

TEXAS HOME SCHOOL COALITION

REVIEW

KEEPING TEXAS FAMILIES FREE

On Top of the World

with Andrew McCartney

PLUS:

**LIGHTS! CAMERA!
HOME SCHOOLERS
BRING THE ACTION!**

**UNPLUG
YOUR KIDS**

**5 WAYS DADS
CAN BE MORE
THAN THE PRINCIPAL**



TEXAS
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION

WINTER 2017
VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1
www.THSC.org

COUNTER THE CULTURE.

Homeschool.



Cast of "The Screenwriters"

PAGE 28

FEATURES

- 10 **UNPLUG YOUR KIDS:** Healthy Boundaries for Screen Time
by Lynn Dean
- 18 **HOME SCHOOL DADS—**More than the Principal
by Tim Boswell
- 22 **REACHING THE SUMMIT:**
Meet Andrew McCartney, former THSC Scholarship Winner
by Sarah Van Der Linden
- 28 **LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!** Texas Film Festival Features Home
Schoolers Making Movies
by Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer
- 31 **Q&A with Justus McCraine**
- 32 **CARVING OUT TIME FOR ONE ON ONE** by Ruth O'Neil

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **PRESIDENT'S REVIEW**
- 6 **THSC REPORT CARD:** A+ for THSC Special Needs Team
- 8 **STANDING GUARD:** Meet the THSC Watchmen
- 26 **COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES:** THSC Pioneers
the Online IEP Generator
- 40 **PROFESSOR AMALGAM'S** Motley Curriculum Concoctions
- 41 **UPCOMING EVENTS**
- 41 **ADVERTISER INDEX**
- 41 **MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT PROVIDERS**
- 42 **AT THE END OF THE DAY:** All Natural, No Preservatives

Your copy of the Texas Home School Coalition REVIEW © 2017 Magazine is sent to you free as a courtesy of its advertisers and THSC. The THSC REVIEW is published quarterly by the Texas Home School Coalition Association (THSC Association). THSC is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving and informing the home school community, promoting home education in Texas, and protecting Texas home school families through intervention and legal assistance for its members. Contact THSC for permission to reproduce articles or portions of articles.

Editorial correspondence and address changes may be directed to review@thsc.org. The deadline for article submission for the Summer 2017 issue is May 1. Interested authors should see THSC.org/writers.

The articles in this magazine reflect the freedom of home educators in Texas to choose from a wide variety of home school philosophies and teaching methods. Opinions and attitudes expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the Texas Home School Coalition Association. THSC does not endorse or advocate any one method or philosophy. The board encourages each home educator to seek God's will in determining what is best for him, his school, and his students.

Publication of advertisements does not signify endorsement of items or services offered.



PAGE 10

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Ballmann	Tim Lambert
Kent Dowden	Doug McKissick
James Frank	Gavino Perez
Donna Harp	Sarah Singleton
Mary James	Ray VanNorman

PUBLISHING TEAM

President/Publisher | Tim Lambert

Publications Manager | Donna Schillinger

Managing Editor | Alisha Mattingly

Contributors | Patrick Cannon, Juli A. Ginn,
Sarah Hise, Shannon Kingsbury, Maxine Mitchell

Advertising | sales@thsc.org

Graphic Design | Lisa Rahon

LisaRahon.myportfolio.com

Texas Home School Coalition
PO Box 6747, Lubbock, TX 79493 staff@thsc.org
(p) 806.744.4441 (f) 806.744.4446 THSC.org

WINTER 2017 / THSC.org 3



At Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) we really do enjoy succeeding. Whether it be in small, weekly projects or in yearly goals, we love meeting and exceeding expectations. Which is why we feel so good about how we wrapped up 2016. Last November, we watched in amazement as the country emphatically voiced its support of the conservative movement by electing Republicans to the United States House, Senate, and Presidency.

At THSC, the morning after Election Day we woke to the resounding victory of 62 of the 64 candidates we had endorsed. Ninety-six percent success! I don't know about your home school,

but in mine, that is a solid A. We are thrilled about the outcomes of these races, because THSC only issues endorsements to candidates who commit to protecting and furthering parental and home school rights. We believe that the more conservative representatives that are in the Texas House and Senate, the safer families and home schools are.

By the time this issue of *Review* reaches you, THSC will already be urging both new and returning Senators and State Representatives during the 2017 Texas Legislature to protect parental rights and expand home school freedoms by killing bad legislation that would negatively affect parents, families, and home schoolers and to pass the Parent-Child Protection Act (CPS reform legislation); the Family Unity Act (parental rights reform legislation); and the Tim Tebow Bill (University Interscholastic League equal access legislation).

With the resource of six new THSC Watchmen, who you'll meet on page 8, we will carefully scrutinize all legislation that affects families and speak out in hearing committees and legislative offices against any legislation that might jeopardize our freedoms. Our effectiveness in this capacity in years past has earned THSC the respectful audience of many of our legislators.

While the first of the year (especially in the odd numbered legislative years) is a busy time for THSC, it's just as busy for many home schooling families—especially those with a graduating senior headed to college! Deciding on a school is second only to figuring out how to fund that education! In this issue of *Review*, meet Andrew McCartney, one young man for whom THSC made paying for college a little easier. Andrew won a THSC Patrick Henry College (PHC) Scholarship. If PHC is among your top picks, now is the time to submit your application for one of three awards we'll announce this spring. Download the application at THSC.org/phc.

Investing in the next generation is, in essence, what home education is about. THSC is privileged to partner with you in defending our God-given freedoms and to support you in your resolve to make 2017 another successful year in home schooling. ■

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

"We used to believe that interactive play and learning was better than passive viewing—it at least engaged us more and could result in better learning; but more recent voices caution that interactive screen time also tends to be more addictive."

Lynn Dean p. 11

"Like little counterfeit investigators, kids can spot a fake a mile away, and it sends the wrong message if you seem checked out or impatient."

Tim Boswell p. 18

"In junior high, McCartney began to understand his purpose when he learned that his name meant 'protector.' He felt directed by God to be just that to those who cannot defend themselves."

Sarah Van Der Linden p. 22

"Hollywood is completely over-saturated with people wanting to get into film. The Christian film industry, however, is in desperate need of filmmakers."

Justus McCraine p. 31



LeTourneau University has one of the largest endowed scholarships in the nation dedicated to only homeschooled students!

We love homeschoolers.

In fact, more than 20% of our student body were **homeschooled**. And many of our faculty and staff homeschool their own children. Our campus community not only gets your learning style, but also gets you. As a **homeschooling family, you understand the value of learning through hands-on experiences**. At LeTourneau University, these experiences are at the core of our courses from day one. Our students put their analytical skills to use designing and building their own 3-D printers during their first semester of college. They go on mission trips bringing student-designed water pumps to the parched earth of Senegal, West Africa. And that is just naming a few of the hundreds of examples.

We live out our Christian faith in all we do and our graduates change the world in every workplace and every nation.

Check out more than 90 degree options at www.letu.edu/thsc for more information about LETU and homeschoolers.



Longview, Texas

www.letu.edu/thsc

A+ for THSC

Special Needs Team

Did you know that Texas Home School Coalition Special Needs team gets 60 calls a month for consultations? The THSC Special Needs Facebook support group also handles consults for about half that many calls each month.

There are other ways we serve as well, including monthly blogs and articles in each issue of *Review* magazine. Subscribe to Special Needs Nook, our monthly blog, at THSC.org/subscribe.

New for 2017!

THSC will launch the first-ever online IEP Generation tool that will allow home schooling special needs parents to create an official Individual Education Plan (IEP) for their child. These documents are critical in record keeping—for compiling diagnostic, therapy, goals and accommodations all in one place.

Meet the THSC Special Needs Team

Peggy Ployhar, Team Lead and Special Needs Consultant

Sandie Weston, Special Needs Consultant

Misty Northcutt, Director of Special Buddies

Marie Prince and Dyana Robbins, co-leaders of THSC Special Needs Facebook support group with almost 700 members!

We love to hear from happy parents!

“I just wanted to say thank you for your response. I have joined the Facebook group and you have a lot of informed parents on there, I love it! I have gotten so much information I could not find before. In just these past few days I have gone from scared to excited! I have known in my heart that home schooling Ryan was the best option for us and after seeing just how much is available to us, I realize we will be able to offer him so much more than the public school system ever could! From the bottom of my heart, thank you!”

“Thank you for your quick and informative response. I did read all the information and I feel so much better knowing that I am on the right path. I think joining THSC is a must!”

“I will tell you, THSC has been the biggest blessing to my life and my outlook on my son’s future. I wish I knew [before] what I do today. I could have helped my daughter if I had known better.” ■

GRATITUDE: SHOW IT, TEACH IT

by Ruth York

Gratitude, they say, is the door through which happiness enters. Surprisingly powerful, gratitude benefits mind, body and soul. As if that’s not enough, parents know that what you appreciate, appreciates.

Enter *The Grateful Texan*. A new service to applaud elected officials who act with integrity by respecting our Constitutions and laws. *The Grateful Texan* will prompt and guide you to send short notes of thanks to politicians on a schedule of your choosing. You can sign up for daily messages by texting tgtd to 95577 or for weekly messages, use tgtw. You can also enroll at thegratultexan.org. The service provides sample text and addresses to use, so mailing notes is easy, too.

If you want to go all digital, consider using *SendOutCards*®, available in an app or online. Connect *SendOutCards* with *The Grateful Texan* and get your first card free. sendoutcards.com/thegratultexan/

It takes less than a minute to prepare a card for mailing, and when you link your *SendOutCards*® account to *The Grateful Texan*, the addresses are at your fingertips.

Why not make this a valuable learning experience for your kids, too? Demonstrate and teach an attitude of gratitude, political responsibility and letter-writing skills.

THSC is expecting a successful legislative session for home schooling families—and that means a lot of opportunities to say thanks to the elected officials that protect our parental rights. Sign up for *The Grateful Texan* online or by text, so you can join in giving thanks as we celebrate victories in Austin!

Ruth York is the founder of *The Grateful Texan*, a project of Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County. *The Grateful Texan* has no affiliation with *SendOutCards.com*®.

***Therapy With A Purpose –
It's Imitated But Not Replicated.***

**CUTTING
EDGE**
PEDIATRIC & ADULT THERAPY



- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Largest State of the art gyms in Texas to make reaching goals fun
- Certified in the most advanced treatment modalities
- Our staff has over 100 years experience
- Catering to individuals with special needs
- Transition to adulthood services

Full Service Therapy Clinic for Kids & Young Adults With Special Needs

Our goal is to create opportunities for individuals to master developmental tasks, achieve independence in multiple environments and regulate physical, cognitive and emotional behaviors through comprehensive evaluation and treatment plans.

Owners Joe and Kate Lundgren understand better than most what it's like to deal with a special needs diagnosis – both of their sons are on the “autism spectrum.”

Dallas Location

800 N. Watters Rd., Suite 150
Allen, TX 75013
P: (469) 675-3153
F: (469) 675-3154

Houston Location

21703 Kingsland Ave., Suite 100
Katy, TX 77450
P: (281) 769-1015
F: (281) 717-8947

Mansfield, TX Location Opening Soon!



Meet the THSC Watchmen

The 2017 Legislative Session is upon us and once again the THSC Watchmen and the THSC Policy Team will stand guard in Austin, Keeping Texas Families Free. From now through May, we will review every piece of legislation that is filed. Our goal is to defend home schooling and parental rights on every front.

2017 THSC Legislative Priorities

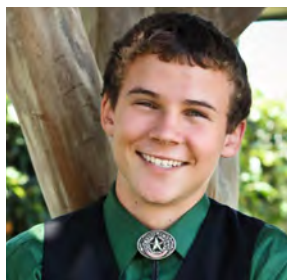
Our number-one priority is identifying and defeating legislation that in any way threatens home schooling or the rights of parents. While passing new reforms is vitally important, we must not give up the ground we have already won.

Secondly, the THSC Watchmen will advance the Parent-Child Protection Act—common sense reform that will end abusive overreach of Child Protective Services.

Our third priority is the Family Unity Act, which clarifies and reforms portions of the Texas Family Code to better protect the rights of parents and keep families together.

Lastly, the THSC Watchmen will advocate for the Tim Tebow bill which empowers parents to make decisions for their children's education.

The THSC Watchmen, led by Chief Legislative Analyst Joshua Newman, will be working alongside Policy Analyst Stephen Howsley and Public Policy Director Jeremy Newman. Our 2017 THSC Watchmen team is the biggest and most diverse we've ever had in Austin, and we're expecting success in the same measure! Without further ado, let's meet the THSC Watchmen!



Paul Exley

I grew up in Georgetown as the second oldest of three brothers and participated widely in organizations such as 4-H and Boy Scouts, where I earned my Eagle Scout rank.

Currently, I own a small beekeeping and honey business while also coaching for a home school speech and debate club. I enjoy reading, raising poultry, and various crafting pursuits including woodwork and metalwork. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Poultry Science from Texas A&M University and intend to return after the legislative session ends to begin work on a doctorate degree. Growing up in a Christian family and being

home schooled for 11 years has made me realize how blessed we are in Texas to have the freedoms that we do, and how close we always are to losing those freedoms. By God's grace and wisdom strengthening our resolve, we can continue to enjoy the freedoms with which He has blessed us.



Vida Mata

I was born and raised in Lockhart, a small town south of Austin (some people might've heard it called the "BBQ Capital of Texas"). I was fortunate enough to be home schooled from kindergarten

through 12th grade. Throughout high school, I played various sports, participated in plays and a short film as well as volunteered extensively in church ministries and activities. Some things I enjoy are reading and writing, traveling and learning. One of my lifelong aspirations is to never stop learning and growing—intellectually and spiritually. My favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:37, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Since I didn't participate in speech or debate, working at the Capitol is definitely new territory for me. I'm so blessed to have the opportunity to help protect the rights and freedoms of Texas families, and I'm incredibly excited to see what these next few months hold.



Josiah Newman

I was born in California, but I've grown up in Dallas. I was home schooled throughout elementary and high school, and from 8th through 12th grades

I took part in the

National Christian Forensics and Communications Association, a competitive speech and debate league. I feel fortunate to live in "The Home School State," and I'm honored to be a part of everything THSC does to protect those rights. Currently, I intend to pursue a career in mechanical engineering or physics, and I plan to attend college in the fall of 2017. I spend my free time doing the things I love: outdoor activities, playing frisbee, free running, dancing, writing fiction, researching new scientific discoveries and fantasizing about how to solve the world's problems. I'm passionate about our freedom in Texas and really excited about everything the THSC Watchmen team will accomplish this session.



Meagan Corser

Being educated at home from kindergarten through graduation has given me many opportunities that I would not have had otherwise. For example, I had the opportunity to compete for four years in the National Christian Forensics and Communications

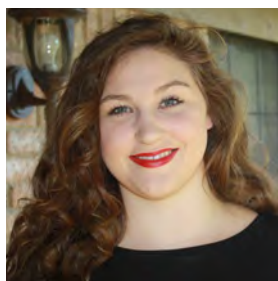
Association, a home school speech and debate league. Not only did it teach me how to think critically about issues more than I ever could have envisioned, it taught me how to do so from a biblical worldview—a skill I would not have learned had I not been home schooled. When not analyzing legislation, I love reading, researching policy, theology/Bible study, camping, backpacking, horseback riding and most other outdoor activities. My current career plan is to work in the legislative branch, although I'm also considering going into ministry. I'm looking forward to all that God has in store for the THSC Watchmen in 2017.



Anna Little

I'm an aspiring writer, filmmaker and activist—passions cultivated during my unique home schooling experience. As a vigorous competitor in speech and debate, I traveled the nation, researching and arguing about U.S. public

policy, all the while gaining a better understanding of myself, my nation and my world. My home schooling experience allowed me to grow intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. Through my career in competitive forensics, I acquired a love of knowledge, research, analyzation and truth. The classical education I received through home schooling trained me to become a listener to those around me, and to use knowledge of history and art in order to plan for the future. The biblical training I received formed a foundation of incorruptible truths that I will use in order to advocate fervently in favor of justice and freedom. I cherish the time I spent home schooling with my three siblings, and I am honored to use my skills with the THSC Watchmen. ■



Emma Little

Although I joined the home schooling crowd a bit late (sixth grade) I quickly made up lost time through home school speech

and debate, where I (along with my family) traversed the country from coast to coast, learning and laughing the whole way. I competed in four forms of debate and six types of speeches, and was blessed to become the national runner-up for Individual Policy debate my junior year of high school. My passions include philosophy, politics, linguistics, mathematics and the spoken word. You can often find me curled in a corner, eyes glued to the pages of a book—I am an avid and voracious reader. Currently, I coach a speech and debate club I co-founded and am slowly working my way through my ever-growing "To Read" list. I am incredibly excited to be a part of the THSC Watchmen program, and thank God for this opportunity!

PROCLAIMING CHRIST

AS THE SOURCE, MEANS, AND GOAL OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- Post-high school Christian gap-year program
- Christ-centered Discipleship Ministry
- Transfer credit available
- 23 hours of Bible classes per week
- Small international community
- Located in the Texas Hill Country

www.hishill.org



Your Success is Our Goal!

Over 30 years experience serving homeschool families.

BCE Academy

With Personal Academic Assistance

- Individualized Diagnostic placement by subject
- Permeated with Biblical truths in every subject
- Easy for parents and students to use
- Start at any time of year
- Reasonable rates
- Accredited High School Diplomas
- Curriculum also available "A la carte"

Call 866-567-2446 or visit us on the web — free catalog

www.BasicChristianEducation.com

Unplug Your Kids!

Setting Healthy Boundaries for Screen Time

by Lynn Dean



We Live in a Crazy, Plugged-in World. And it's Getting Crazier.

The latest proof, Pokémon Go, burst onto the scene in July 2016 and became the most downloaded app in history within a week. Two months later, with over 50 million installs, it became the fastest game to reach \$500 million in revenue and was projected to rake in a cool billion by year's end. Proponents applaud the fact that formerly sedentary youth are now socializing and walking up to 10 kilometers in order to "hatch" their imaginary Pokémon eggs, but oth-

ers are alarmed to observe millions of "screen-agers" walking around like zombies—heads down, co-mingling but not communicating, so absorbed with their electronic devices that they stumble, oblivious, into traffic.

Ubiquitous digital screens are a defining feature of our era. Movies, television, desktops, laptops, pads and tablets, cell phones, readers and gaming devices ... many of us spend hours a day in front of a glowing blue screen. We work, play and depend on

them for socialization and relaxation. Not only do our phones allow us to communicate with anyone, anytime, anywhere, but also they afford us an address book, calendar, camera and photo album, encyclopedia, computer, an entire library of favorite reading material and music, as well as 150 translations of the Bible in our pockets. The time students spend on digital devices each day—an average of 6.5 hours—has more than doubled in the last 20 years.

How Much Screen Time is Too Much?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than one to two hours total screen time daily, but psychiatrist Victoria L. Dunckley, M.D., cautions that even that small amount can create problems for some children who exhibit adverse effects after that degree of exposure. Dunckley calls the adverse effects Electronic Screen Syndrome (ESS), symptoms of which include hyper-stimulation, hyper-focus, sleeplessness, nervous tics, irritability or rapidly changing moods, low tolerance for frustration, tantrums, depression, poor self-discipline, disorganized behavior, defiance, rage, meltdowns and antisocial behavior, poor sportsmanship, social immaturity, poor eye contact, stymied creativity, learning difficulties or a drop in school performance, poor short-term memory, and poor executive functioning (reasoning, judgment, task completion, planning, problem solving and critical thinking).

Over the past 10 years, the incidence of childhood ADHD has increased 50 percent. In Dunckley's opinion, ESS may account, in part, for the exacerbation and misdiagnosis, or both, of childhood cases of ADD, ADHD and even bipolar disorder. Dunckley likens the effects of overuse of electronics on some children to stimulants such as caffeine, amphetamines or cocaine.

These can be frightening words for parents, but it's important to remember that while it is good to be aware of ESS and watch for signs of imbalance, not every child responds in the same ways. There are certainly



risks associated with too much or the wrong kind of screen time, but not all children are equally susceptible to those dangers.

In "It's 'Digital Heroine: How Screens Turn Kids into Psychotic Junkies,'" Dr. Nicholas Kadaras asserts that children who feel lonely, alienated, bored, or who lack purpose are far more prone to become addicted to digital escapism. "We now know that those iPads, smartphones, and Xboxes are a form of digital drug. Recent brain imaging research is showing that they affect the brain's frontal cortex—which controls executive functioning, including impulse control—in exactly the same way that cocaine does. Technology is so hyper-arousing that it raises dopamine levels—the feel-good neurotransmitter most involved in the addiction dynamic—as much as sex," says Kadaras.

Not All Screen Time is the Same.

So how is it that those of us who were raised in front of a television (watch-

ing one of the three networks) don't exhibit ESS symptoms more? The answer seems to lie in the differences in screen time. Passive screen time includes activities such as watching movies, videos or television programs. The screen is across the room, and the viewer has almost no interaction with it. Alternately, interactive screen time refers to activities in which the user interfaces with the device through use of a touch screen, keyboard, gaming console or motion sensor. Pokémon Go takes interactive screen time a step further into enhanced reality, overlaying the literal world with digital fantasy. This blending of fact and fiction can be especially confusing to young children.

Both passive and interactive screen time can restructure expectations. Constant exposure to a panoply of fantasy graphics, sound effects and fast action can result in learners with short attention spans who crave entertainment and eschew essential learning skills such as memorization and working to solve difficult, multi-step problems.

Continued on page 14

Ideas for Offline Fun

If glowing screens seem to monopolize a good portion of your children's day, a "digital diet" may be in order! Here are some ideas for low-cost activities that build healthy character traits of independence, imagination and industriousness without relying on Mom as entertainment chairman.



Keep a Craft Closet

Find a corner of some cabinet or closet where you can store plenty of craft supplies—construction paper and poster board, scissors, school glue, paints and crayons, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks and empty paper towel rollers. A make-and-do center can provide hours of creative fun.

Encourage a Collection

Collecting, arranging and displaying items of interest can be fun and educational. A nature collection of pressed flowers, fossils or insects can be a wonderful learning experience. A collection of buttons, fabrics, model trains or airplanes could inspire a surprising amount of historical research.

Start a Nature Journal

Get in the habit of spending time outdoors and make sketches of the things you observe—flowers, leaves, berries, insects, birds, feathers or animal tracks.

Cloud Shapes and Stargazing

Get quiet and look at the sky. Find shapes in the clouds and stars. Make up stories or learn the ancient names of stars and constellations.

Revive Outdoor Games

Hide and Seek, Red Rover, Hopscotch, Tumble Bones, Duck-Duck-Goose...

It's amazing how few children have ever learned the games their grandparents grew up playing. You could learn to play a different traditional children's game every night and stay busy for a month!

Replace Evening Television with Family Reading Nights

Set aside one or two nights a week to read aloud. Pick an age-appropriate classic and dive in, taking turns reading with expression. Be sure to add the titles to your children's lists of books read and home school transcripts.

Make Music

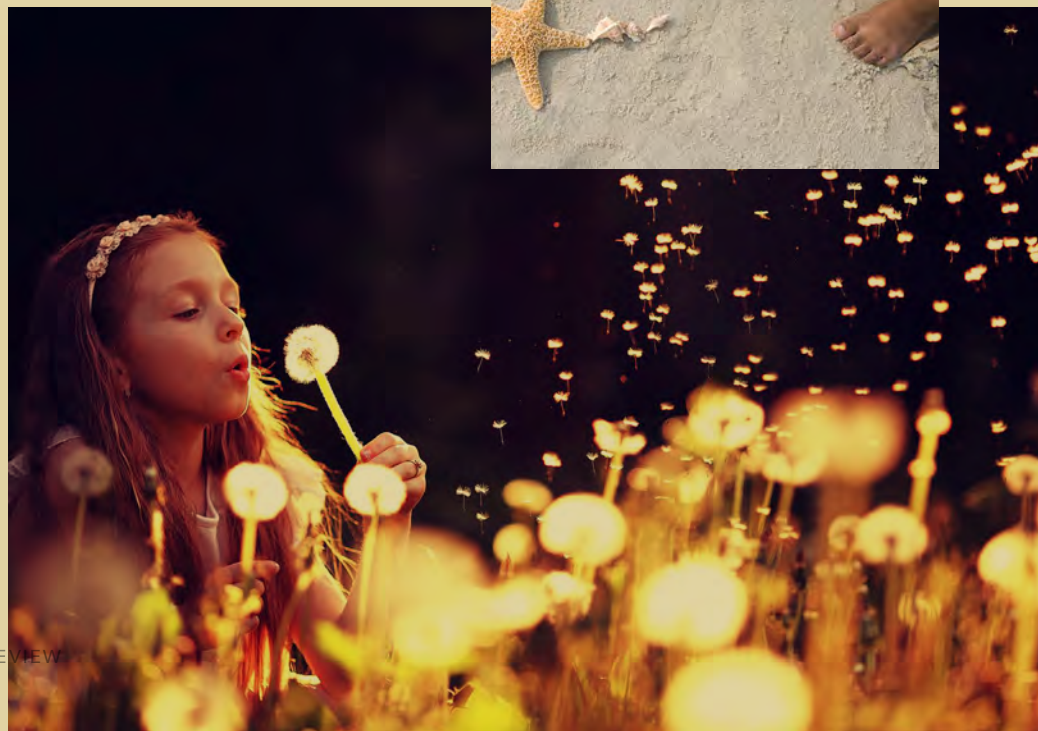
To our modern minds, "music" may mean expensive lessons and hours of practice, but in past generations making music was just a way to enjoy an evening. If somebody (or several somebodies) play instruments, great! But singing is fine, too. Try out voice parts and experiment with music from different eras.

Hike! Bike! Get Outdoors!

While the actual outing works best as a family activity, your kids can do a great deal of the planning and learn map and organizational skills in the process. One of the most liberating experiences of my life was a week-long backpacking adventure to New Mexico's Gila Wilderness carrying everything I needed in a 30-pound pack. Nothing better to push your reset button!

Make the Sabbath Technology-free

Practice one or more days a week where all techno-gadgets are shelved. Mom and Dad can set the tone for this new way of honoring the Lord's day by using phones only for their original purpose—to speak to other people—and turning all that excess attention to each other. ■





HOME SCHOOL FAMILY DAY!

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017 • 11:00AM-6:00PM

PURCHASE TICKETS BY APRIL 21 FOR ONLY \$35.99+TAX

- Park open exclusively for home schoolers & their families!
- Season Passes Welcome!
- Save Over 50% on One-Day Tickets!

All DC characters and elements © & ™ DC Comics. (\$16)

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Online at sixflags.com/overtexas/group-sales, enter promo code "HOMESCHOOL"

Or by telephone at 817.640.8900 x 4950

Same values,
different setting

EXCELLENCE,
FAITH AND FAMILY



HOWARD PAYNE
UNIVERSITY

1000 Fisk Street, Brownwood, Texas 76801-2715
325-649-8020 | 800-880-4478
www.hputx.edu | enroll@hputx.edu

Read comments from home school students who are now attending HPU by visiting www.hputx.edu/thsc and learn more about becoming a member of the HPU family!

SUMMER CAMP FOR HOME SCHOOLERS

Frontier Camp

FRONTIER CAMP

FAITH FUN FRIENDS

Christian Summer Camp in Grapeland, TX offering week long camp sessions. Join us for our 20th homeschool week this summer!

Homeschool Junior Week
May 28 - June 3
Ages 7-13 \$745.00

Homeschool Teen Week
May 28 - June 3
Ages 13-17 \$795.00

(936)544-3206
www.frontiercamp.org



We used to believe that interactive play and learning was better than passive viewing—it at least engaged us more and could result in better learning, but more recent voices caution that interactive screen time also tends to be more addictive. There is something about the interaction of seeing, hearing and doing that forms an impact on the brain.

More frightening than addiction is how interactive screen time actually reshapes our brain. In “Gray Matters: Too Much Screen Time Damages the Brain” at PsychologyToday.com, Dunkley reports on multiple studies that conclude that interactive screen time atrophies our gray matter. Among the parts of the brain affected are the frontal lobe, which controls functions such as planning and impulse control; the striatum, which is involved in the suppression of socially unacceptable impulses; and the insula, which affects our capacity to develop empathy and compassion.

Finding a Balance

How can we wisely guide our families in the midst of a digital culture?

Ephesians 5:15-16 admonishes Christians to walk wisely, making the most of our time because “the days are evil.” These verses take on new meaning as we try to find a healthy balance in an increasingly digital world. The frantic pace of our modern culture seems designed to pile on busyness, keeping even young children stressed and isolated, but a child rooted in a strong family with rich, real-life relationships is less likely to retreat into an alternate reality.

Considering the American

Academy of Pediatrics recommendation of a two-hour limit, we would be wise to guard against using television and digital games as a convenient “babysitter” and, instead, help our children plan their screen time purposefully around shows and activities that are enriching, educational and spiritually uplifting.

If you find it next-to-impossible to keep interactive screen time within healthy limits, mitigate the exposure with worthwhile content. Consider using the impact-forming tendency of interactive screen time to enhance education. For example, the occasional use of a computer game can liven up math drills, and quality role playing simulations can help children understand historical events in context.

Screen time can be used strategically to redirect back to reading. Many times after our family finished reading some literary classic, we would watch the movie adaptation then compare and contrast the two versions of the story. Almost invariably our children agreed that the book was much more complex, engaging and satisfying. In those instances, judicious screen time reinforced our children's desire to read.

Choose Recreation over Amusement

When we think of digital entertainment, we tend to use the words “amusement” and “recreation” interchangeably, but the words actually describe two very different activities.

Amusement comes from the Greek roots “a” + “muse” meaning, literally, “not to think.” Amusement, then, refers to entertainment that does not require deep thought and may imply that someone else is thinking for us, planting potentially danger-

ous ideas in our minds and hearts. If movies and television played a role in the moral decline of our culture, the potential dangers of interactive digital amusements are even more powerful.

By contrast the word recreation comes from “re” + “create”—to create again. Recreation refreshes us by creating new and vibrant ideas.

We want to keep our children safe, but kids crave adventure and the excitement of a challenge. The digital environment offers children new frontiers to explore and the chance to play the hero in the relative safety of our homes. Unfortunately, the dangers inherent in digital adventure are real and hidden. Unlike the broken bone

Worth Your While



By the time the average boy is 21, he has spent 10,000 hours playing video games, two-thirds of that in isolation. The unintended consequences of arousal addictions such as excessive video-gaming are that boys are struggling, and it's most apparent in school and intimate relationships. Retired Stanford professor and author Philip Zimbardo presents "The Demise of Guys," a five-minute TED talk. Ted.com/talks/zimchallenge



**In a sea of curricula,
one stands out from the rest.**

Find out more at www.aceministries.com/thsc
or 1-866-882-3492.

ACE
Where the Scriptures Reign Paramount

Find Bible curriculum
that helps you tell
His story.

**MAGNIFY
GOD**



Discover new resources at
positiveaction.org/homeschool

We publish Bible studies to help you magnify the
majesty of God. As you tell His story, we pray that
these materials will challenge each of your students
to discover God in His Word.


PositiveAction
BIBLE CURRICULUM
positiveaction.org • (800) 688-3008

SCHLITTERBAHN | RESORTS
SPLASH. SLEEP. REPEAT

SAVE 20% ON YOUR STAY THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017
— WATERPARK ADMISSION INCLUDED —



RESERVE TODAY AT SCHLITTERBAHN.COM
PROMO CODE: THSC



Continued from page 14

from falling out of the tree, it is not so apparent how digital adventure is hurting our children.

Yes, our children need digital literacy to survive and thrive in the world today, but they also need to know how to exercise safety and moderation in using digital technology.

Offering children enriching, real-world experiences and relationships, while teaching them to self-moderate—in all things—may be the best defense against digital overload. ■



Lynn Dean was a reluctant historian. Bored with schoolbooks that chronicled battle dates and dead people, she feared inflicting mind-numbing data on her own students. Fortunately, she discovered the classic appeal of storytelling—adventure sagas about real people who struggled to overcome obstacles while pursuing their dreams. For more than a decade Lynn has combined unit studies, field trips and quality literature to create unique experiences in discovery learning. DiscoverTexasOnline.com



Our advice?

Check out all the usual universities your friends choose, but before you decide to spend 4 years and a lot of money, give yourself a few minutes at www.jbu.edu and see what you might be missing. *We think you'll be interested.*



2017 CAPITOL DAYS

Bring your family & learn about the legislative process.

Receive training from experienced professionals.
Learn about Texas government in a fun way.
Defend your freedom to parent and home school.
Meet actual Texas representatives and staff.
Help pass a real law.

Capitol Days won't
be back until 2019.
Don't miss out.



GET THE LONE STAR STUDY

The Lone Star Study is a unit study in good citizenship and a popular addition to the Capitol Day experience. Become a THSC member and enjoy this membership benefit as a complement to your Capitol Day field trip.

**Mark YOUR
CALENDAR**

Monday, February 6
Thursday, March 9
Monday, April 3

Get more details at thsc.org/capitoldays



Home School Dads

More than the Principal

by Timothy Boswell, Ph.D.

In my days as a home school student in the '80s and '90s, people were less likely to know what home schooling was. My parents were often asked, "How does that work?" The arrangement, explained only partially in jest, was that my mom was the teacher and my dad was the principal.

For some current home school families that description is lamentably accurate, meaning that the mother carries out all the educational duties, while the father serves as administrator, financier and disciplinarian when reinforcements are needed. Too often, home school dads accept these boundaries and miss out on the countless ways they can be involved in their kids' education.

With intentional choices, dads can engage, instruct and prepare their children in ways that powerfully complement Mom's role, helping their home school thrive in the process.

Dads, here are five ways to make that happen.

Strategy One: Show an Interest

Every day, give your kids the chance to demonstrate what they've learned. Make it interactive. Ask specific, open-ended questions about what they learned and then have them elaborate. When possible, have the kids physically show you their work—tests, quizzes, crafts, activities, pictures and so on.

Consider, with Mom's coordina-

tion, utilizing stickers, stamps or some other means to reward great work. Try to let the children demonstrate the knowledge they have learned, such as re-creating a science experiment or doing a craft. Or explore deeper—use an encyclopedia together, investigate the topic online, watch a video or share your own knowledge on the subject.

But wait! Check your attitude before you even start. You may be exhausted, but this is important. Like little counterfeit investigators, kids can spot a fake a mile away, and it sends the wrong message if you seem checked out or impatient. Show your enthusiasm, interest and appreciation, and don't forget to praise both the children and their teacher.

Strategy Two: **Pass on Your Knowledge**

You have skills! Everyone has areas of expertise and interest, and the first step is recognizing that you have something to share—even in an academic setting! It might be woodworking, auto repair, finances, playing a musical instrument or building a model ship. Whatever it is, identify the skill and discuss with Mom how and when to work it into the curriculum. It doesn't have to be on a school day—you can give a Saturday "class."

If your area of expertise seems too advanced, remember that most skills can be broken down or learned at basic levels first, as with the apprenticeship model of olden days. Adapt the class to your children's age and grade level so it is challenging but not frustrating.

Where possible, find ways to connect knowledge across subjects. If your child is learning about currency and the value of money, and you are teaching her how to replace a spark plug, take her to the auto parts store and have her buy it and count her change.

Also, look for ways to capitalize on your children's interests. If you're teaching woodworking, and your child is crazy about ponies, woodcut a horse together. If you're teaching how to paint, it doesn't have to be a bowl of fruit. A dragon or a pirate ship works just as well.

Strategy Three: **Support the Lead Teacher**

I can't stress enough the importance of this intentional choice. If your wife does the bulk of instruction, support her. Ask what she needs and then follow up, even if it means late-night grading.

Teaching a class is a tremendously time-consuming and energy-intensive

undertaking. There's a reason teachers are considered "community heroes." It's a huge, sacrificial role and a full-time job. This is 100 percent true for home school teachers.

The first step in support is good communication. Find out what is easy and what is rocky, then identify specific areas needing support. This may involve grading, planning the next day's schoolwork, purchasing classroom supplies, or just sitting down with the kids after you get home to help them focus on homework or finish a science project.

What helps the teacher helps the students, so your support could also involve lowering Mom's stress level by providing lunch, watching the kids so she can get a nap, or even providing her favorite treats or pick-me-ups. Look for ways to support the lead teacher, both logistically and emotionally, and the whole class will benefit.

Strategy Four: **Take Part as Much as You Can**

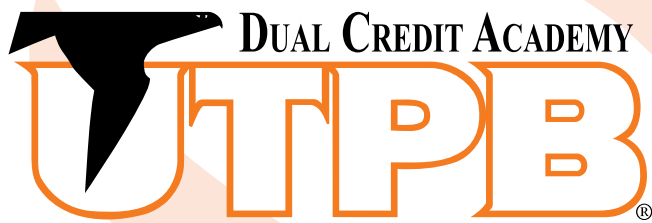
There's no substitute for being involved; therefore, rearrange your

schedule to connect with your children in various activities or to be home with them during part of the school day.

As technology allows for more and more jobs to be done remotely, parents have new opportunities to work from home for at least part of their work week. If possible, pursue telecommuting one or two days a week. If working from home is not a possibility in your position or line of work, you might consider working longer hours one evening and then going in late the next morning, allowing you to teach (or co-teach) the first class of the day.

If, however, your schedule is fixed, and working from home is not an option, there is the potential for communicating with your family long distance. The smartphone or computer allows you to talk, leave messages or interact face-to-face. Whether it's on your lunch break or during your walk into the office, check in to encourage the kids, to support their mother, to ask what they are working on, to share insights or advice, and to generally be a part of the school day even from a distance.





THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

Let us help your student succeed!

**Benefits of participation in
UTPB Dual Credit Academy:**

- UTPB Dual Credit courses are **\$150** per course per student.
- English 1301 and 1302 courses are **\$200** per each course.
- **\$500 SPUR Scholarship** awarded to dual credit students who complete a dual credit course with a 70 or better which can be used after graduation.
- UTPB provides **grade reporting** every 3-4 weeks.
- UTPB Dual Credit courses transfer to Texas public institutions of higher education.

For more information, please contact:

Heather Cress: 432-552-2106 or cress_h@utpb.edu

Rey Lascano: 432-552-2555 or lascano_r@utpb.edu
dualcredit@utpb.edu ● <http://www.utpb.edu/academics/dual-credit>



**Strategy Five: Watch for Teachable
Moments Every Day**

Remember that home schooling never stops, which is one of the greatest things about it. Grab hold of learning opportunities when they appear. Capitalize on home schooling's amazing plasticity. You can take a family vacation in the middle of the school year, but you can also turn that vacation into a learning experience—writing a report about the states you travel through, studying geography and maps, or learning about nature, cultures, history or science, whether at museums, parks, zoos or monuments. Daily, regular experiences also offer chances for teaching. If you take your kids grocery shopping, teach them about store operations, or health and nutrition, or money and spending habits or even about different cultural foods you find in the aisles.

Use downtime for practice time. Quiz your kids on what they have been learning: everything from Bible verses to American presidents. Make it a game to see who can run multiplication tables the fastest while standing in line or have younger kids recognize colors, shapes, letters and numbers in the world around them.

Stay keenly aware of teachable moments and watch for them as they arise—not just for teaching facts and figures, but also for teaching character and values. Talk about the right thing to do in a situation, about what pleases God, and about what the Bible teaches regarding

Discover Creation!

with
**Alpha Omega
Institute**



From the mountains to the tropics, enjoy life-changing **camps** and **tours** that will demonstrate the fallacies of evolution and help you trust God's word beginning in Genesis.

AOI **seminars** are fun, affordable, and engaging! To schedule a seminar in your area, call **800-377-1923**. Visit

DiscoverCreation.org
for more info on camps,
seminars, training, and
curricula.



AOI

ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE



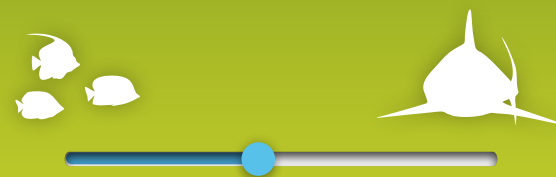
what your children are seeing, hearing, experiencing or doing themselves. Don't just lecture; ask questions and help the children to arrive at the truth. Reinforce this by modeling godly behavior and using critical thinking skills. Realize they are always learning from you—they are continually watching and listening. Seize the opportunity this affords, and look for ways to teach your children every day.

The time and energy you pour into your children's lives and learning will produce untold dividends in their education, their character and their relationship with you. With all the other obligations you have on your plate, the easiest approach is to leave everything home school-related to their mother, but don't take the path of least resistance. Be intentional. Be involved. Make that investment and watch your home school thrive as a result. Make a point to be engaged with your kids' education. It matters. And you can take great satisfaction in knowing that you are much more than your home school's principal. ■



Tim Boswell, Ph.D., (home schooled from kindergarten on) earned a doctorate in creative writing and is managing editor for the peer-reviewed journal "Studies in the Novel." He has edited or ghostwritten over thirty books (BookExpeditions.com) and

teaches fiction workshops in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for writers in grades 9-12 (StoryTown.us). A home schooling dad, Boswell lives in Fort Worth with his wife, three sons and far too many books.



Surf Safe and Sound.



Put the Power of Online Protection in Your Family's Hands

The internet can be an incredible tool, but how safe are your kids' searches? One accidental click can pull up graphic imagery, violent content and other things your children can't unsee. Let HERO[3] help.

An internet filtering system that grows with your family, HERO[3] offers custom protection for every individual. Control what children can view online, limit screen time, access activity reports and more, all from one convenient hub. With protection across a range of devices, from computers, to smartphones and even tablets, HERO[3] gives families the power to **choose what's good**.

Multiple device protection

Customizable security dashboard

Monthly reports detailing internet activity

Mobile app for access anytime, anywhere

VISIT **FASHERO3.COM** TO
LEARN HOW TO GET STARTED

HERO[3]
CHOOSE WHAT'S GOOD.

REACHING *The Summit*

Meet Andrew McCartney,
Former THSC Scholarship Winner

By Sarah Van Der Linden



As Texas Home School Coalition prepares to select the winners of the 2017 THSC Patrick Henry College (PHC) scholarship, we thought it fitting to catch up with a former PHC scholarship recipient and see where he is now.

Andrew McCartney (Lubbock) attributes his quality, foundational education to his mother, Susan, describing her as a “perpetual learner...always fascinated with history, science and literature.” His mother supplied the excitement for learning, but the home school experience gave him the tools and drive that brought McCartney to where he is today: preparing to take the bar exam in the summer of 2017. For McCartney, education was never drudgery, but rather a natural outcome of exploring his interests in the Christian application of government.

In junior high, McCartney began to understand his purpose when he learned that his name meant “protector.” He felt directed by God to be just that to those who cannot defend themselves. Later, in high school McCartney read two influential books that set him on a trajectory that led to Patrick Henry College, and eventually, University of Texas School of Law.

“We read a textbook my freshman year in high school called, ‘Constitutional Law for Christian Students.’ That was what really got me thinking about law school—I loved constitutional law,” recalls McCartney. Additionally, “God and Government” by Gary Demar opened his eyes to the possibility of serving God in the public sphere, enforcing just policy and being informed by biblical principles.

In 2008, McCartney began to supplement his studies with political action that included volunteering for telethons, working as a page at the Republican National Convention, and interning for eight months under Tim Lambert at THSC. In 2009, McCartney won both the THSC Republic Award and the THSC Good Citizenship Award for his educational accomplishments and community service, including participation in the legislative process and 122 volunteer hours of service to THSC.

McCartney chose PHC foremost because it would provide a quality Christian education and also because it offered a degree in political theory, a study closely related to governmental law. In 2014, McCartney graduated summa cum laude as valedictorian of his class with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Now, he is in his

Andrew savoring the view from the 14,269 ft summit of Mt. Antero, Colo. Senior year father-son trip, July 2010

final year at UT School of Law on a full-tuition scholarship.

During his time at UT, McCartney was recognized in “Law Review,” served as the spiritual leader for the Christian Legal Society, and was recently recognized as one of the top law students at University of Texas.

But don’t mistake this bright young man for a one-dimension bookworm. Another top priority for McCartney is planning his May 2017 wedding to Alicia Anne Constant, also a PHC alumni.



Graduation from Patrick Henry College summa cum laude, May 2014

With what time he has left over, he plays tennis, runs cross-country and writes fiction and poetry.

McCartney’s particular career interest is appellate court for which fiction writing is good preparation. “At trial, you want to be able to persuasively tell your client’s story to the judge and the jury,” he says.

McCartney views creative writing as a compatible talent with his love of law and rhetoric.



*Andrew with fiancée Alicia Anne Constant, Fall 2016.
Photos by Katie Crews*



Hiking with family on Vallecito Creek Trail with Irving peak behind, August 2016

In his personal statement for law school, he described himself as a storyteller, noting that his ability to appeal to both the legal and human side of justice is an asset.

Looking forward to after graduation this spring, McCartney will clerk for Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, with an eye to transition to the firm of Baker Botts in Washington D.C.

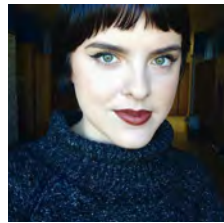
When asked if he is ready to pass the bar, McCartney laughs, “Do I think I’m ready? I think I will be,” then brightly describes the months of preparation that lay ahead.

McCartney knows that his faith, work ethic and home education provided him with the foundation and tools to develop and balance both his technical and expressive sides, and pursue his passions thus far.

What advice would he give to other home schooled students? McCartney replies, “Really take ownership of the learning opportunities that you have. I look back and I think, ‘Wow, I had so much free time then.’...I’m sure if I went back there with a 25-year-old mind set,

there would be books I would try to read and people I would try to meet.” ■

Since 2009 Texas Home School Coalition has awarded \$20,500 in scholarships to Patrick Henry College—and it’s that time of year. Are you considering Patrick Henry College? Visit THSC.org/phc to download an application, due March 1.



Sarah Van Der Linden graduated from Wayland Baptist University in May 2016, and currently resides in California, where she works as a barista and manages a juicing/smoothie store. She enjoys running, reading postmodern literature and eating cheese.



Andrew on 14,005-ft summit of Huron peak in the Collegiate Wilderness of father-son graduation trip, July 2010.

All photos and the cover image are courtesy of David McCartney.



≡ **Subscribe Now!** ≡

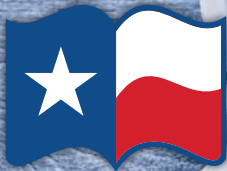
To all of THSC's Quality Publications

E-Publications, Event Announcements, Alerts and Calls to Action, Legislative, Advocacy & Political News, Home School Group Leader Information, THSC FrontPage, Thrifty Thursday!, Special Needs Information, Help for Home Schooling...

And get Review Magazine delivered to your home four times a year.

It's free. Subscribe now!

Discover the
blueprint
for building your
family's future
at a
THSC CONVENTION



T E X A S
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION
Keeping Texas Families Free™

ARLINGTON
MAY 11-13

THE WOODLANDS
JULY 20-22



**DR. TONY
EVANS**



**SERENE ALLISON
PEARL BARRETT**



**CHRYSTAL
EVANS HURST**

ARLINGTON



**DR. KATHY
KOCH**



**JOHN
ERICKSON**



**TODD
WILSON**

ARLINGTON & THE WOODLANDS

**Begin
laying your
foundation
with these
amazing
speakers!**



**SARAH
MACKENZIE
THE
WOODLANDS**

THSC pioneers the Online IEP Generator

(Individual Education Plan)

by Peggy Ployhar

In 2016, THSC saw a growing need for home school parents of special needs children to advocate for their students. THSC advised these parents to write Individual Education Plan (IEP) documents, but saw a need that required a solution. Consequently, THSC made a goal to streamline the IEP documentation process by debuting the first ever online IEP Generation Tool in early 2017.

Historically, the IEP document was created for use in the public school system to ensure special needs students had the services, strategies and equipment to be successful per the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and state special needs education laws. An IEP thus became the single document used to record diagnostic reports, physical disabilities, learning disabilities, necessary educational accommodations and modifications, assistive technology, individualized goals and testing parameters. Over time, because of the information stored on this document, the IEP became a useful tool for other organizations working with special needs students and their families.

Today, many government organizations, college testing boards, insurers and mental and physical healthcare professionals need a copy of a student's IEP to determine benefits and care strategies. This progression of usage outside the public school gives the IEP more importance than its intended purpose and consequently leaves special needs home school parents at a disadvantage when they cannot provide their students' information in this standard format.

This is why THSC began helping its members create IEP documents to use in advocating for their special needs children. The IEP template crafted by THSC special needs consultants and the new online IEP Generation Tool are based on a generic IEP template used by many Texas public schools, but now THSC has made them available so that families with special needs students don't need the public school system to generate this important document. Parents now have a place to store the following information in one user-friendly document:

- A child's yearly cognitive and behavioral baseline

- Diagnostic reports, doctors' reports and therapists' evaluations
- Specific instruction for accommodations, modifications and adapted curriculum
- Assistive technology needs
- Individualized student goals with measurable evaluation criteria and documentation specifications.

It is our hope that this new online tool, which can be used from the comfort of home, will encourage more parents to write an IEP. In our experience, parents who were reluctant to create an IEP are surprised at how useful this document is to their home school recordkeeping. The IEP provides a place to record all the things that regular home schooling records do not have spaces for, making school planning much more efficient. THSC is always thinking about how we can help the home school community and we believe the IEP Generation Tool will be a considerable benefit to THSC members with special needs students. ■

Peggy Ployhar serves as special needs consultant for Texas Home School Coalition.

LET US SHOW YOU THE MONEY!

See BILLIONS of dollars and learn about the production and history of United States paper currency at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, located in Fort Worth, Texas.



Tour & Visitor Center Includes:

- Self-guided Tour on Elevated Walkway
- Two Floors of Exhibits and Displays
- Informative Film and Gift Shop
- Special events held three times per year (visit website for dates and details)

ADMISSION IS FREE • PARKING IS FREE

For Tour Information & To Learn More
Call: **817-231-4000**
1-866-865-1194 and press 2
www.bep.gov



Bureau of Engraving and Printing
9000 Blue Mound Road
Fort Worth, TX 76131

Hours of Operation: Tue-Fri: 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Closed Federal holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Clap along because
you know what
happiness is to you!



Music Lessons To Fit Your Schedule

Since 1986, more than 16000 students (of all ages) have participated in private, semi-private and group programs.

Alumni include Demi Lovato, Selena Gomez, Kacey Musgraves, Jessica Simpson, Kidz Bop, Ryan Cabrera, Hunter Parish and many others who have appeared on The Voice, America's Got Talent, American Idol and in TV shows, feature films, national commercials and more!



2015 Midway Road, Suite 107, Carrollton, TX 75006

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@SEPTIENGROUP



Call today, mention
PROMO CODE HS101* &
SAVE SEGMAZING BUCKS
on Voice, Piano, Guitar, Drums,
DJ, RAP, Songwriting, Stage
Presence, Acting For Social Media
and Multimedia Production classes
at Septien Entertainment Group,
the #1 Music Artist Development
Center In The US!

*Limited time offer.
Some restrictions may apply

972-392-2810
theseptiengroup.com
sales@theseptiengroup.com

SKYPE/FACETIME
LESSONS
AVAILABLE



Lights! Camera! Action!

Texas Film Festival Features Home Schoolers Making Movies

By Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer

The indie film industry has exploded in the last decade with nearly 7,000 film festivals in the United States alone. But one may be of particular interest to Texas home schoolers for it's San Antonio location, home schooling founder and, most importantly, Christian worldview.

In 2014, Phillip Telfer, head of Media Talk 101 founded the Christian Worldview Film Festival and Guild (CWVFF) around a strong set of core values (see p.29). The inaugural festival featured Stephen Kendrick ("War Room," "Courageous") as a keynote speaker, 33 other speakers in more than 50 unique workshops on Christian filmmaking, and a lively exhibit hall for more than 700 attendees. The event culminated with awarding \$6,500 in prizes to 13 filmmakers. Now in its fourth year, CWVFF expects more than 1,000 attendees



at the Norris Conference Center in San Antonio, March 13-18.

"It's a transformative time, especially for young people," says George Escobar, founder of Advent Film Group, vice president of WND Films and TV, and a home schooling dad.

Case in point is that of Texan home schoolers Paul Hastings and Alex Lerma. After graduating from home school, Lerma began to work on feature films while Hastings took a different path, serving as director of

public policy for Texas Home School Coalition. Hastings collaborated with Lerma to produce videos for THSC. After Hastings' departure from THSC, he and Lerma teamed up again, showcasing their abilities with "Roses," which screened at the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival and took Best Short Film at CWVFF in 2014. (RosesMovie.com)

For Hastings, CWVFF is about meeting and networking with Christian filmmakers from across the country. But the event has a unique and undeniable spiritual undercurrent as well.

Actress, coach and home school grad Rebekah Cook (ActressRebekah.com) views CWVFF as a place for filmmakers to gain a greater understanding of their place in the body of Christ, including how they can best fit into the Christian filmmaking landscape. She comments, "Christ is our anchor; He is our 'why' for living and also for filmmaking. If our films detract from Him or are antithetical to who He is, then our art has lost its purpose." Cook has taught in the

Only in Texas

4th Annual Christian Worldview Film Festival and Guild

March 13-18, 2017
Norris Conference Center,
San Antonio, TX.

ChristianWorldviewFilmFestival.com

Transformation Film Institute

Offers weekend and longer filmmaking instruction at First Century Village in Weatherford and in Frisco, Texas, and online.

TransformFilm.com

Filmmakers of Tomorrow

An online film academy that offers monthly, annual and lifetime subscriptions to more than 135 interactive video lessons. Instruction is self-paced. Try the service for 30 days free.

TomorrowsFilmmakers.com

acting/casting track all three years at CWVFF, in addition to representing various films in the festival, and she is committed to excellence in filmmaking. “God never creates anything halfheartedly or by cutting corners, and neither should we,” she says.

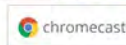
Joel and Lisa Steege (LittleCrewStudios.com) are home educators who incorporate filmmaking into the education of their own little crew—be it lessons in construction by set building; costume design and sewing; writing screenplays; or post-production technology skills. They have the freedom to pack their bags any time of year to market their movies. All that moving around makes for great lessons in history, geography and social studies. More than a creative approach to home education, the Steeges are producing quality films.

Little Crew Studios’ “The Defense of New Haven” won Best Feature, Best Film Score and Audience Choice at CWVFF in 2016.

Many graduated home schoolers in the film industry agree that adding filmmaking to the curriculum is a smart choice for any family who has children interested in the business. Home schoolers have an edge in the industry because of the flexibility to direct their studies, believes Katherine Johnson, a home school graduate from Alabama who has appeared on television, in short films, promotional videos and feature films. While serving as third assistant director on the set of “The Reliant,” Johnson met a 15-year-old home schooling student who has his own video production business working with local politicians, businesses and film sets. With his parents’ support, he was able to spend

Christian Worldview Film Festival & Guild Core Values

1. Jesus Christ is preeminent.
2. Humility is not an option.
3. Your primary call is as a disciple of Jesus.
4. An authentic portrayal of the world is not Godless nor Christless.
5. Film cannot replace personal evangelism or discipleship.
6. There’s only one epic story that changes the world.
7. Esteem others as more important than yourself.
8. Embrace critique.
9. Honor Christ in the entire production, not just the final product.
10. Good story and good worldview transcend a big budget.



PUREFLIX.COM

YOUR FAITH AND
FAMILY STREAMING
SERVICE IS HERE!

- Thousands of faith and family originals, movies, TV shows, and documentaries
- Supplement your homeschool curriculums
- No language, sex or violence surprises

**START YOUR FREE
MONTH TRIAL**
AT WWW.THSC.ORG/PUREFLIX



Photo by Lynda Kay Sawyer

several weeks on the road working on the feature film.

Furthermore, home schoolers are uniquely positioned for success in the film industry, agrees David Cook, a CWVFF organizer for 2017 and a home school grad. A good work ethic and knowing how to interact well with people are important qualities on a film set. While home schoolers

don't have a monopoly on those qualities, they often show up within their ranks. According to Cook, home schoolers who work with secular filmmakers are generally considered an asset to the team.

The flexibility of home schooling, solid options for learning filmmaking at home, and a rapidly expanding global market for Christian films

make it a prime time to add filmmaking as an elective to home education. ■



Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer is an award-winning inspirational author, speaker and Choctaw storyteller of traditional and fictional tales based on the lives of her people.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian has honored her as a literary artist through their Artist Leadership Program for her work in preserving Trail of Tears stories. In 2015, First Peoples Fund awarded her an Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship. She writes from her hometown in Texas, partnering with her mother, Lynda Kay Sawyer, in continued research for future novels. Learn more about their work in preserving Choctaw history at SarahElisabethWrites.com and Facebook.com/SarahElisabethSawyer.

MEASURE YOUR STUDENT'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS



THE STANFORD 10 ONLINE FOR GRADES 3-12!

A nationally-normed standardized achievement test taken online from your home. Meets state and national standards. Formatted to facilitate student engagement and test completion. Full color. Untimed. Seton is the test administrator.

NO DEGREE REQUIRED. RESULTS WITHIN 1 BUSINESS DAY.

(For Homeschool & Private School Use)

Overnight!



Seton Testing Services

Testing made easy.

**OFFERING STANDARDIZED TESTING,
DIAGNOSTIC TESTING, AND MORE**

30 years of homeschool testing experience.
K-12 Tests & Test Prep Materials.

- Year-round services.
- In the convenience of your home.

LIVE CHAT AVAILABLE
9:00-5:00PM ET



800-542-1066

WWW.SETONTESTING.COM

Q&A

with Justus McCraine

“Business Insider” article “Why Faith-Based Movies Continue to Crush it at the Box Office” notes that religious moviegoers are an underserved audience, one large enough globally to create blockbusters. Additionally, the success of Christian films is often in response to grassroots buzz rather than big ad campaigns. It seems conditions are prime for a burgeoning Christian film market. *Review* asked Tomorrow’s Filmmakers Founder Justus McCraine to offer insight into Christian film career prospects.

What does a feasible path to a career in the film industry look like?

No one ever starts out making big-budget movies. Many people believe that Steven Spielberg’s first movie was “Jaws” in 1975. But that was actually his 17th film as a director. He started out making short films when he was a kid and then moved on to direct small TV episodes and TV movies, until he finally directed “Jaws.” He started small and slowly grew. So, if you want to eventually start making movies, make a short film in your backyard or go to your local church and film a sermon series promo. Start out small and work your way up. Once you become a more experienced filmmaker, you can start tackling bigger projects.

Besides television and movies, how else can film-making skills be an asset?

If you learn about film, you can use those skills to make way more than just full-length movies. Some people learn film just to do wedding videography and make \$60,000 a year on that alone. I started my own videography business at the age of 16. Each of the skills that I use to make short films I also use on a day-to-day basis



Justus McCraine, founder of Tomorrow’s Filmmakers, TomorrowsFilmmakers.com

“If you are committed to making films for God’s glory, it’s high time you start your journey as a filmmaker.”

to make a living. I’ve used my skills to film commercials, weddings, concerts, church promos, etc. Every skill that I have learned in filmmaking has been a huge asset.

Doesn’t filmmaking require a significant upfront investment in equipment that not just anyone can afford?

If you were to film a movie 20 years ago, you would need to spend \$30,000-plus. But with the advances in technology, cameras today can cost as little as \$400. There are films in theaters that were shot on \$1,500 cameras and even on iPhones! So, if you don’t have a lot of money but still want to make films, now is the perfect time.

Is the filmmaker a next gen of starving artist now that the indie film market has exploded?

“You can’t get into film, you’ll just be lost in the crowd” is something many new filmmakers hear. In some instances, it’s true.

If someone wants to get into film, where does he usually go?

Hollywood. Hollywood is completely over-saturated with people wanting to get into film. The Christian film industry, however, is in desperate need of filmmakers. The few Christian films that do come out thrive. Christian movies sometimes make as much as 20 times their budget back in the box office.

Let’s not just talk about money, though. Why don’t we see hundreds of Christian movies coming out every year? Because the Christian film industry has very few filmmakers. If you are trying to get into Hollywood, you have a rough road ahead. But if you are committed to making films for God’s glory, it’s high time you start your journey as a filmmaker.

I hope this has encouraged you. If you are thinking about getting into filmmaking, this is the best time. God is using Christian movies to further His Kingdom, and I can’t wait for God to raise up the next generation of filmmakers for His glory. ■

Carving out Time for One on One

By Ruth O'Neil

Home schooling families are some of the busiest people I know. I can speak from experience as we are one of them. We do way more than simply stay home and teach our children reading, writing and arithmetic. We belong to co-ops, we take field trips, we have extracurricular activities, as well as hobbies. Additionally, many home schooling parents both have jobs outside the home or run family-owned businesses. And many of us have multiple children.

Continued on page 34 . . .

Flexible Online Degree Programs

Explore the more than 60 undergraduate degrees, certificates, and certification preparation programs available fully online!

Your next adventure begins here!



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

Worldwide eLearning™

elearning.ttu.edu/hs



@TTUeLearning



I AM APOLOGIA SCIENCE

"The biblical worldview of the Exploring Creation series and its authors is refreshing. These are real scientists who present God's creation in all of its awe and splendor. References to God's handiwork are intertwined throughout the texts at appropriate times. As we learned science, we were reminded where the earth and all of its creations come from."

Sue Mercer, Homeschooling Mom

"Apologia Science was a great launching point that helped me succeed throughout college. I would absolutely recommend Apologia to parents and students looking for an effective and interesting science curriculum. In fact, I already do whenever I meet homeschooling families!"

Allyson (Mercer) Martin, Associate Food Scientist Professional Certificate of the Culinary Arts, Culinary Institute of America-Greystone, Bachelor of Science in Food Science, Purdue University



apologia.com





Continued from page 32

With such full lives, sometimes finding time to spend one-on-one with each of our children can be difficult. Nonetheless, it's important.

Why?

For Building Relationships and Making Memories

Mom and Dad should be a child's confidant. As children grow up and hit those teen years, especially, they need to have private time to talk. Sometimes they have questions. Sometimes they need to vent. Sometimes they need to let their hair down, relax and just be free to be themselves. It was always on some excursion that my husband or I had "the talk" with them. They were free to ask questions without being embarrassed by the other

kids being nearby.

Spending time with your child builds memories. The times you share alone with your child are precious, and he will remember all those moments, and things you said in them, later in life.

For Building Confidence and Character

In quality one-on-one conversations, children learn to speak clearly and to express themselves so that they don't feel self-conscious in a group. Once your child feels valued in your eyes, he can take that confidence and know he is valuable as a person.

Spending one-on-one time with your child also builds character. From you they learn how to be productive members of society. They learn how to

behave and how not to behave. They learn what is expected of them. You are the most important influence in your children's lives.

Okay, you're convinced (and it probably didn't take much to convince you), but how do we make one-on-one time happen in such a busy schedule?

Here's where a little creativity can go a long way. Try some of these ideas to see what works for you and your family.

Stagger bedtimes—youngest first, at 15-minute intervals, depending on the ages and the number of children you have. Take these few minutes together to talk about the day or plan for the next. Keep it simple, and if possible, keep it silly. Always try to end the day on a good note.

UMHB FACTS



Student body includes more than 3,700 students from 26 countries; 90% of full-time freshmen live on campus.



1845

UMHB was chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas and has operated continuously ever since.



More than 60 majors are offered across seven colleges (Business, Christian Studies, Education, Humanities, Nursing, Science, and Visual and Performing Arts).

16
1

The low student-to-faculty ratio cultivates an environment where students can grow and thrive.

FOUND WHAT I'M
LOOKING FOR.

#UMHB

UNIVERSITY of MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR / Education for Life... Experience of a Lifetime
Office of Admissions • 900 College St., UMHB Box 8004 • Belton, TX 76513 • 800.727.8642

umhb.edu



Heart of Dakota Publishing

Christ-centered Learning from Our Heart to Yours

AGES 2-5 LITTLE HANDS TO HEAVEN Ages 2-5	AGES 5-7 LITTLE HEARTS FOR HIS GLORY Ages 5-7	AGES 6-8 BEYOND LITTLE HEARTS FOR HIS GLORY Ages 6-8	AGES 7-9 BIGGER HEARTS FOR HIS GLORY Ages 7-9 extending to 10-11	AGES 8-10 PREPARING HEARTS FOR HIS GLORY Ages 8-10 extending to 11-12	AGES 9-11 HEARTS FOR HIM THROUGH TIME CREATION TO CHRIST Ages 9-11 extending to 12-13	AGES 10-12 HEARTS FOR HIM THROUGH TIME RESURRECTION TO REFORMATION Ages 10-12 extending to 13-14
AGES 11-13 HEARTS FOR HIM THROUGH TIME REVIVAL TO REVOLUTION Ages 11-13 extending to 14-15	AGES 12-14 HEARTS FOR HIM THROUGH TIME MISSIONS TO MODERN MARVELS Ages 12-14 extending to 15-16	AGES 13-15 WORLD GEOGRAPHY Ages 13-15 extending to 16-17	AGES 14-16 WORLD HISTORY Ages 14-16 extending to 17-18	AGES 15-17 U.S. HISTORY I Ages 15-17 extending to 18	AGES 7-15 DRAWN INTO THE HEART OF READING Ages 7-15	

Discussion Board - heartofdakota.com/board • [facebook.com/heartofdakota](https://www.facebook.com/heartofdakota)
heartofdakota.com • 605-428-4068

DISCOVER TTUISD HOMESCHOOL SOLUTIONS

Texas Tech University Independent School District benefits:

- Supplement your school or homeschool curriculum
- Earn an accredited high school diploma from any location
- Earn credits during the summer from any location
- Graduate on time or early
- Make up failed credits (credit recovery)
- Take courses not offered at your school or in your current homeschool curriculum.

TTUISD offers Texas Education Agency accredited:

- Full-Time Texas High School Diploma Program
- Individual Courses (Supplemental)
- Credit by Exams (CBEs)

The TTUISD online high school program is ranked as **4th nationally** and **1st in Texas** by Best College Reviews



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
TTUISD™

www.ttuisd.ttu.edu/THSC

Pray together. This could be something to incorporate into your nightly routine, or pray with each child individually before you start school for the day. Prayer time helps calm restless spirits and sets the tone for the day ahead.

Read books. Siblings often have different tastes in books; take advantage of that. Curl up under a blanket on the couch or take a picnic blanket outside in the sunshine and read a book of his or her choosing.

Go for a walk or run. Walks are perfect times for private chats. Exercise can both energize (for those who need it) and release energy (for those who need that). If you have an older child that enjoys running or has to run for sports requirements, join her.

Run errands with a buddy. Instead of running around town by yourself, take turns bringing one of the kids with you. Going to the grocery store or the

post office may not be all that exciting, but it allows for some one-on-one time, and it's even sweeter if you stop for a milkshake along the way.





INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Presented by Harmony Public Schools

Get an Up Close Look at The Future

Join us for a fun-filled day as students from over 60 countries showcase science projects answering some of the world's most pressing needs.



9am-1pm Friday, May 5th

George R. Brown Convention Center - Hall E, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston
Free admission. Visit iswweep.org for more information.

PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CHRIST-CENTERED SERVICE!



ALERT

AIR LAND EMERGENCY RESOURCE TEAM
903-636-2000 | alertacademy.com



Schedule date nights. Set up a specific time to do something alone with each of your children, whether it's once a month or even a couple of times a year. See a play with your theater-loving child. A music lover would enjoy a concert when his favorite group comes to town. Go miniature golfing with one of the younger children. Take your teen boy to a local men's outing. One of my daughters enjoys trying new restaurants and new foods. When the local coupon books come out with coupons for free or buy-one-get-one free meals, we begin making plans. Scheduling dates gives everyone something to look forward to.

Make birthdays special. Birthdays are all about one person—unless you have twins! There is no better opportunity

to take advantage of individual time. Go shopping. Go out to lunch. Get a manicure or pedicure. Do anything the birthday child specifically enjoys doing. Arrange it so that you can leave the rest of the children with the other parent, grandparent or a babysitter. Not being in a rush and not having to be home at a specific time is a wonderful feeling and helps the birthday child feel truly special.

Don't stress about having alone time with each of your children when schedules are already stressful enough. If you set it as a priority, some of that individual time will happen naturally or spontaneously. One-on-one time allows your children to speak privately with you when they need to, it creates a lasting bond, and helps you enjoy each of your children away from the

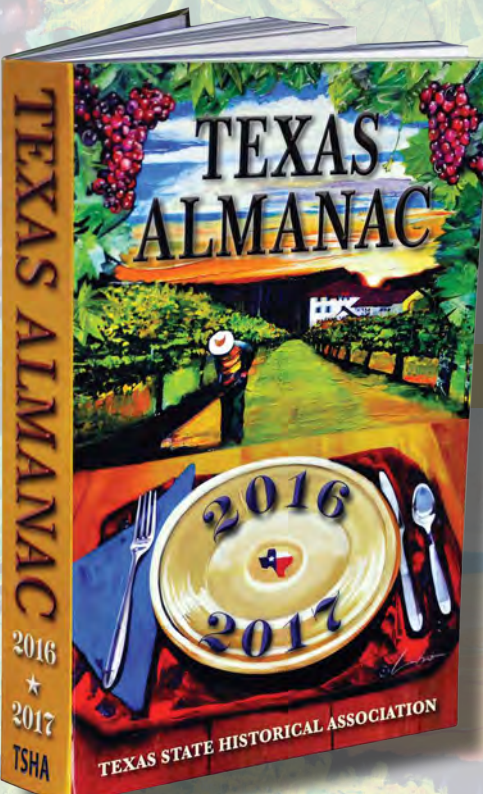
chaos of normal family life. It's time you will treasure forever. ■



Ruth O'Neil has been a freelance writer for more than 20 years, publishing hundreds of articles in dozens

of publications. You can visit her at Ruths-Real-Life.blogspot.com or on her website at RuthONeil.weebly.com. Ruth spends her spare time quilting, scrapbooking and camping with her family.

GET THE FACTS ON THE LONE STAR STATE!



TEXAS ALMANAC 2016-2017

Hardcover – \$39.95 ★ Flexbound – \$24.95

752 pages ★ 254 detailed county maps

Hundreds of photos and state maps

New feature articles ★ updated data

Home schoolers receive a 40% educational discount


Order by phone – 512.471.2600

Or online – www.TexasAlmanac.com

FREE ONLINE TEACHER'S GUIDE

Download more than 60 PDF lessons and activities at:

https://texasalmanac.com/teachers-guide

Published by  **TSHA**
Texas State Historical Association

The Source For All Things Texan Since 1857



Join Texas Home School Coalition

**You can depend
on us to protect
your rights as
a Texas family.**

Benefits of THSC Membership

- Free Legal Assistance
- FREE Convention Registration
- Texas Home School Handbook
- Student and Teacher Photo ID Cards
- Customized Diplomas
- Report Card Template
- High School Transcript Template
- Special Needs Consultant and Support
- Home School Support Staff

**With hundreds of
volunteers and staff—all
with home schooling
experience in Texas,
THSC is
The Authority on Home
Education in Texas**



**T E X A S
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION**

Keeping Texas Families Free™

Look what we have done together since our founding:

- Texas Supreme Court ruled home schooling legal
- Parents can teach driver's ed
- Home schoolers can take dual credit classes
- Home schoolers are eligible for higher ed grants
- State colleges can no longer discriminate against home schoolers
- Public schools must allow home schoolers to take PSAT

Visit THSC.org or call 806.744.4441 for more information.



Welcome to my laboratory. You've caught me right in the middle of an experiment, and I could really use some help. Would you like to be my lab technician?

I've concocted a compound that I believe will help young students:

- Identify parts of a story plot, such as the beginning, middle and end
- Practice reading and researching
- Practice making presentations.

This concoction works with any book as the main ingredient, but if you need a good book to read, one of my favorites is "Silly Sally" because that's what I named my pet scorpion! Don't have "Silly Sally?" No problem! You can use any book!

It may seem like madness, but here's my method. Follow these steps carefully:

Start by reading the main ingredient (book) and describe in just a few words or lab notes:

- What happened in the beginning?
- What happened in the middle?
- What happened in the end?

Now it's time to add mystery ingredients. You get to choose. Pick one or more of these steps and add them to your concoction. Here's a list of the ingredients and an example of how I mixed it with "Silly Sally." You can use my exact method or create your own that works with your book.

- Draw a picture of something from the story: I drew a frog.
- Play a game that has something to do with the story: I played Leap Frog.
- Calculate something important about the book, such as how many years ago it took place, or how many hours or days might have passed from the beginning to the end of the story. I added animals as Silly Sally picked them up. Then I started at the end of the the story and subtracted animals.

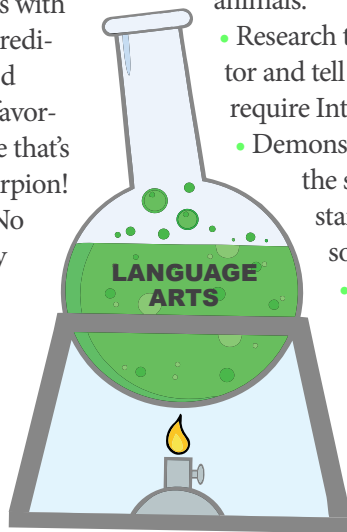
- Research the author/illustrator and tell about her life (will require Internet research).

- Demonstrate some action for the story. I did five handstands. (But I needed some help!)

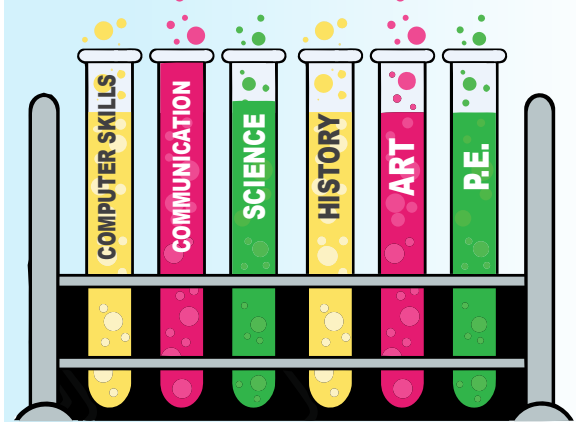
- Using the Internet or an encyclopedia, conduct important research on something from your story. I researched the author in

Wikipedia and wrote one paragraph about her. Then, because I really wanted a challenge, I wrote a three-paragraph report on the classification and habitat of one of the animals Sally collected.

Congratulations! Our concoction is complete and it appears that we have successfully created an Artech-nical Historically Scientific Commu-nicalanguage Activity! I couldn't have done it without you! ■



PROFESSOR AMALGAM'S MOTLEY CURRICULUM CONCOCTIONS



Parents, incorporate this Curriculum Concoction into your middle or high school instruction by choosing one or more of the activities below to apply to more advanced literature. Mix and match activities from the elementary, middle, and high school levels for more interdisciplinary fun.

Middle School

- Introduce setting, characters, plot (rising and falling action, conflict and resolution). Discuss how some of these details are in the pictures.
- Identify the genre of the children's book; write and illustrate a short children's story of that genre.
- Read the book to others, while working on intonation, stance, facial expressions and engaging movement.

High School

- Write an annotated bibliography page for research documentation regarding an applicable aspect of the story.
- Create a dynamic PowerPoint® presentation on the chosen aspect of the story.
- In a brief essay, compare and contrast sociological or civic aspects of the story.
- Increase the length and depth of content of research projects with mandatory internal documentation and Works Cited page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THSC Capitol Days 2017

Feb. 6, March 9, April 3

Austin, Texas

THSC.org/capitoldays

THSC Convention–Arlington

May 11-13, 2017

Arlington, Texas

THSC.org/conventions

THSC Convention–The Woodlands

July 20-22, 2017

The Woodlands, Texas

THSC.org/conventions

ADVERTISER INDEX

15	ACCELERATED CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
20	ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE
33	APOLOGIA SCIENCE
9	BASIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACADEMY
2	BJU PRESS
26	BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING
BC	CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS
7	CUTTING EDGE PEDIATRIC THERAPY
13	FRONTIER CAMP
21	FULL ARMOR SYSTEMS
35	HEART OF DAKOTA PUBLISHING
9	HIS HILL BIBLE SCHOOL
13	HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY
37	INTERNATIONAL ALERT ACADEMY
37	I-SWEEEP
16	JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY
5	LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY

43	OAK BROOK COLLEGE OF LAW
15	POSITIVE ACTION FOR CHRIST
29	PURE FLIX
24	ROD & STAFF PUBLISHERS, INC
15	SCHLITTERBAHN RESORTS
27	THE SEPTIEN GROUP
30	SETON TESTING
13	SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS
38	TEXAS ALMANAC
33	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY WORLDWIDE E-LEARNING
36	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
17	THSC CAPITOL DAYS
25	THSC EVENTS - 2017 CONVENTIONS
39	THSC MEMBERSHIP
35	UNIVERSITY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR
20	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

THSC Association Membership Benefit Providers

The following companies offer discounts and benefits to THSC Association members. Find out more at THSC.org

Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Health Insurance
bcbstx.com

FEAST
homeschoolfeast.com

Mega Mortgage of Texas
THSCmortgage.com

UberSmart Software
ubersmartsoftware.com

Creation Illustrated
creationillustrated.com

HEP Bookstore
hepbookstore.com

MiQuotes.com
miquotes.com

Discover Texas
discovertexasonline.com

Homeschool Spanish Adacemy
homeschoolspanishacademy.com

My Favorite Campground
myfavoritecampground.com

Driver Ed in a Box
driveredinabox.com

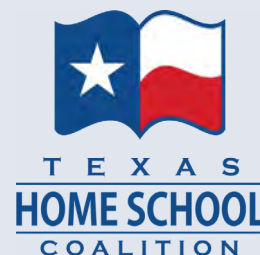
Liberty Mutual
libertymutual.com

TeenPact Leadership Schools
teenpact.com

Education Plus
homeschooltranscripts.com

Lumerit
lumerit.com

THSC Association
thsc.org



The Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) is a 501(c)(3) educational organization that is supported by tax-deductible donations. THSC is dedicated to serving the home school community; it promotes home education in Texas by educating the public, the home school community, and officials about home schooling.

THSC Association, a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization, is dedicated to *Keeping Texas Families Free*. It is supported by membership fees and donations. THSC Association membership benefits include legal assistance, as well as a long list of other offerings and discounts.

The work of the THSC PAC (Political Action Committee)—endorsing and supporting pro-home schooling candidates—is supported by donations that are not tax-deductible.

See THSC.org for more information.

All Natural, No Preservatives

By Donna Schillinger



AT THE END OF THE DAY

After a decade on Facebook, I have deleted my account. Not an easy thing. Facebook kept clinging to me—“Your account will remain active for two more weeks—just in case you change your mind.”

The thing is, I was conflicted about it. Facebook makes pretty good company. It's also the vehicle through which I reconnected with a lot of people. Like that time when I found a cluster from my high school graduating class, and from one day to the next, I was friends again with some 25 people who, to be honest, I hadn't thought about in 20 years. I soon knew more about them than I ever did while in high school. Is it just me, or can anyone else lose 10 and 15 minutes at a time clicking through pictures of someone you barely know?

If I had nothing better to do, this would not be a problem. But there are two things that compel me to make better use of my time.

1. In the guide to right living that my Heavenly Father has provided, the word “leisure” doesn't appear anywhere. (Searched it! 0 results.) But the word “work” is in there 555 times.
2. The time I spend in virtual relationships with people who I haven't seen and won't see for years—if ever again—is, almost minute-for-minute, time I could be spending with the people who are sitting in my living room right now. It's time I could be educating my children.

There's nothing wrong with keeping in touch with people through Facebook, but there is something unnatural about it. Facebook preserves relationships long past their expiration date, and it brings back to life relationships that had long lain in decay.

All the nastiness of Election 2016 was the impetus for me to evaluate the role of Facebook in my life. I carefully weighed the time, exposure to consumerism, the rudeness and negativity against staying in closer contact with “friends,” and all the other cool stuff one finds on Facebook, and in the final analysis, Facebook came up lacking.

Here was the summation: By nurturing relationships with 536 “friends,” I am a less attentive companion to one and mother to two. Or, as one Facebook meme put it, “A friend to many, and sadly missed.”

I want to be the favorite aunt, the reliable sister, the unwavering mother, but is commenting on statuses and liking posts the way to make it happen? No, I need to push back from the computer (or put down the phone) and give hugs, hold hands, write out checks, make coffee, make meals, and drive long distances to see graduations and hold new babies. I must invest in relationships to become that woman.

To quote yet another Facebook meme (I told you I was conflicted!), “Some talk to you in their free time, and some free their time to talk to you.” I choose to be the latter. ■

Donna Schillinger serves as publications manager for Texas Home School Coalition.



5 Reasons You Should Consider Oak Brook College Of Law and Government Policy:

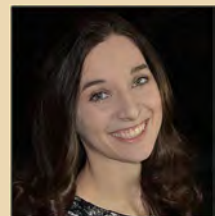
1. Historical Christian Worldview on our Constitution
2. Tuition less than a fifth of the average law school
3. Skip undergrad and go directly to law school
4. Flexible four-year distance learning program
5. Close-knit network of mainly home school alumni already making an impact



"The close friendships I developed at Oak Brook, with those who share a commitment to making an impact for the Lord, have been an incredible blessing. If you have an interest in law or public policy, you should consider the JD degree from Oak Brook College of Law."

- David Covey, OBCL Graduate

"The education and experience I gained while attending Oak Brook provided me with a foundation for my work defending our constitutional rights. Because of Oak Brook's unique model and environment, I was able to graduate law school at the age of 21, with a network of friends, mentors and colleagues that can't be rivaled. If you are interested in making an impact in law, politics or public policy, you should definitely consider getting your degree from Oak Brook."



- Katie Kerschner, Center for Tenth Amendment Action at the Texas Public Policy Foundation

For stories on homeschool graduates making an impact in law and public policy like the youngest State Senator in Minnesota, Andrew Mathews, go to www.obcl.edu/impact. Or for more information on how to apply, go to www.obcl.edu.

TEXAS HOME SCHOOL COALITION
PO Box 6747, Lubbock TX 79493

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dallas, TX
Permit #3531

Be bold. Be independent. **Be connected.**

Join over 12,000 friendly Texans in local communities.



*Classical
Conversations*[®]



www.ClassicalConversations.com/Texas-Community