life got pretty crazy.

Pruning

The thing about ignoring blackberries is that where other plants might wither away and die if forgotten, blackberries tend to grow, to thrive—is there such a thing as *overthrive*? Because that is what they do. They go wild! See, you are supposed to cut back the old canes in the fall. Then, in the springtime, after the new canes have grown out, you prune them back. Doing these two types of cutting keeps the blackberries under control and leads to not only healthier berries, but also berries that are easier to harvest. If you fail to do it, you will encounter what I did: a patch of unruly brambles reaching several feet over my head with the taller vines shielding the productive, fruit-bearing ones underneath. They formed a nearly impenetrable barrier to the sun shining down on them and to my tender hands reaching to pluck more berries to fill my basket.

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:1-2

Raising children is the same way. We must stay vigilant to prune back unproductive pursuits and interests, ungodly habits and attitudes, and unhealthy relationships that entangle their hearts and distract them from truth. Just like with blackberry canes, sometimes it isn't easy to discern between the ones that should be pruned away and those that should be left to grow until a bit of time has passed. But the sooner we can get them out of the way, the easier it is to do so. Removing them exposes them to the Light, which opens the door for God's truth to be made known to them.

The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:130

Pests

I have to battle many types of pests to keep my berries safe. Beetles, slugs, spiders, flies, and bees share my love for the juicy fruit. I have learned to look where I am about to put my hand to avoid unpleasant surprises. As I was picking berries one day, trying to stay calm as bees and wasps buzzed around me and beetles intermittently flew about my head as I disturbed their fruity feast, I was reminded of all the "pests" that are fighting to win my children's hearts. I am engaged in a fierce battle to be the primary influence on them, to guide them in the way they should go, and lead them to the lifepath that God has for them. There's no backing down on their part, so there can't be on mine. Some days, I decide to let the bees and beetles have that day's share of berries. I just don't feel like fighting them. But when it comes to my children, I can't grow weary and give up. I have to stay engaged.

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Galatians 6:9

Prickles

Even with the old canes cut away and the new ones trimmed, there are many thorny prickles that envelop the berries I want to pick. I never come away from the berry patch unscathed. It seems that the very ripest and largest berries are the ones lying just underneath a particularly thorny covering. I have learned to lift the thorns up and out of the way, then reach in gingerly to pluck the ripe berry hidden beneath the thorns. But no matter how carefully I work, I always have to pull prickles out of my hands and wrists afterwards. I have tried wearing gloves, but if they are tough

enough to protect me from the thorns, then they are too thick to pick the delicate berries. So my hands wear the marks of the prickles all summer long, bearing testimony to my perseverance to collect my juicy treasures.

If my heart could be seen as easily as my scratched-up hands, it would reveal many more scratches and cuts that have been endured in my undertakings as a parent. Raising children requires a tender heart, but tender hearts are easily scarred. The Greek word in the New Testament that is translated as "tenderhearted" is *eusplagchnos*, meaning "love that comes from deep within." Only a love that comes from deep within gives us a heart tough enough to push past the thorns yet tender enough to give the nurturing love and care our children need.

Picking

And then, in time, comes the harvest—those sweet, sun-ripened moments when you see the fruit of your labor in the beautiful person they grow to be. Just like berries picked at their peak, your children bring you joy when you see them grow into who they were created to be and that makes all the pruning, protecting, and persevering worthwhile. The pruning shears gather dust in a corner of the shed, the scratches fade, and the battles with pests are a faded memory. But our children are a basket of treasure that brings a lifetime of joy. The cherished memories we made along the way far outshine the pain and effort we endured.

See, children are a gift from the Lord. The children born to us are our special reward. Psalm 127:3



Jessica Frierson is a second-generation homeschooler. She is married to Ernie, a retired minister. They have been homeschooling their seven sons and three daughters since 2000. She is a speaker and writer. She serves as the media director for NCHE and writes for the GREENHOUSE and the NCHE blog.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)



Of Treadmills and Homeschools

by Amanda Garner

It was one of those rare days when winter loosened its grip just enough to allow a sliver of warmth and sunshine to seep through its frigid grasp. After months on the treadmill inside a stuffy, overcrowded gym, this warmth and sunshine were all the invitation I needed. Ten minutes into my run, my knees began to inform me that the pavement had a lot less give than the belt of a treadmill. Although the crisp air was invigorating, I found it challenging to adjust my breathing to something other than room temperature air. And I had overestimated the warmth of the sun, leaving me underdressed and chilly. After twenty minutes, I considered turning around to head back to the car until all the months of training started to kick in. I began to settle into a good cadence and regulate my breathing pattern. What had been an uncomfortable chill became the perfect temperature. I reminded myself to keep doing what I knew to do, remembering that this is what I had trained for. As I plodded along my route that day, I couldn't help but draw a few analogies between my athletic endeavors and my years of homeschooling.

The first parallel between running and homeschooling is to find and **keep your pace**. Whether an athlete is on foot, on wheels, or in the water, the hardest temptation to resist is not starting off too fast. Between the adrenaline rush that follows the starting signal and the cheer of the crowd, it's hard not to take off full throttle. The risk of doing so is the inability to finish the race well—or to finish at all. Although you're not likely to have fans cheering you on at the starting line of the new school year, the risk is much the same. What I have found to be consistently true and helpful over twenty years of homeschooling is that a slow, steady start allows both me and my students to adjust to “doing school” again and find a pace

that works for the long haul. Every year, we start our first week of school on a Wednesday, so that our first week is a short week, and I begin with only a few subjects. A few weeks later, I will incorporate the rest of the academics once we have settled into the rhythm of the year. Starting too hard and too fast will lead to quick burnout. Learning to pace yourself both on the track and in the classroom is key to finishing well.

The second parallel, loosely tied to the first, is to **know your limits**. It probably goes without saying that there is great danger to an athlete who pushes beyond his limits. There is a fine line between pushing to reach the next level and pushing past what is reasonable. This is surprisingly true in homeschool as well. There are days when school is just plain hard, and you must simply push through. Other days or weeks—or perhaps whole seasons—life can press in with a force that pushes you well beyond what you are able. When that happens, the safest and wisest course of action is to take a break. If you homeschool for any length of time, I'd say there is a one hundred percent chance that you'll encounter this need for rest at some point. It might be the birth of a child, managing a chronic illness, unexpected job loss, making a move, or caring for aging parents. As moms, we tend to soldier on and make sure we "do school," all the while forgetting that the most valuable lessons aren't found in a book or curriculum. Injured athletes and burned-out homeschool mommas don't do their teams any good. Both athletes and teachers need wisdom to know their limits and the humility to take regular breaks.

The third parallel is perhaps the most important, and that is to **remember your why**. Or, in other words: what is your motivation? Why do you choose to get up every day and do hard things? Homeschool moms face the same daunting challenges as athletes in training: good days and bad days; days when it comes easily and days when it's a fight; days when you reach your goal and days when you fall short. There have been times when I felt like I could run a marathon and other times when a five-year-old could outrun me! Your motivations—your why—is what you fall back on when you feel like quitting. Remembering your motivation gives you the desire and the drive to keep going in spite of setbacks, disappointments, and fatigue. Physical goals have their proper place in a well-balanced life, but how much greater and higher and eternal is the calling to shape and shepherd your child's heart through the homeschooling years!

After I finished my short three-mile run that late winter day, I was glad I hadn't given up when conditions felt too challenging. The fresh air and sunshine were a welcome change of scenery, and it felt great to achieve a small goal. There were days when I felt like I wasn't making much progress, or my efforts weren't worth it. So, it was physically and mentally rewarding to reap the benefits of hours in the gym and miles

on the treadmill. After twenty-one years of homeschooling our four children, the comparison falls woefully short. All the hours, days, and years we have spent together have yielded sweet, eternal fruit in each of their lives. As you begin another school year, be encouraged that what you do day in and day out in answering the call to homeschool matters. The hard days and the easy days and all the in-between days are worthy investments of your time, effort, and devotion. Keep pressing on!



Amanda and her husband, Wes, have been for married over thirty years and have home educated all four of their children. With the last of four graduating this year, Amanda's heart is to help encourage and equip families to stay in the homeschool race for the long haul. She is a regular conference speaker, contributing writer to GREENHOUSE, occasional blogger, and, most often, a regular homeschool mom and wife. In her free time, she can be found binge-reading historical fiction and frequenting local cafes for a good espresso. Amanda and her family live and serve in Franklinton, North Carolina.

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How Do You Pick a College?

by Missy Fox

There's not a simple answer for the best way to pick a college. It reminds me of the question—how do you pick a spouse? Maybe you chose with the help of a group of friends, through a ministry at church, or using a dating app. Maybe your parents contacted a matchmaker (no joke, some cultures do that).

More broadly, how do you discern God's will for your life? The Bible says in Romans 12:

1. "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God"—recognize God's authority over you and live for Him.
2. "Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world"—don't buy into the culture's norms.
3. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind"—soak yourself in God's word and His ways.

Then "you will be able to test and approve what God's will is." My mentor, Carol Wever, once summarized this as "Follow God in your everyday life now, and He will make the next steps clear." Have His attitudes and pursue His priorities.

Apply Worry-Motivated Prayer

As each of our children finished up high school, the temptation to worry about next steps served as an excellent motivation for a more fervent prayer life. It wasn't easy. But by May of senior year, we were rejoicing in God's direction and the closer relationship He gave us with Himself as we were forced to rely on Him more heavily than before.

So let's say you are praying intensely for God's direction, guarding your priorities, and walking faithfully with Him day-to-day. What are some practical steps you can take as you seek to know His will?

Decide What You Are Looking For

When I was choosing a college for myself years ago, I started with a list of the top universities in each major (the 1980s version of US News and World Report's list, I suppose)—I picked my major, found the schools with the best reputation, and started visiting.

I wouldn't do it that way now. Today, I see the goal of college more as "Who do you want to be after four years?" rather than "What do you want to do after four years?" (Which to a lot of people actually means, "How do you intend to make money?").

The most important question to ask is what your child wants to get out of four years of college. Are they just checking a box in

order to move on to grad school or a job? Then, they might want to test out of a bunch of requirements using CLEP, AP, Straighterline, or dual enrollment and graduate quickly.

Is their focus employability? Then lists like U.S. News might be helpful, as well as data from college career placement offices showing after-graduation employment statistics.

However, while credentials and employability are important, a college's influence on your future goes beyond those numbers. Universities disciple us to *become* someone. Spending four years surrounded by faculty and peers that are passionate about learning and the Lord—or those who aren't—has a profound effect on a person.

Although my husband and I both went to secular colleges, all four of our kids wanted to attend Christian schools. I have been so encouraged to hear them relay what it meant to them to have classes and a peer environment where the Bible and a Christian worldview were so fully integrated. For example, one daughter told me how much richer her quiet times were because of what she was learning in her constitutional law class. Who would have expected that?

Make a List of Priorities

A helpful approach is to make a list of *must-haves* and *preferences* in order of importance to you. Usually, walking through this kind of exercise helps you start to narrow down a list of schools of interest.

Perhaps a must-have is an ABET-accredited degree in electrical engineering. Maybe it's having a faculty who are all committed to Scriptural inerrancy. If both are must-haves, then your list of schools just narrowed tremendously.

Some factors to consider: academic challenge (too low, and they might not learn; too high, and they might not pass), campus atmosphere, Christian support, size, majors, social scene, support services (medical/tutoring/counseling), internships, study abroad, job or grad school placement, faculty accessibility, extracurriculars, location, and finances.

Keep an open mind about finances at first because many private schools have sticker prices that drop dramatically once you are admitted. For example, did you know that if you make under \$160,000/year, Princeton is tuition-free? For each of our kids, private schools on their list ended up being cheaper than the state school down the road.

Create Your List of Schools

Your list of priorities will direct how you research schools. Use Google and ask friends. Maybe visit a college fair with a list of questions for your student to ask. Narrow your list by poring through websites. Fill out contact forms to request mailings. Have your child call the admissions office and ask if they could speak with a student in a major or activity that interests them.

There's no substitute for a campus visit. Have your student contact admissions ahead of time to see if they can sit in on a couple of classes, meet with a faculty member in their major, and, if possible, stay overnight in the

dorm. Taking advantage of a teen summer camp at the school can really help get a feel for the atmosphere, too.

Senior year is usually too busy with applications and the rest of life to squeeze in trips to colleges, so aim to make your visits during sophomore and junior years. Avoid the summer and finals/midterms week; the campus isn't normal then, and you need to get a feel for the typical campus vibe.

Apply Broadly and on Time

Eventually, by application time (fall of senior year), you will want to narrow that list down to maybe six schools: a couple reaches, a couple matches, and a couple safeties. If you think you will need merit aid, remember you're more likely to find it at the safeties, not the reaches.

You don't know where the most financial aid will be coming from, so apply broadly—as Ecclesiastes 11 (rather ominously) puts it, "Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land." In other words, don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Apply early; to get maximum scholarship consideration, many schools want applications by mid-October. Sometimes schools waive application fees if you apply early (even in August). Fill out your financial aid forms (FAFSA and possibly CSS) as soon as possible, probably in January. Some schools give away their need-based aid on a first-come first-served basis.

Choose Wisely

As your student's field of colleges narrows, encourage your student to stay active in researching, talking on the phone with current students, and coming up with lists of questions for their admissions counselors. Attend in-person or virtual admitted students' days. Keep praying.

Once your financial aid packages are announced in the spring, compare them carefully and go back to schools to ask graciously for reconsideration where needed. (Yes, college price tags are negotiable.) Keep praying.

Keep Trusting

Proverbs 3 says that God's word is "a light unto our feet," not a searchlight illuminating the whole forest. He has a way of showing us one step at a time, enough that we know just what we need to do next, but not so much that we are tempted to stop leaning on Him. What a perfect process! Isn't He good?



Missy Fox and her husband, Greg, are twenty-one-year homeschool veterans. They thank God for leading each of their four grads to just the right college fit and that He brought scholarships to pay for it, too. Missy enjoys encouraging families through the homeschool-to-college transition, speaking on high school planning, transcripts, and scholarships.

She can be reached at FoxbridgePrep.com.



Preparing High School Transcripts: The Blurred Lines between *Home* & *School*

by Whitney Cranford
Crowell

I get asked a lot of questions about how to apply to college as a homeschooler. And ninety-five percent of them could easily be cleared up if homeschool parents would take off their *parent* hat and put on their *principal* hat. In other words, most difficulties homeschooling parents have with understanding the college application process would disappear if they just started to think of their homeschool as a *school*, not just as their *home*.

Blurred Lines

For most homeschooling families, even those with high schoolers, the lines between *home* and *school* are indistinguishably blurred. Your family's schedule, outings, and activities probably all contain some elements that you would consider educational, even though they look and feel like the things other families do. Cooking dinner is *life skills* or *health and nutrition*. English class takes place while your child is hanging upside down in his favorite ratty armchair. There's no walking in a line, raising your hand, or asking for permission to use the bathroom. Everything is home, and everything is school.

This mindset makes for a fantastic educational experience that teaches a child to find the joy in learning and growing by exploring the world around him as part of his everyday routine. However, this approach makes a terrible framework for quantifying that education and presenting it in a way that outsiders — especially colleges — can understand.

Lost in Translation: The Importance of Speaking Colleges' Language

You may have noticed that many of the metrics colleges use for assessing applicants, from GPA and class rank to the courses offered by the school, do not relate to the homeschool setting. Homeschoolers often eschew institutional markers like grades and test scores. But colleges are used to working with institutional schools. To talk to them, you're going to need to think like one.

Thinking of your school as an entity separate from yourself, your family, and your home will make understanding what colleges want much easier, and make it easier for colleges to understand you when you describe your student's educational experiences.

This isn't as different or as difficult as you might think. *Home* and *school* are probably blurred lines in your family, but that doesn't mean you can't separate out the parts that are most important to colleges and present them in a framework that makes sense to college admissions. You do not have to change your family culture or your educational philosophies. You do need to be able to mentally separate your parent and counselor roles so you can understand what colleges need and give it to them.

North Carolina makes this easy because in our state, your school is already a legal entity. When your child is seven, you are required to give

your school a name and list it with the Division of Non-Public Education. You must keep records and administer standardized tests. Some find these regulations burdensome, but they do have the advantage of establishing our schools as formal legal entities, each with its own roster of students, its own curriculum, and its own policies—even if you've never codified them, even if they only exist inside your head. That's the entity that's going to communicate with colleges on your student's behalf. And you are the face of that entity.

Your Title and Your School's Name

When you have little ones, school names and titles don't matter so much. But by the time you have a child in high school, it's time to decide what you will call the legal entity that is your school for the purposes of formal record-keeping.

Here in North Carolina, we are required to name our schools when we open them, so you've probably already chosen a name. If you haven't opened your school, you'll want to ensure that your school's name is one your child can feel proud to see on his diploma and to list on his future job applications. Cotton Candyland Unicorn Academy might not make a serious impression. On the other hand, there is no need to feel you must be creative with your school's name. Jones Academy or even

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Jones Homeschool is a perfectly fine name. (Note that school names in North Carolina cannot be changed, so choose with the future in mind, even if you have a young child.)

As the leader in charge of your school, you also need a title. Here again, the state makes this easy for us: in North Carolina, the chief school officer is the School Administrator.

The point here is to convey to anyone reviewing your school's records that your school is established as a formal organization, in accordance with your state's laws, and that you are the person responsible for overseeing that organization. It is not in any way to cover up the fact that your school is also a homeschool. (Hint: Colleges already know that.)

Defining Your School's Policies

Just as the legal entity that is your school needs its own name and leadership, it also needs a set of policies that govern its decisions. This requirement can be difficult for homeschoolers to understand. We are used to making decisions on the fly, in accordance with the needs of our students at any given time. We aren't used to formalizing those decisions.

But if you stop to think about it, most of your decision-making in any area of your life is influenced by a particular set of values or philosophies. Homeschool decisions are no different. You don't need to change the way you make those decisions, but you do need to think about why you make them, and make them consistently. Three areas tend to be particularly important for homeschoolers to have a well-defined policy:

Assessments and Grading Rubrics. These are the means by which your school will assess your student's progress and award grades. These need to be determined early in your student's high school career—preferably at the start of ninth grade—and consistently applied.

Grading Scale. The grading scale is a subset of your grading policy that tells colleges how you translate numerical grades into letter grades, as well as how those grades factor in the GPA. Your grading scale must appear on the student's transcript and, again, must be applied consistently.

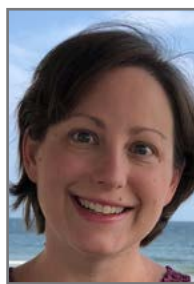
Transfer Policies. Your school's transfer policies govern how you treat credits that you bring into your school from other providers. As the school of record, you often have the final say over whether and how coursework done elsewhere transfers into your school. The exceptions to this rule are courses taken at other legally recognized schools, including your local public or private school and colleges or universities that offer dual enrollment. If that school will record your student's credit on its transcript, you need to be very wary of making changes to that course on your transcript. You can, however, convert grades issued by other institutions to your grading scale if they are different.

Schools across the country set these policies for themselves, and there is no standard way of doing these things. Use your best judgment about

what makes sense in your case. It is critical to remember that you must be consistent. Thinking through your decisions and knowing why your school does what it does then keeping a record of your school policies, will help you do that.

Doing these things will also help you when it comes time to communicate to colleges about your student and your school. Questions like, "How does your school weight grades?" make much more sense when you see your school as an institution awarding grades and credit and not just you and your child sitting around the kitchen table practicing a concept until it's mastered.

As I have said: You do not have to change your family culture or your educational philosophies, but that doesn't mean you can't separate out the parts that are most important to colleges and present them in a framework that makes sense to college admissions. You can do both! Don't sacrifice your family's educational values. Learn to translate them so they make sense to college admission officers. When you can speak the colleges' language, you can effectively position your unique student and his unique educational experience for success.



Whitney Cranford Crowell knew she'd reached peak homeschooling when she bought a custom nine-foot-by-six-foot bookcase with a matching ladder and still didn't have room for all the books. She lives in her childhood home outside High Point with her husband of twenty-five years and their fourteen-year-old son. Their daughter is a homeschool graduate and a National Merit Scholar at the University of Alabama. Whitney is the founder of Launchpad Consulting, a career and college coaching firm. She can be reached at whitney@yourguidancecounselor.com.

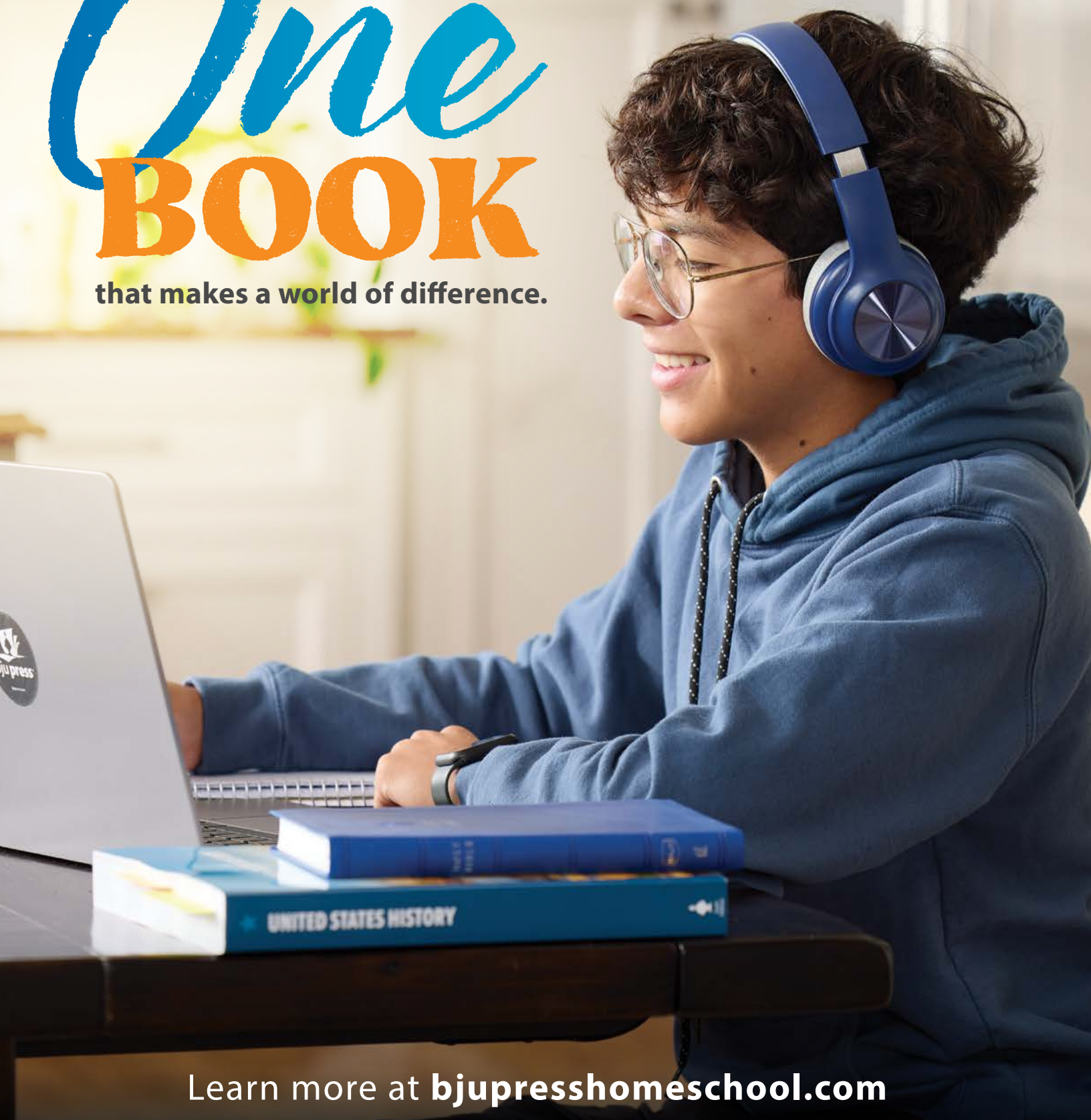
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

(Joshua 1:9)

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Five Simple Ways to Make Your Homeschool Year Run Smoothly

by Amy Sloan

Let's face it: homeschooling can feel a little bit like juggling flaming swords while riding a unicycle—blindfolded—all while simultaneously trying to keep a toddler from coloring on the walls. But here's good news! With a few intentional (and grace-filled) choices, you can make this homeschool year run more smoothly, and maybe even enjoy it a little bit more along the way.

Here are five tried-and-true strategies we use in our own homeschool to bring a little more peace, purpose, and joy into the daily routine.

1. Start with the Big Picture (Not the Book List)

Before you click “add to cart” on fourteen new curriculum options, pause and ask yourself: *What kind of human do I want to raise?* (Spoiler alert: “finished every workbook by May” probably isn't the top character trait.)

Think beyond academics and write down three to five character traits you'd love to see develop in your kids—traits like curiosity, kindness, faithfulness, or a love for God's Word. Then, use that list to guide your curriculum choices and your daily priorities. Think of this as your homeschool *mission statement*. This is not a checklist, but a big picture goal to guide your daily decisions and year-long priorities.

2. Plan with Pessimism; Celebrate with Joy

In the planning phase, be a pessimist—seriously. Overestimate how long math will take. Build in time for toddler meltdowns and impromptu science experiments involving glitter. (Actually, just skip the glitter. But even without glitter, there's sure to be a messy surprise or two on the regular in your homeschool day!)

Then, when things go more smoothly than expected (because sometimes they actually do!), you and your kids get to

feel like rock stars. It's way better than staring at an unrealistic color-coded spreadsheet and crying into your Tension Tamer tea.

Need help with this step? I share exactly how we estimate time and build buffers into our schedule in my free Planning Ebook available at HumilityandDoxology.com. Homeschool planning for moms made simple!

3. Use Flexible Weekly Checklists (and Make One for Yourself, Too)

I'm not a rigid scheduler (if you know me, you know I get the heebie-jeebies when someone tries to put me inside a box). But flexible checklists? Checklists are my jam. In our home, each child gets a weekly checklist that focuses on consistency over page numbers. We aim for daily faithfulness, not arbitrary benchmarks. This builds self-discipline and allows for margin.

And yes, I have my own checklists, too. Because I'll be honest, sometimes I've needed a sticky note that says "read with the three-year-old" or "check the algebra homework," just to make sure it happens!

4. Incorporate Your Family's Priorities (Even if They Don't Fit the Schedule)

Your homeschool should reflect your family culture, not someone else's Instagram highlight reel.

Do you love Shakespeare? Plan a monthly poetry tea time. Want to discuss theology with your teen? Schedule a recurring Friday afternoon chat. Even if it only happens once a month, intentionality makes a difference. I always say: goals without a plan rarely get done. Don't wait for free time to magically appear. Instead, *schedule* what matters—even if it's just penciled in with a smiley face or added to the Google family calendar.

5. Revisit, Reassess, and Rejoice

Homeschool planning isn't a one-and-done event. Set aside time each term to ask:

- What's working?
- What's not?
- What needs to change?
- What have we accomplished that's worth celebrating?

You might be surprised how a simple shift (like adjusting your *Morning Time* rhythm or switching math programs) can breathe new life into your homeschool.

And don't forget to *celebrate* those small wins! Read-aloud time happened four days this week? That's a party. Everyone found clean clothes and did Latin without complaint? That's practically a holiday. (*Have I ever told you about the time my teen burned their Latin textbook in the backyard fire pit? #truestory*)

Homeschool Success Starts with Purpose and Grace

At the end of the day, a smooth homeschool year doesn't come from the perfect plan or the perfect curriculum. It comes from knowing your "why," embracing flexibility, and leaning into God's grace.

You've got this, Mama. (Especially if you just add a bit of coffee, a fresh pack of sticky notes, and lots of not taking yourself too seriously.)

This article originally appeared on HumilityandDoxology.com.



Amy Sloan and her husband, John, are second-generation homeschoolers to five children (including two homeschool graduates), adventuring together in NC as they pursue a restfully-classical education. If you hang out with Amy for any length of time, you'll quickly learn that she loves overflowing book stacks, giant mugs of coffee, beautiful memory work, and silly memes. Amy writes at HumilityandDoxology.com and hosts the "Homeschool Conversations with Humility and Doxology" podcast. Find Amy @HumilityandDoxology on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



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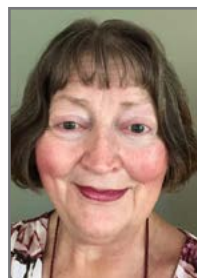
Random Tips for Happy Homeschoolers

by Dava Banner

There are many books about homeschooling that share many good tips. Here are some tips that I have gathered on my eighteen-year homeschool journey.

- Is your house ready for guests every day? Try assigning your kids morning chores to be done before breakfast and be ready for anything!
- Is exercise on your kid's schedule? Kids aged five to seven years old can build up to doing 200 sit-ups every morning, working out some wiggles before school time!
- Do you serve cooked food for lunch? You can decide what to eat, and you can make a schedule the kids will love—grilled cheese Mondays, French toast Tuesdays, mac and cheese Wednesdays, hot dogs, bacon and eggs, tuna salad, leftovers, fruit, pizza, etc., and they can learn to cook with you!
- Do you change the scenery during the day? Your school work doesn't need to be in one room. You can do math at the kitchen table, read aloud in the comfy living room, and do other subjects in other areas, even outdoors. Let the scenery change as needed!
- Do you make time for friends and family? I found it easier to schedule play dates and visits with relatives during weekdays, rather than waiting for evenings or weekends. Also include time with other moms who bless and encourage you!
- Do you take advantage of already planned activities in your area? There may be story time at the library, homeschool days at skating or bowling, free ice cream, free movies, free zoo days, etc. Invite another family and have fun! There is no need to plan from scratch.

- Do you record activities? Take lots of photos and make a yearbook for your family. You and the kids will love the reminders of all the people you spent time with!
- Do you include music and art in your life? This can include lessons, classes, or just time set aside with access to instruments and supplies—easy enrichment!
- Are you involved with sports? Be careful; I have a caution with sports involvement. They can be fun but also so very time-consuming with the possibility of injuries. Be sure the experience is worth what you would sacrifice to do it. Family time might be the more worthy choice in the long run. (This includes watching sports on TV!)
- Do you participate in church and charitable activities? Faith, religion, and added compassion are always a life bonus. It's so important to hand down what's meaningful to you. Share in these activities together!
- Do you make room for animals in your life? Animals are a blessing to interact with, so, please make time for pets. Kids connect with them in a big way. You can volunteer at PetSmart, shelters, or rescues if you really can't have your own pets, but please make the effort. Adults usually love animals too!
- Do you travel? As much as we love the home part of homeschooling, it also gives us a great opportunity to travel. Your flexibility allows you to choose off-season trips. Your trips can be educational or just a chance for family bonding. What could be more fun?
- Do you take advantage of your flexibility? Homeschooling has some required elements, but also so much flexibility. My tip is for you is to make it all that you need it to be for your family learning experience. Think it through then put your plan into action!
- Do you help others understand the benefits of homeschooling? What do we do when people think homeschooling can't possibly be the best? Try to be patient with such people. They will see in the end that your choice to homeschool has been for the good of your kids.



Dava Banner has been married for forty-three years and has three fine sons. She and her family live on a small farm in Crouse.

Teach your kids your values. Teach them to love learning. Teach them good study habits. Watch them soar!

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 3:13-14)



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Two (or More) Are Better than One

by Diane Helfrich

"Two are better than one . . . if either of them falls down, one can help the other up."
Ecclesiastes 4:9

From the moment our children are born, we are teachers. We encourage, set boundaries, watch for every developmental milestone, and celebrate. We seek advice from parents, friends, doctors, books, and the Internet because we know this is new, and we are inexperienced. We play with our kids, read to them, let them help with things around the house, take them to the park, and expose them to new things. It's easy to give them new experiences because their "whiteboard" is blank. Everything is new! In this season, we all rely on our people resources to ensure we are doing things in the best way. Did you consider this the beginning of a homeschooling journey? I didn't. In retrospect, it was homeschooling, and the same things applied at every phase of homeschooling I would enter at a later time.

Until schooling began, we had a general understanding of our role and familiar resources. School tends to bring a sense of enormous responsibility that we often feel inadequately prepared for. The feelings of inadequacy often escalate during high school years because the stakes of launching a student into the world are very high. Yet, why are any of these seasons any different than where we've been with little ones?

In every schooling season, we encourage, set boundaries, watch for milestones, and celebrate new things just as we did when our kids were small. The change isn't in the role. The change is in the growing complexity of topics. Now, it's not just parenting; it's called *school*! We've given this new thirteen-year season a title, even though our role doesn't change significantly. It also doesn't matter whether we begin homeschooling our little ones or start homeschooling in high school. We continue to teach our children what they need to know and prepare them for life beyond our home, just as we have since they were born. We also need a community of mentors in every season.

Why are so many hesitant to call for help outside of social media? The people we've always relied on may not be the right ones now, leaving us feeling high and dry. In uncertainty, many of us tend to cocoon and go it alone. Yet homeschoolers are

everywhere and generally eager to help. We always need a pool of human resources—the ones we call on when we feel stressed, overwhelmed, or clueless. Remember, you are not alone in this journey. There are many homeschoolers available who are ready to support and guide you.

We innately know that experienced people are out there, but in our feelings of inadequacy, we tend to hide and ask questions in a way that no one knows who we are, such as on Facebook. After all, what if we fail at this critical role? Let's read the rest of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. "If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. *But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*" Remember, seeking help is not a sign of weakness, but a testament to your commitment to your child's education. With the proper support, you can navigate the challenges of homeschooling with confidence.

As you begin homeschooling (whether at kindergarten or high school), it is beneficial for you and your children to have a community of other homeschooling families. You both need other homeschooling friends! There are many ways to accomplish having this community, both small and large.

For younger kids, if you have a church with other homeschool families, this is a great place to build this community. You can meet families for playdates or even periodic meals at each other's houses with time to play and visit. Your local library may offer story sessions for young children, where you can meet other parents, and your kids can make friends. Many Facebook groups have notices about play dates. Some groups are formed simply around taking field trips together. All are good options to provide a community for you and your family.

For kids of any age, you may opt for a small group. Find a family or two with similar interests and values, and children of similar ages. Join together a couple of times during the week to share teaching, where each of you offers out of your strengths and interests. Let your sessions grow as interests and children grow. You may opt to include more families down the road, or you may opt to keep it small and easy.

Consider the value of joining a co-op, especially when kids are middle and high school age. Co-ops offer a range of activities, classes, and competitions. Many shy away from it. Why? Being involved in a group of any size requires investment on our part. But think of it as an investment in your child's education and your growth. We often think we just want to take our child to a group for friends and activities. That's good, but what about us? In life, the more we invest, the greater the return we receive. By investing in a group, you are not just providing your child with a supportive learning environment, but also allowing yourself to learn and grow alongside them.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one

must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:5-7

I can attest that some of my best growth as a homeschooler came from the investment in teaching classes at my co-op and coaching in my daughter's volleyball program. I taught what I wanted my kids to learn, as well as what they wanted to learn and do. Not only did others benefit from my knowledge, but I grew tremendously. Yes, it takes time. Yes, it is totally worth doing! Investing in my community tightly bound me to friends that I needed more than I knew when I joined. I hold many of these friendships dear today, eleven years after graduating my last child. These were the parents who guided me, offered suggestions, listened to me when I was down, encouraged me, and shared in my journey. My homeschooling would have been severely lacking had I not had this amazing community of people I respected, looked up to, and befriended. You can gain similar benefits from any group you begin or join. All will take effort. All are very much worth it!

You may also want to consider contacting an NCHE mentor. You can spend time meeting with someone experienced in situations like yours who can offer encouragement and advice. If you come to the Thrive! Conference at the end of May, you'll also have the opportunity to connect with your regional liaison and other homeschoolers.

How do you find other homeschoolers if you don't already know them? NCHE has answers! Visit NCHE.com, then select Community and search for a group near you. Most of North Carolina offers a wide range of group options, allowing you to find a good fit for your family. There are liaisons for each region who can assist you in finding a good fit or in helping you begin a new group as needed. As I mentioned earlier, a new group can be as simple as a couple of other families joining together with you to teach various subjects to your children as a small community rather than a co-op. For a mentor, click on Helps on the NCHE website.

Be blessed by investing in a community of like-minded parents who are also preparing their children for life beyond home. Grow each other, and make friends for a lifetime. That is the investment in yourself that you will cherish for years to come, because *two or more are better than one!*



Diane Helfrich is a retired fourteen-year veteran of homeschooling. She is married to David, and they have two children who have flown the nest. In addition to her passion for helping homeschoolers and volunteering as the development director for NCHE, she enjoys reading, teaching middle-school Sunday school, and being part of a ukulele club.

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Thrive! The NCHE Homeschool Conference will be May 21-23, 2026, at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC. Conference information will be updated on the NCHE website in November.

NCHE Graduate Offerings. NCHE offers several opportunities for graduating seniors of NCHE member families: the NCHE graduation ceremony (May 23, 2026), a high school diploma, the GREENHOUSE graduate issue, and a scholarship program. More information about these will be available on the NCHE website this fall at nche.com/graduate-central/.

The Homeschool Show from NCHE—NCHE produces a weekly video and podcast program designed to help you homeschool with confidence and joy by providing homeschool news, interviews, and practical tips. Find out how and when to listen at nche.com/thehomeschoolshow.

NCHE.COM
844.624.3338



Join NCHE. We want you to be a part of our homeschool family. One of the best ways you can do that is by becoming a member of NCHE. We serve all homeschoolers, but members receive the very *best* information, resources, mentoring, opportunities, and discounts. You can homeschool with confidence and joy! Learn more at nche.com/join/

Support NCHE with a generous donation. Do you value the NCHE legislative watch? Have you found helpful information on our website? Are the NCHE webinars helpful in your homeschooling journey? Has NCHE helped you connect to groups in your area? Do you love the Thrive! Conference? If you answered yes to any of these, please partner with us to keep homeschooling strong in North Carolina. Prayerfully donate today! You can give at nche.com/give.



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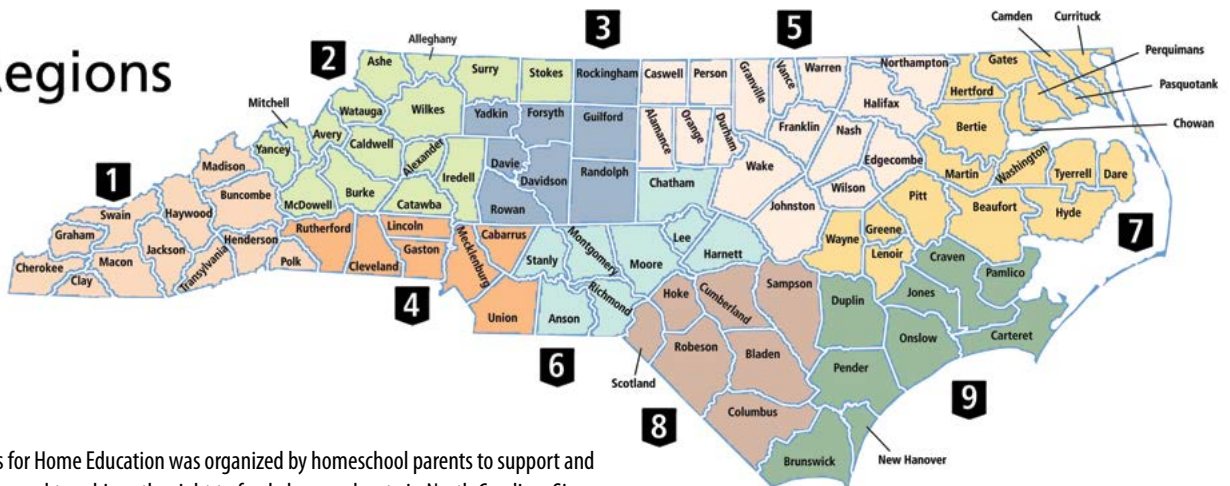
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About NCHE

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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WINSTON-SALEM, NC

May 21-23, 2026

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"As a homeschool mom, I'm pouring into my family all day long every day; this conference provided a wonderful time to slow down, rest, and be replenished. I left feeling truly refreshed."

— Jennifer, 2025 —

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— Buffy, 2025 —

———— ncche.com/thrive ————



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