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Clark County Homeschool Information

The place to
2008
get the info

Answers to the most frequently asked questions in the county.

By Becky Develle & Allison Rice

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How do I get started homeschooling?

This is a big question. It's too big for this little publication. But in summary, learning how to homeschool requires the parent to do a little research. You will have lots of questions and we hope this packet will direct you to the sources of the answers.

Imagine travelling to a distant planet and visiting the culture there. How would you know which foods you like? Which ones are the healthiest and which are junk food? You could be brave and simply start sampling different ones until you find one that you like. Or you could begin inquiring of the locals. What's that one like? Is it sweet or sour? In homeschooling, asking experienced homeschoolers about choices will be your key.

One particular support group was formed to answer these questions in depth. It is called **Smoothing the Way** (see *Where Can I Join a Support Group?*) and will help mentor and walk homeschoolers through their first year. This may be the place for you if you are asking these questions.

Many homeschool support groups have been established over the years to share just this type of information. This packet was developed out of that sharing but it cannot replace the need for support groups. Attending a support group is considered essential by many homeschooling families.

Generally, in these support groups you will be able to hear how others have dealt with struggles. You will be able to ask your own pressing questions and receive encouragement.

This booklet is intended to supply contact information for your research. Local curriculum stores are listed as well as those offering services for families with special needs, those who offer classes to supplement homeschooling, a legal synopsis, suggested reading material and web sites. There's a section on fun community activities to supplement your home education as well as retailers who offer discounts to home-educating families.

May you find such a wide variety of resources inspiring that many families are homeschooling successfully. And may you also find this booklet indispensable on your adventure through homeschooling and may God show you many joys through the journey.

Where can I join a support group?

This will be your most vital link for support and keeping up on important information. The bare facts about a number of support groups and their essence are listed below. But you might like to visit a few of them—even several times—before making any decisions.

Generally, in these support groups you will be able to hear how others have dealt with struggles. You will be able to ask your own pressing questions and receive encouragement. Attending a support group is considered essential by many homeschooling families.

LOCAL GROUPS	DESCRIPTION
Smoothing the Way (Grace Baptist Church) Becky Develle, 892-4212 rubies31@comcast.net www.swahninfo.net	A support group to mentor new homeschoolers through their first year. Meets third Mondays (September -April), 7:00 p.m., open to all.
CCHE (Clark County Home Educators) POB 5941 Vancouver, WA 98668 Message Line: (360) 576-5357	Homeschool events, website, print newsletter, BIG annual used book sale, library, annual resource night, \$18 membership, www.cchomeed.org
Saint Gregory the Great (St. Joseph's Catholic Church) Kris Alexander, 254-8633	Monthly meetings, activities, field trips, for Catholic families in SW WA.
A. C. E. (Autodidact Comm. Enthusiasts) Lori Loranger, 837-3760 lori@novah.org	Meets Fridays in Camas Community Center, 1-4 PM; non-religious, relaxed, un-schooling co-op, www.novah.org
Home Grown Marilyn Van Osdel 687-3763 MVanOsdel@msn.com	Meets 2nd Thursdays in homes; speakers, Christian moms' activities, field trips, used book sale, newsletter, \$10/yr.

LOCAL GROUPS	DESCRIPTION
Holy Rosary Catholic (serving SW WA and Portland) Jennifer Alles, 571-9037 Doug_Alles@msn.com	Meets monthly in Portland, field trips, classes for Catholic families, newsletter, lots of activities. Open to anyone.
Homeschool Harmony Regina Beer 1-(360) 274-0539 www.homeschoolharmony.com	Meets 2nd Mondays in Kelso, speakers, events, newsletter, Homeschool Presentation Night, Graduation, \$20/year.
Clark County Homeschool Teens Debbie Crane, 885-3089 stressdmmum@comcast.net	For ages 12 – highschool; no younger siblings permitted; parents take turns supervising events every other Sat. at 6:PM
Amboy Baptist Becky Stoolfire (360) 247-5002 livinonapray@tds.net	Meets for prayer, fellowship, and encouragement.
Liahona Home Educators LDS Homeschool Group Lisa Blanchard 896-4035	Education, support, and opportunities for homeschool families.
LOCAL E-MAIL GROUPS	
SWAHN Classifieds SWAHNclassifieds-subscribe-@yahoogroups.com www.groups.yahoo.com/group/-SWAHNclassifieds	It is for selling/buying/trading homeschool materials and other related items of interest to homeschool families in SW Washington.
Clark County Homeschoolers White.castle@comcast.net www.groups.yahoo.com/group/clarkcountyhomeschoolers	All religions/spiritual paths, and educational styles welcome to connect to the county homeschool community.
Special Homeschoolers of WA Patti Durovchic (360) 887-1664 durovchic@comcast.net	An email support/resource for homeschoolers facing various challenges and special needs.

STATE WIDE GROUPS

**Christian Heritage Home
Educators of Washington**

25 Geissler Road.
Montesano, WA 98563
www.christianheritageonline.org

Sharing a vision for more than higher quality education, they encourage discipleship, networking, conferences, informative website.

**CHN Christian Homeschool
Network of Washington**

www.chnow.org
chnow@msn.com

Grass roots, protecting God given homeschool rights w/o gov't interference; information for gov't agencies & families.

OCEAN

(Oregon Christian Home
Education Association Network)
503-288-1285
www.oceanetwork.org

Annual homeschool convention; Curriculum Show (the largest book fair in OR and SW Washington); homeschool support, political watchdogs.

W.H.O.

(WA Homeschool Organization)
6627 S 191st Place, # F-109
Kent, WA 98032
(425) 251-0439/251-6984 (fax)
www.washhomeschool.org
Clark County, Region 8 Contact:

Support for all homeschoolers; political action group; annual convention in Puyallup, homeschool graduation, new homeschooler information & legal information; email alert service.
Ann Wigardt (360) 665-6056

Where can I buy books around here?

Clark County is fortunate to have many local resources. Here are places where you can spend some time looking at many products, asking questions, and comparing prices before making the purchase decision. Some will let you return products which don't work for your family.

CURRICULA COUNTER

Providing the best of all researched materials for all learning styles.

Becky Develle

892-4212

rubies31@comcast.net

www.swahninfo.net

Institute for Excellence in Writing

Learn to teach all types of writing, from creative to non-fiction reports and essays. Reach reluctant writers as well as help creative writers improve too. This excellent video taped seminar which teaches parents how to teach this core subject for grades K-12 is available for purchase or may be borrowed FREE. Developing the skills of writing and communicating is so crucial. You don't want to miss this one!

Grammar, literature and supplements for a great homeschool offered. 100% money back guarantee on all purchases with no time limit.

Spell to Write and Read

An intensive phonics program, complete spelling for all grades and reading for gifted to dyslexic students. Counseling and seminars offered. History, parenting books and more!

Clark County is fortunate to have many local resources. Here are places where you can spend some time looking at many products, asking questions, and comparing prices before making the purchase decision. Some will let you return products which don't work for your family.

<p>Kingfisher Curriculum Cove 72 & NE Glisan Portland, OR 97213 503-262-9700 1-800-640-9636 www.kfcurriculum.com</p>	<p>Wide variety of books & fun stuff. Play space for kids, some classes offered, beginning homeschool info, free catalog with coupons. Used books on consignment, nice return policy.</p>
<p>Branches Christian Bookstore 6709 NE 63rd ST Vancouver, WA 98661 694-6461</p>	<p>No curricula per se offered but books about homeschooling, encouragement and possibly for unit studies; special orders, frequent buyer's card.</p>
<p>Exodus Provisions 19146 S Molalla Ave #A Oregon City, OR 97045 503-655-1951 www.exodusbooks.com</p>	<p>New and used books, special orders, great variety of homeschool material, children's books, classics & Christian titles. Ask for a copy of the catalog.</p>
<p>Polished Apple 800-536-6284 www.polishedapple.com</p>	<p>Math U See rep, Joyce Herzog materials, warehouse clearance. Join e-mail list for special offers.</p>
<p>Hewitt Homeschooling Resources 2103 B ST Washougal, WA 98607 835-8708</p>	<p>Offers a variety of services and books in their own relaxed approach. Open 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. M-Th in Washougal. www.hewitthomeschooling.com</p>
<p>Moore Foundation Bookstore 102 CBD Mall Drive, North Bonneville, WA 98639 (509) 247-7779</p>	<p>Christian and homeschool books on a variety of subjects. www.moorefoundation.com</p>

Many of the traditional programs, such as A Beka are generally ordered by mail. Many unique and specialty curricula providers are only available through the mail or the internet. Below are some of the most popular ones.

Standard **textbooks** are re-usable whereas **workbooks** are generally consumed and tossed (or saved in a file for their records if you choose). **Worktexts** are consumable workbooks which have the 'text book' portion interspersed. They are self-contained, meaning that usually nothing else is needed besides a pencil.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. It is merely a starting point. The suggested reading material will offer you contacts.

Textbooks

A Beka Books

www.abeka.com

877-223-5226

Christian, conservative, patriotic flavor. Purchase by mail and conventions only. Travelling salesmen host shows of material. Contact company for details.

Alpha Omega

www.home-schooling.com

800-622-3070

Worktexts approach plus CD-ROM versions, **Umbrella** Program (*see Who offers Umbrella Programs?*) online courses.

Bob Jones

www.bjup.com

800-845-5731

Older math program, recommended for its math related career sections. Beautiful illustrations, traditional, Christian.

Christian Liberty Press

www.homeschools.org

800-832-2741

Christian, traditional, reformed, historical flavor. Books, correspondence courses, **Umbrella** Program (*see Who offers umbrella programs?*). Nature readers highly recommended.

Christian Light Education

www.anabaptists.org/clp

540-434-0768

Mennonite, worktexts, correspondence courses. Purchase by mail and conventions only.

Rod and Staff

www.anabaptists.org/ras

606-522-4348

Traditional Mennonite text books, wholesome reading books, Spanish and Mennonite publications. Sale each December on seconds.

Saxon Publishers

2600 John Saxon Blvd.

www.saxonpublishers.com

Norman, OK 73071

800-284-7019

Publishers of a popular line of math books.

Phonics & Spelling**Back Home Industries**

POB 22495

www.bhibooks.org

Milwaukie, OR 97269

Offers intensive phonics program, spelling and reading for gifted to dyslexic students. Catalog includes many more book finds.

Unit Studies**Alta Vista**

www.altavistaseattle.com

800-544-1397

Biblical world view (K-9).

KONOS

www.konos.com

972-924-2712

Unit study activities based upon character qualities, includes various history & science topics.

Weaver

www.weaverinc.com

800-622-3070

Bible based unit study. (sold by Alpha Omega, see page 10)

Beautiful Feet Books

139 Main ST

508-833-8626

Sandwich, MA 02563

www.bfbooks.com

History unit study resources using “living books” (novels & short stories). Republishes older classics, great reading books.

Tapestry of Grace

17923 Teri Drive

www.tapestryofgrace.com

Derwood, MD 20855

800-705-7487

Classical Christian unit study K-12.

Heart of Wisdom

13503 Minion ST

www.heartofwisdom.com

Woodbridge, VA 22192

Info@HeartofWisdom.com

High school, Bible-based, other resources (replaces Far Above Rubies and Listen My Son).

Sonlight

www.sonlight.com

303-730-6292

Structured literature based, world missions focus. Full program is 4-5 hours per day, can use individual components.

Catalogs**Veritas Press**

www.veritaspress.com

800-922-5082

Classical Christian education, K-12, lots of good literature, original & award winning Bible and chronological history resources.

Timberdoodle

www.timberdoodle.com

360-426-0672

Curricula for “hands-on” learning and other fun supplies.

Elijah Company

www.elijahco.com

888-235-4524

Offers an overview of different teaching philosophies inside their large catalog.

Greenleaf Press

3761 Hwy 109 www.greenleafpress.com
North Lebanon, TN 37087 800-311-1508
Chronological approach to history. Many interesting & exciting
books. This catalog is a good resource for reading titles.

Home School Products

1550 Oak Industrial Lane Suite F 800-401-9931
Cumming, GA, 30041 www.homeschooldiscount.com
Competitive prices on many popular homeschool items.

Rainbow Resource

www.rainbowresource.com 888-841-3456
Low price leader, thousands of products, reviews, links.

Christian Book Distributors

www.christianbook.com 800-247-4784
Wide variety, low prices, ask for Homeschool Catalog.

Whole Heart Catalog

www.wholeheart.com 888-311-2146
Home-centered learning with a discipleship emphasis.

Where can I try out curricula and find supplements?

CCHE HOMESCHOOL LIBRARY

Open to all homeschoolers. Please visit the CCHE website for
details: CCHOMEED.ORG .

*Also see Curricula Counter, page 8; SWAHN Classifieds email,
pg. 6.*

NATHHAN

National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network

POB 310,

208-267-6246

Moyie Springs, ID 83845

www.nathhan.com

Help and encouragement found here for homeschooling children with special needs (disabilities and learning difficulties), lending library.

Special Homeschoolers of Washington

Patti Durovchic

887-1664

durovchic@comcast.net

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SpecialHSofWA

An email list for the state, lots of resources offered.

HELP - Help Eliminate Learning Problems

Box 126 Marylhurst College

503-635-3389

Marylhurst OR 97036

A non-profit, special purpose school offers testing, evaluation and treatment of adults & children with learning problems.

Murphy-Cates Learning Center

www.faithchristianmin.org

Offers evaluation; remediation and enrichment curriculum recommendations, customized curriculum, teacher training.

First Class Development and Learning Resources

Judy Russell

360-573-5523

www.firstclassdlr.com

Offers tutoring in reading, writing, math and spelling; vision therapy, neuro-developmental therapy, and other services for special needs and learning/behavioral challenges.

Kellie Hagen

834-0393

pathways@myexcel.com

Offers support, help in choosing curricula and tutoring for children with special educational needs.

Karen Bell

360-835-8965

karenstutoring@gmail.com

<http://karenstutoring.com>

Offers in-home tutoring and support in reading, writing, and math for students K-8 and all levels of abilities.

What are regular events in the community to be aware of?

These are some activities to keep on your calendar and plan for each year.

April: Christian Heritage Homeschool Conference in Seattle (*see Where can I Join a support group?*).

May: Many groups offer end of the year ceremonies and children's presentaion nights (*see Where can I Join a support group?*).

June: OCEAN Homeschool Conference is for encouragement and support. Nationally known speakers are brought to the Oregon Convention Center; offers the largest homeschool vendor hall in Oregon and SW Washginton (*see www.oceanetwork.org*). Used book sales (check with your support group or see CCHE page 6); WHO convention in Puyallup (*see Where can I Join a support group?*); summer art exhibit at the library by homeschoolers, contact Karen Guenther at KGCuppaT@cs.com.

August: CCHE (*see Where can I Join a support group?*) sponsors a homeschool resource fair. Come visit folks who offer services to homeschoolers. Clark County Fair (see page 49).

September: turn in your declaration of intent forms (see page 22); Washington State Fair in Puyallup (see page 49).

What Are Some Helpful Internet Sites?

Much research can be done online. Homeschool families own computers and have internet access in higher proportions than other segments of society. Many questions about homeschooling can be found at these sites as well.

The top of the list for being helpful is the Fort Vancouver Library System. This is a treasure for homeschooling families. Use their card catalog online from home. Order books which you may either pick up in person or have mailed to your home. What a wonderful service! Another one is for HSLDA. They have lots of information here with a particular legal focus. Practical Homeschooling has articles, discussion groups, and more offerings.

*Fort Vancouver Regional Library	www.fvrl.org
SW WA Homeschool Network	www.swahninfo.net
Home School Legal Defense Assoc.	www.hsllda.org
Practical Homeschooling Page	www.home-school.com
Cathy Duffy Reviews	www.cathyduffyreviews.com
Homeschooling Zone	www.homeschoolzone.com
National Home Education Research Institute	www.nheri.org
Virtual field trips	www.virtual-field-trips.com
National Home Education Network	www.nhen.org
Vegsource Homeschool Boards	www.vegsource.com/homeschool
How Stuff Works	www.howstuffworks.com
Living Math	www.livingmath.net
National Geographic	www.nationalgeographic.com
Donna Young: forms & helps	www.donnayoung.org
Children with Special Needs	www.geocities.com/Athens/8259
Unschooling	www.inspirit.com.au/unschooling
Joyce Herzog & Special Needs	www.joyceherzog.com
College at Home	www.globallearningstrategies.org

What is the Homeschool law in WASHINGTON?

It's been said that eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. If this is so then as homeschoolers we should all get a copy of the law, read it, and understand it, so that we can be ready to stand up against threats to our rights.

You may get a copy of *Washington State's Laws Regulating Home-Based Instruction* (the "Pink Booklet") by calling 1-360-725-6433. Or you may look it up on the website at www.k12.wa.us/PrivateEd/HomeBasedEd/PinkBook/A-6.pdf. It is a free publication.

Following is a generally understood interpretation of RCW § 28A.225.010 & 28A.200, the laws regulating homeschooling (or home based instruction as it is legally referred to).

Children in Washington are required to attend school between the ages of eight and eighteen. Nothing is required before a child turns eight. And if the child has graduated, received a GED or has a regular job after turning sixteen, he is no longer compelled to be in school.

What to teach? Parents are required to cover the following subjects: Science, Math, Language, Social Studies, History, Health, Reading, Writing, Spelling, Art and Music Appreciation, and Occupational Education. There is no provision for how, nor how much of each of these is to be taught.

While the teaching of these subjects should be deliberately and thoughtfully planned out, parents may remain flexible. Subjects do not have to be taught in isolation nor from a standard textbook. Some families choose community activities or thematic studies which incorporate several subjects.

How many hours? Homeschooling is supposed to contain an equivalent number of hours as a private school would. But in a further paragraph, RCW 28A.200.020(4) it states that only the minimum regulations needed to insure a basic education are required. And furthermore, we read in RCW § 28A.225.010(5) that "The legislature recognizes that home-based instruction is less structured and more experiential than the instruction normally provided in a classroom

setting. Therefore, the provisions . . . relating to the nature and quantity of instructional and related educational activities shall be liberally construed.”

We have recognition that homeschooling is more efficient than a classroom setting. It is not unheard of for a homeschooled student to finish a math lesson in fifteen minutes, for example. The legislature has not bound homeschoolers to strict hours but to a decent educational opportunity. The homeschooling parents’ responsibility is to see to it that the lessons are learned, not to count the hours.

Who may homeschool? Parents may only instruct their own children. There are **two options** for homeschooling in Washington. The first one is under the direct homeschool laws: RCW § 28A.225.010 and § 28A.200.010.

What are the requirements of the first option? Parents must meet one of the following four criteria to ‘qualify’ to homeschool.

1) If a parent has the equivalent of 45 college credit hours (about one year) then nothing more is required. (According to HSLDA if the father meets this criteria but the mother does not, if the father “does any teaching that would satisfy the requirements.”)

2) The parent may take a qualifying course from a college. (*see Where can parents take ‘qualifying’ courses?*)

3) The parent may have their homeschool program overseen by a certificated person. The child must meet an average of an hour per week with this person. The parents maintain flexibility in “all decisions relating to philosophy or doctrine, selection of books, teaching materials, and curriculum, and methods, timing, and place . . . of home-based instruction.” (*see Who offers umbrella programs?*)

4) A superintendent of a school district could possibly deem a parent ‘qualified.’ But it’s not likely to happen.

Do I have to fill out forms? Annually, homeschooling parents must notify their school district with a form called a “declaration of-intent”. It must be filed by September 15 or within two weeks of the beginning of a term. According to RCW § 28A.200.010(1), “The statement shall include the name and age of the child, shall specify whether a certificated person will be supervising the instruction, and shall be written in a format prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction.” Notice that it says age and NOT birth

date. Only IF a certificated person is working with the parents they must note that. No further information is required, even if the provided form asks for it. (see *Where do I get and file a Declaration of Intent form?*)

What about records? Records of the child’s yearly educational appraisal should be kept as well as records of immunizations, if the child received any. If the child later transfers to a public school these will be requested. The school might ask for samples of writing and math.

The last segment of the homeschool law regards testing. (please see *What about testing? section*)

What is the second option for homeschooling? It includes the use of **satellite** or **umbrella** school programs. In this case the children are considered to be enrolled in a private school (or public school if using HomeLink). This may be homeschool correspondence courses, or online academies, extension programs, etc. This is listed in RCW § 28A.225.010(1)(a) and 28A.195.010(4). These services generally include record keeping. The law mentions a certified teacher’s supervision in this plan. Under this option nothing more is required than what the school requests in its program.

Who offers umbrella programs?

- HomeLink (see Where can my child take classes?)*
- The Moore Foundation (see Where can I buy books around here?)*
- Hewitt Research (see Where can I buy books around here?)*
- Christian Liberty Press (see Where else can I buy curricula?)*
- Alpha Omega (see Where else can I buy curricula?)*
- Bob Jones (see Where else can I buy curricula?)*
- Calvary Academy (see Where can my child take classes?)*
- A Beka (see Where else can I buy curricula?)*
- Christian Light Education (see Where else can I buy curricula?)*
- Family Academy (see testing section)*
- Covenant Home Curriculum*

1-800-578-2421 www.covenanthome.com
N63 W23421 Main St; Sussex, WI 53089

Calvert

*1-888-487-4652 www.calvertschool.org
10713 Gilroy Road Suite B; Hunt Valley, MD 21031*

Clonlara

*1-734-769-4511 www.clonlara.org
1289 Jewett; Ann Arbor, MI 48104*

Seton Home Study School

*1-540-636-9990 www.setonhome.org
1350 Progress Drive; Front Royal, Virginia 22630*

See Big Books of Home Learning for more options, as well as homeschool magazines.

Where do I get and file a Declaration of Intent form?

Below are the school districts in Clark County. Contact the office of the district in which you live (or call the nearest one and ask if you are within their district). You may go in person, or call or write for a form to be sent to you or obtain a form from www.chnow.org

To mail the form, address it to: Superintendent of _____ School District, unless stated otherwise.

The district should return your copy to you by mail (unless you go in person). Rarely clerical errors occur. If this happens, then to provide proof that your form has been received, mail it certified or hand deliver it to the office and request it be marked received with the date. Keep your copy on file at home to be legal. Also it can be useful for receiving discounts from some local businesses.

Clark County School Districts

BATTLE GROUND 885-5338
11104 NE 149th St.
Brush Prairie (Casee Center, Bldg. A)
POB 200
Battle Ground, WA 98604

CAMAS 817-4403
Superintendent's Office Secretary
1919 NE Ione
Camas, WA 98607

EVERGREEN 604-4008
Student Welfare and Attendance (Burgandy complex)
13501 N.E. 28th St. Vancouver
POB 8910
Vancouver, WA 98668

HOCKINSON 256-5270
17912 N.E. 159th St.
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

LA CENTER 263-2131
725 Highland Rd.
POB 1840
La Center, WA 98629

RIDGEFIELD 887-0200
2724 S Hillhurst Road
Ridgefield, WA 98642

VANCOUVER 313-1330
2901 Falk Rd.
POB 8937
Vancouver, WA 98668

WASHOUGAL 954-3000, ext. 3000
2349 "B" St.
Washougal, WA 98671

WOODLAND 225-9451
800 3rd St
Woodland, WA 98674

Declaration of Intent to Home-School (SAMPLE)

Public School District: _____

Address: _____

A parent who intends to cause his/her child or children to receive home-based instruction in lieu of attendance or enrollment in a public school, approved private school, or an extension program of an approved private school must file an annual declaration of intent to do so in the format prescribed below:

I do hereby declare that I am the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child(ren) listed below; that said child(ren) is (are) between the ages of 8 and 18 and as such are subject to the requirements found in chapter 28A.225 RCW Compulsory Attendance; I intend to cause said child(ren) to receive home-based instruction as specified in RCW 28A.225.010(4); and if a certificated person will be supervising the instruction, I have indicated this by checking the appropriate space.

Child(ren)'s Name(s)

Age

() The home-based instruction will be supervised by a person certificated in Washington State pursuant to chapter 28A.410 RCW.

Signature

Date

Street Address

 City, State Zip

This statement must be filed annually by September 15 or within two weeks of the beginning of any public school term. Send this form to the superintendent of the public school district within which you reside, or the district that accepts the transfer. You may want to hand deliver it to obtain a stamp marking received with the date as your proof that it was submitted. Keep your copy on file at home.

Forms may be found at: http://dot-chnow.org-998260.namezero.com//sitebuildercontent/CHN_Declaration_of_Intent_form.pdf

What about testing?

Again, each homeschool family should have their own copy of the laws. Below is the excerpt on tests.

“Each parent . . . shall ensure that a standardized achievement test approved by the State Board of Education is administered annually to the child by a qualified individual or that an annual assessment of the student’s academic progress is written by a certificated person who is currently working in the field of education. The results of the standardized test or the annual academic progress assessment shall be made a part of the child’s permanent records. If, as a result of the annual test or assessment, it is determined that the child is not making reasonable progress consistent with his or her age or stage of development, the parent shall make a good faith effort to remedy any deficiency.”

“Test students in reading, language arts, and mathematics.”

The State Board of Education has a list of approved tests which may be used. The parent may pick any from this list (some have prerequisites to meet, though). The most common test is the California Achievement Test (CAT).

The CAT has a number of variations. Any of these will meet the law. The complete battery is the longest test which takes about seven hours to complete. The “survey” has fewer questions than the complete battery and takes less time. Form E has no science, social studies or study skills.

The Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) tests all academic areas including Reading, Language Arts, Spelling, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reference Skills.

The WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) is only offered for public school students who are required to take it in grades 4, 7, and 10. (Some HomeLink students are public school

students and may be asked to take it, though not yet required.)

Students must be tested every twelve month period, starting from age eight. The dates are the parents' option. The question of when they must be tested is not determined by the child's grade level or school year but by their age.

Each test's instructions specify who is qualified to administer it. You will want to find this out in advance of purchasing a test if you plan to administer the test to your own child. Suppliers of tests may differ in requirements for test administrators.

An option is the non-test or written assessment. The law doesn't specify what the assessment consists of. This could be decided upon between the parent and the assessor.

It must be done by a certificated person currently working in the field of education. Unfortunately teaching homeschool doesn't qualify. But the law doesn't say in which field of education, merely that the person is certificated.

Parents need to keep the results of these tests. There is no requirement to report results anywhere. The results may be kept confidential.

If the evaluation of the child shows that he is not making satisfactory progress the parents must look for ways to help the child. "Reasonable progress" and "good faith effort", terms of the law code, are not specified. It is the parents' responsibility to oversee this issue but they are given flexibility.

The only subjects required to be tested are reading, language arts and math. Science, social studies and study skills are areas covered in most standardized tests. It is the parents' choice whether to assess the child in these subjects.

What are the Pros and Cons of the Options?

GROUP STANDARDIZED TESTING

You have the option of taking the standardized tests in groups. Although this may be the easiest for parents, the dates available are limited. It may be uncomfortable for some children and contribute to

poor test-taking strategies to take a test in an unfamiliar setting amongst strangers.

The private standardized testing might eliminate the discomfort of strangers and new surroundings if done in one's own home but not if done in the tester's office. The parents have more options in scheduling the test. It can be more expensive than group testing.

Parents may also contact their local public school and inquire about them providing the testing. But the school will have the control and the test results.

PARENT ADMINISTRATION

Some parents will choose to administer the standardized test themselves. There are deadlines to meet in the ordering, administering and returning of the test material. Please read all of these instructions carefully including the administrator requirements (these may be college degrees, etc.). This has the benefit of familiar settings and provides the most flexible scheduling for the parent.

NON-TEST ASSESSMENTS

An alternative to the standardized test is the non-test assessment. This is done by a 'certificated' person who evaluates the child individually (as compared to the standardized tests which demonstrate how a child compares to others). It provides the most specific, personalized results. They are a preferred method of evaluation for students who do not test well or have special needs.

They have a much wider range of areas covered including feedback for how well the parent is teaching and curricula choices. It will help a parent to see weaknesses not shown on standardized tests. These may be customized for each family. The prices are generally higher than standardized tests.

Some assessors will provide the documentation of the assessment based upon a form submitted to them in which the parent indicates their accomplishments. This route is least expensive and by far the easiest. While it does not give any feedback to the parents, it does meet the letter of the law.

Who offers annual testing?

Organization	Phone / Address / Email / Web	Tests Available	Test Duration
Family Academy NW Carrie Patterson	360-573-0857 POB 65042 Vancouver, WA 98665 www.salmoncrlc.vilko.net	CAT 5 Survey & Complete Battery; Stanford and Iowa Tests	2 days; 2.5 - 4 hours per day
Family Academy NW Diane Hamilton	1-509-427-4252 1-509-310-9069 North Bonneville diane@hamilton-creek.com www.hamilton-creek.com	CAT 5; learning styles; non test assessments; others	2 days; 2.5 - 4 hours per day
Nelmark Assessments Dave Nelmark, M.S.	1-360-577-1958 2517 Greenway AV Longview 98632 dntesting@comcast.net	CTBS 5 Survey Plus	2 days; 2.5 hours per day
River City Educational Services Priscilla Lindseth	360-495-0880 220 W Hemlock McCleary, WA 98557 homeschoolrces.com	CAT 5 Survey	2 days 2.5 hours each
Basic Skills Assessment & Educational Services	503-650-5282 19146 S Molalla AV Oregon City, OR 97045 www.basicsskills.net	CAT E CAT 5 (others available)	1 day 2 hrs

Results & Formats	Cost	Location of Testing	When?	Comments
hand-scored by parent or teacher; (other options) available immediately	\$27 per test; (\$5 late reg. fee)	Various Clark County locations	Spring and fall	Parent helps correct test (credit \$2); Parents can look over test afterwards
Basic Format; hand-scored; computerized options	\$35-40 per test	Various SW Washington locations	Spring summer fall	Parents can see test afterwards;
Basic Format; more options offered; hand-scored	\$45 per child; \$35 if parent corrects	Various SW Washington & Oregon locations	Spring	Computer scoring optional (\$5 for late registration)
Basic Format; computer form mailed later	\$28-\$35; \$5 for late reg.)	Various SW Washington locations	Spring summer	Add \$3 for computer score; \$4 assistance/ mailing
All Formats; optional computer print out	\$36 for Simple; \$43 detailed profile	Basic Skills, (Oregon City); other	Year round	Private testing \$67

Parent Administered Testing

Organization	Phone / Address / Email / Web	Tests Available
Hewitt Home-schooling Resources	360-835-8708 POB 9 Washougal, WA 98671 www.hewitthomeschooling.com	PASS test Grades 3-8, reading, math, & language arts
Family Learning Organization	1-800-405-8378 POB 7247 Spokane, WA 99207 www.familylearning.org	CAT 5 Battery WRAT-E
Inland Empire Homeschool Center	1-800-378-4699 POB 1750 Airway Heights, WA 99001 www.cet.com/~hammer/	"hybrid" test/evaluation of the MAT
Seton Testing Services	540-636-9990 1350 Progress Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630 www.setonhome.org	CAT - Survey (CAT-E) (Language Arts and Math only)
Sycamore Tree	949-650-4466 www.mailordercentral.com/sycamoretree	CTBS
Bob Jones University Press, Ed. Services	1-800-845-5731 1700 Wade Hampton Blvd. Greenville, SC 29614-0062 testing.bjup.com	Stanford Achievement Test; Iowa Test of Basic Skills

Parent Administered Testing

Test Duration	Results Format	Cost	Administrator Requirements?
4 week window in which to administer; untimed	Simple subject scores or Detailed subject data	\$26 plus shipping & handling	No. Must receive teacher's documentation to be legal.
<p style="text-align: center;">CAT 1.5 - 5.5 hr (depending on grade) WRAT-E less than 2 hours</p>	Basic Format	<p style="text-align: center;">CAT \$35 WRAT-E \$30 \$4 S&H; plus return postage each</p>	No
Parents may read test to students; not required to follow the time limits; 3-7 hours.	Certified teacher writes report based on the results	\$40-50 depends upon grade level	No
<p style="text-align: center;">CAT 1.5 - 5.5 hr (depending on grade)</p>	Simple subject scores	CAT \$20	No
3 hr.	Simple subject scores	\$50	Yes. ordering and mail times
<p style="text-align: center;">2 or 3 days 2.5 - 5.5 hr/day (depending on grade)</p>	Diagnostic profile	<p style="text-align: center;">Standfor \$40 Iowa \$40 plus tax & return postage</p>	Yes

Non-Test Assessments

Organization	Phone / Address / Email / Web	Assessment Procedure
Salmon Creek Learning Center Carrie Patterson	360-573-0857 POB 65042 Vancouver, WA 98665 www.salmoncrlc.vilko .net	Works w/ student & parents to determine math, reading, spelling & writing ability; additional subjects
Nelmark Educational Assessments David Nelmark, M.S.	1-360-577-1958 2517 Greenway Ave. Longview, WA 98632 dnelmark@adelphia.net	Meets with student & parent(s), to determine ability in the '3 R's' using Woodcock-Johnson test, 3rd ed.
Basic Skills Assessment & Educational Services	503-650-5282 19146 S Molalla Ave. Oregon City, OR 97045 www.basicsskills.net	Meets w/ student & parents to determine math, reading & writing ability, assesses curricula, teaching tips
Family Learning Organization	1-800-405-8378 POB 1750 Mead, WA 99021 www.familylearning.org	Parent fills out form indicating what skills student has mastered; WA state certified teacher reviews & signs form
ACADEMY NORTH WEST Diane Hamilton	1-509-427-4252 North Bonneville diane@hamilton-creek.com www.hamilton-creek.com	Meets w/ student & parents to determine scholastic ability; curricula consulting

Test Duration	Results Format	Cost	Location of Assessment
About 1.5 - 2 hr (varies)	Printout of skill levels in the 4 basics; record of coverage in the 11 required subjects	\$40	Your home or Learning Center
About 1-2 hours (varies)	Computer printout and oral interpretation	\$75 per test	Year round. His home office or your home.
Basic Format; hand-scored; computerized options	\$37.50 per test	Basic Skills; inquire of other locations	Spring summer fall
"not very long"	Form confirming child's progress was evaluated	\$24 free-style \$30 checklist	In your home
About 2 hours (varies)	Written statement according to parents' preference	\$75	In your home; inquire of other locations

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL/NET
Smoothing the Way Becky Develle	9400 NE 50 AV Vancouver, 98665 Grace Baptist Church	rubies31@comcast.net www.swahinfo.net
Able to Teach Linda Krenelka	Winlock, WA	lcl@localaccess.com www.localaccess.com/lcl
Homeschool Oasis Barbara Shelton	182 N Col. H. Rd. Longview, 98632	beshelton@aol.com www.homeschooloasis.com
OPTions for Parent Teachers Paula Harper-Christensen	<i>online only</i>	http://home1.gte.net/saapps6 homeschooptions@hotmail.com
Family Learning Organization	POB 7247 Spokane, WA 99207	www.familylearning.org
Multnomah Bible College Carrie Patterson	P.O. Box 65042 Vancouver, WA 98665	salmoncrlc@juno.com

Where can parents take ‘qualifying’ courses?

One option for parents who’ve never been to college is to take a ‘qualifying course’ to legally homeschool their children. These courses cover the law, why choose homeschooling, some educational options and other topics.

PHONE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
1-360-892-4212	Meets 3rd Mondays, Sept. - Apr. at 7 PM; (also offered at Clark)	No Fees at GBC (online coming, free) \$79 at Clark College
1-360-785-4925	2-day seminar in Centralia/Chehalis.	\$120/150
1-360-423-4912	Correspondence & online course	Variable fees
425-391-6498	Audio-taped course or willing to travel College credit add'l fee	\$105/160
509-467-2552	Correspondence/ video course	\$125
573-0857	Live Seminar over 2 weekends	\$75/90

These courses are offered in many variations as well. Some are weekend long seminars while others are correspondence courses, some on videotape, one on the internet and one is a support group. They tend to have different educational philosophies as well as differing fees. If two fees are listed, the higher one is for couples.

What if I pull my kids out of school?

Some parents recognize in the middle of a term that homeschooling is their choice. You may withdraw your child at any point, but the school district needs to be notified. You may write them a letter and send it to the child's school.

The letter should include parents' names, address, childrens' names. Say something similar to "This is to notify you that I am withdrawing my child(ren) from your school as of (date). She will be homeschooled. I will submit a declaration of intent. If you have any questions please feel free to submit them in writing."

Sign it, "Sincerely" and include your title: either parent or guardian.

The best place to start is to find out where your child is in each area: physical, emotional, mental, academic. Begin with where she is at rather than a set point such as grade level. Many times when children are taken out of public school they suffer with adjustment to homeschool because of low self-esteem, peer dependency and academic "burn out" issues.

Take time with your child and work on these matters and gradually transition into the academic fields. Allow yourselves time for this adjustment. Spending more time at home will help you to focus on organizing your homeschool as well as making life easier for yourself.

Be sure to join a support group which can help you to deal with stress (which will come) and adult peer pressure. This may be relatives who disagree with your homeschool decision or others who intimidate you for your choice of curricula. You do not have to live up to anyone else's expectations. The parent knows the needs of the child better than anyone else and has been given the duty to raise him to his full potential.

What about high school?

There is no additional legal requirement for high school (beyond what's discussed in the LEGAL INFORMATION section) nor

for the granting of a diploma. Parents may create transcripts of their children's work, have a graduation date, and purchase diplomas. Other options are available to homeschool students through accredited extension school programs. However, if the student plans to transfer to a public or private school, it is strongly recommended that parents contact school staff to determine their policy regarding transfer credits and high school completion ahead of time. This planning is also recommended for technical schools, colleges and universities. **Home-based instruction students do not receive a Washington State Diploma.**

Information on how to create your own transcripts and more can be found in the section *What are some recommended books to read?* later in this booklet. (see particularly *Practical Homeschooling*)

For those of you who are planning your high school student's studies, there is a booklet available from the OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) called the Washington State Minimum Requirements for High School Graduation. To obtain a copy, please call 753-6715.

Running Start is a public school program that allows high school 11th and 12th graders to attend a community or technical college. Credits earned in the community or technical college will count as college credit as well as high school credit which may, but aren't required to, fulfill graduation requirements for a public high school diploma. The state pays the college tuition and families are responsible for books, fees, and transportation.

For the purposes of funding, it is necessary to enroll as a student in a public high school. The student must also pass the entrance or eligibility exams that the receiving community or technical college administers. The challenge for many homeschoolers is in establishing 11th or 12th grade status, as many districts will not recognize homeschool credits or accomplishments. Each district is different in their requirements. **Clark College** generally has been open to homeschoolers.

For current information on how to enroll or to receive help with Running Start, visit the CHN, WHO and HSLDA websites (see listings under "STATE WIDE GROUPS"). You can access the WA

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's information on the Running Start web page at <http://www.k12.wa.us/RunningStart/default.aspx>. The Clark College Running Start web page is http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/running_start/index.php

Take the entrance or eligibility exams from the community or technical college before you approach the high school personnel. Your passing scores will strengthen your case.

If you have difficulty obtaining services ask HSLDA for suggestions in this area.

If you are having difficulty accessing Running Start complain to your state representatives and senator. Part of the Running Start code, RCW 28A.600.390 states, "The rules shall be written to encourage the maximum use of the program and shall not narrow or limit the enrollment options under RCW § 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.380." Look for Running Start under "Specialty Programs" at <http://www.clark.edu/academics/>

Many **colleges** now welcome home-educated students. Homeschoolers have demonstrated their advantage in maturity, independent thinking skills, creativity, and extensive academic preparation. Occasionally SAT, ACT, or GED tests may be required by a college or employer. For military enlistment and some employment, if your student completes 15 credit hours of college work, a high school diploma is not necessary. For a list of colleges ranked by their homeschooler - friendliness see: <http://www.hsllda.org/docs/nche/000002/00000241.asp>.

Many colleges offer nontraditional programs for off-campus study. It is possible for students to **study at home for college credit** through distance learning. College credit can also be earned with CLEP tests and AP exams. The book, *Accelerated Distance Learning* by Brad Voeller explains this in detail. (*see also What are some recommended books to read? section, homeschool magazines and homeschool internet sites.*)

Some homeschoolers are entering their chosen fields through **apprenticeship** programs designed and supervised by parents and professionals.

Where can my child take classes?

Homeschooling need not be done in isolation. There are numerous sources for academic and extra curricular activities. Some families are relieved by not having to teach certain subjects. This list is invaluable for them.

Institute for Excellence in Writing

Becky Develle

892-4212

rubies31@comcast.net

www.swahinfo.net

This excellent video taped seminar which teaches parents how to teach this core subject for grades K-12 is available for purchase or may be borrowed FREE. Occasional group viewings arranged. You don't want to miss this one! Nancy Fertig offers tutoring as well, call her at 892-4106 or fertig3@integrity.com.

First Class Development and Learning Resources

Judy Russell

573-5523

www.firstclassdlr.com

Offers tutoring in reading, writing, spelling, math and grammar. Will teach small classes of homeschoolers if parents help coordinate.

Daybreak Individualized Learning Center

Teri Miller

263-2937

2210 W Main St. 107-229

921-9526

Battle Ground, WA 98604

daybreaklc@tds.net

Certified teacher tutors math, sciences, Biblical Worldview classes.

Advantage! Learning Solutions

5512 NE 109 Ct., #A1

885-1057

Vancouver, WA 98662

www.advantagelearningsolutions.com

ALS offers reading, writing and math clinics.

Sean's Astronomy Shop

666-6882

www.infobtainers.com

A 'store' in Battle Ground offers telescopes, etc., free viewing of the stars Wed-Sun., 4 pm to midnight, and classes in astronomy.

Hen & Chicks Sewing School

360-254-6152

bphennchicks@yahoo.com

Carol Montague offers personalized instruction with the Kids Can Sewing curricula for all ages, using her machines.

Kids Club Fun and Fitness

13914 NW 3rd Ct

www.kidsclubfunandfitness.com

Vancouver, WA 98685

546-KIDS

Offers dance, martial arts, swimming, gymnastics, homeschool PE.

Passes available for jungle play.

Musical Beginnings

9815 NE Covington Rd.

www.musicalbeginningsvancouver.com

Vancouver, WA 98662

360-882-0501

Offers group & private classes in guitar, piano, voice & violin; children's choir, musical theater, general music, song writing, Kindermusik. Day & evening hours for all ages.

First Class Christian Homeschool Co-op Clark County (FCCC)

Heidi St. John

www.firstclassclarkcounty.org

info@firstclassclarkcounty.org

360-326-8826

Classes offered in Vancouver, Battleground and Cowlitz County for K- high school, taught primarily by parents. Nursery and pre-K, field trips, support, and newsletter. Play park in Vancouver. Open to all.

Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation

696-8171

Many PE/sports, home ec and community classes offered.

Basic Skills

19146 S Molalla Ave

503-650-5282

Oregon City, OR 97045

www.basicsskills.net

Academy offers part and full time classes as well as testing.

Glory Art Works

253-9367

Joan Cherrington teaches art from a Christian perspective for 7-18 year olds in her home near Orchards (follows public school calendar)

Christian Youth Theater

1602 Main Street

750-8550

Vancouver WA 98665

www.cytvancouver.com

Classes in performing arts for ages 6-18. Students from 8-18 may audition for full length play productions. Cost is \$140 for 10 weeks.

Science Classes

sciencemum@gmail.com

887-4364

Kathleen Vivian offers Apologia science classes, for grades 3 on up.

Vancouver Youth Theater & Community Band

d.rourk@comcast.net

1100 W 43rd ST

360 735-7806

Vancouver, WA 98660

Jim Rourk runs a non-competitive theatre for young people to direct & perform. Music, dance, band and theater classes. Meets Mondays.

ECHO ExCEL's Co-operative Homeschool Opportunities

Leann Collins

Leann.collins@juno.com

837-1162

www.excelhomeschoolers.com

Classes offered at St. Matthew's Lutheran in Washougal. Something for everyone, variety of classes and academic competitions.

ALPS

944-4400

Art classes with Joanne Andrew in her home near Orchards for 10-17 year olds (follows public school calendar)

Math Tutors

Shelly Drew

Kathryn Jenks

566-9248

573-5129

shellydrew@comcast.net

Kathryn offers tutoring in algebra for \$18 per hour.

Shelly teaches Saxon: Algebra ½, 1, 2 and individual tutoring.

Beacock Music

1420 SE 163rd Ave.

360-694-7134

Vancouver, WA 98683

www.beacockmusic.com

Music education in just about every form, some for homeschoolers.

Music First Studios

Tia Weniger

859-2133

Runs a community children's choir for ages 4-16. No tryouts.

Better Grades In-Home Tutoring, LLC

Craig Curry

771-6776 (office)

www.bettergradestutoring.com

991-9757 (cell)/326-1869 (fax)

Certified teachers tutor in clients' homes, all subjects & grade levels.

Free in-home consultation. No charge for sign-up and registration.

Calvary Academy

268 Big Hanaford Rd.

360-736-1700

Centralia, WA 98531 www.calvaryacademy-snowberrysprings.com

Valerie Witt offers individualized programs including but not limited to: forestry, marine science, entomology, drama as literature, earth science, principles of construction, and food preservation.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION is offered by these public school districts for home and public school students. A wide variety of academic, arts and elective courses range from single classes as independent homeschoolers to multi-day and full time programs. Teacher consulting, tutoring, testing, special classes offered. Most classes are free of charge and may be online or on site. Each district administers their program differently so you'll want to inquire of them.

Battleground School District**HomeLink** (Battleground)**RiverLink** (in Camas)

715 Onsdorff

2204 NE Birch

Battle Ground, WA 98604

Camas, WA 98606

885-6800

834-1000

www.BGSD.K12.WA.US/hml/

Evergreen School District's Home Choice Academy13501 NE 28th St.

604-4032

Vancouver, WA 98682

www.egreen.wednet.edu

Vancouver School District's Home ConnectionJim Parsley community center, 2nd floor

2901 Falk Road

POB 8937

Vancouver WA 98668-8937

313-4990

Clark County Skills Center12200 NE 28th St.

604-1050

Vancouver, WA 98682

www.cc-sc.com

A joint effort of public school districts and local businesses to offer a wide-variety of vocational-technical programs available to students in grades 11 and 12; some age restrictions.

Homeschoolers are entitled to take classes and use services from their local public school. Contact the principal to make arrangements for this. Also, numerous local artists are available for art, music, band. Also see local private and Christian schools for classes. Local music stores offer a variety of music classes for all ages.

What are some recommended books to read?

Perhaps one of the biggest points of confusion in homeschooling is that there is no one 'right way' to do it. There are different methods, styles and approaches to teaching subjects. Not only does this differ from family to family but also between children within the same family.

This is where the research becomes fascinating and potentially long. The list below is just a sampling of books to help get you started. Most of them will suggest other books for further reading. An asterisk (*) indicates those with more potential to help or that contain the most information. Many of these books can be found at the public libraries as well as book stores listed in this publication.

Books about Homeschooling

The How and Why of Home Schooling

Ray Ballmann

A practical and easy reading book, which outlines simple arguments for homeschooling and how to begin.

*The Heart of Wisdom

Robin Sampson

Bible Based Homeschooling combines the best of homeschool approaches to work with all types of students, based upon the Bible.

Dumbing Us Down

John Taylor Gatto

A critique of how schools fail, the hidden curriculum to create a compliant work force and voters who support the government system.

*The Right Choice

Christopher Klicka

This presents research for the superiority of homeschooling, threats to & rights of homeschoolers, why public schools can't be reformed, big legal issues section.

The Relaxed Homeschool

Dr. Mary Hood

Philosophy of a relaxed style and delayed starts in formal academics.

The Homeschooling Handbook

Mary Griffith

“From Preschool to High School: A Parent’s Guide” Friendly reading using an ‘advantages & drawbacks’ approach to styles, philosophies, record-keeping, etc.

100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum – Cathy DuffyA Survivor’s Guide to Homeschooling

Shackleford/White

Luanne Shackleford, the ‘Erma Bombeck’ of homeschooling, answers the nitty-gritty issues like how to get housework done and homeschool, getting kids to do their school work, realistic family expectations.

Curriculum / Resource Review

*The Big Book of Home Learning (3 big volumes)

Mary Pride

Biggest resource for homeschooling questions. She covers how to get started, fun stuff, high school & college, book reviews, MORE.

100 Top Picks For Homeschool Curriculum

Cathy Duffy

This well respected author’s reviews of curricula help parents in the sea of choices. She has different recommendations than Mary Pride and some families will find her suggestions a better fit, and vice-verse.

Homeschooling on a Shoe String Melissa L. Morgan
& Judith Waite Allee. This is a compendium of ideas, tips & resources for families wanting to homeschool on a tight budget.

Teaching Helps

*The Big Book of Home Learning (3 big volumes) Mary Pride

How to Create Your Own Unit Study Valerie Bendt
This will get you started teaching in the methods of unit-study.

A Charlotte Mason Companion Karen Andreola
The methods and philosophies of Charlotte Mason are presented for contemporary homeschooling.

You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully Ruth Beechick
(grades 4-8)

The Three R's Series (3 booklet set for K-3) Ruth Beechick
Both of these books by Ruth Beechick are very down home. She takes you step by step through each subject in each grade and shows how to teach it. Her common sense methods do not require very much curricula to add.

Homeschooling Children with Special Needs Sharon Hensley, M.A.
She covers all the bases, has a lot of resources.

Learning in Spite of Labels Joyce Herzog
Joyce has a website, listserv and other available materials.

High School Helps

*The Big Book of Home Learning (vol. 3) Mary Pride

A Thomas Jefferson Education Oliver Van DeMille

The High School Handbook Mary Schofield

College

*The Big Book of Home Learning (vol. 3)

Mary Pride

Accelerated Distance Learning

Brad Voeller

How to get a college degree in as little as six months, at a fraction of the cost, mostly done at home. www.globallearningstrategies.org

And What About College?

Cafi Cohen

How to get from homeschooling to admissions to the best colleges.

Magazines

Practical Homeschooling

POB 1190

800-346-6322

Fenton, MO 63026

www.home-school.com

Reviews of books, software & curricula; teaching styles, practical helps, contests, news.

Homeschooling Parent Magazine

13258 Overlook Court

936-756-2226

Conroe, TX 77302

www.homeschoolingparent.com

God's World News Magazine

www.gwbc.com

Group rates are available for subscriptions within some support groups. 'Weekly Reader' type papers for all levels of readers on current world events from a Christian perspective.

The Old School House Magazine

P.O. Box 185

1-530-823-0447

Cool, Ca 95614

www.theoldhomeschoolhouse.com

Global, Christian, and wanting to unite homeschoolers.

Homeschooling Today

www.homeschooltoday.com

281-492-6050

Ideas for Unit Studies-some provided, exercises, reviews & columns.

The Moore Report

P.O. Box 98
North Bonneville, WA 98639

800-891-5255
www.moorefoundation.com

Home Education Magazine

www.home-ed-magazine.com
Un-schooling methods, secular.

800-236-3278

What are some fun activities to supplement homeschooling?

There is so much to offer that a family couldn't possibly do it all. Try out your favorite activities or perhaps try different ones each year for well rounded exposure.

OXFORD SWIM ACADEMY

360-694-8361

melanieb@oxfordfit.com

7588 Delaware Lane; 98664 www.geocities.com/oxfordvancouver

Community programs for cheerleading, tumbling, and swimming:
preschool swimming to adult, American Red Cross guidelines,
swim team prep, recreational swim time with a slide

SWIM TEAMS

Homeschool swim teams and classes are offered through Marshall Community Center, Houck Pool and Green Meadows Country Club and other pools. Firstenburg and Hough (as well as Oxford) have scheduled homeschool swim opportunities. Propstra and Marshall have family swim times.”

OREGON SYMPHONY FOR YOUTH

Group discounts are available for several symphony performances throughout the year. See your support group for ticket information & arrangements.

923 SW Washington
Portland, OR 97205

800-228-7343
www.orsymphony.org

MAGENTA THEATER COMPANY

www.magentatheater.com

Homeschooling parent, Jaynie Roberts, is Artistic Director of this Christian-based, community theater company in Vancouver. All are welcome.

YOUNG WRITERS

Encourage your child's skills in writing by having some of it published. Publishers such as Hopscotch and Cricket accept children's contributions. (*see library for more publications and contact information*). The Salmon Creek branch of the library offers a writers group to help polish those creative writing skills. Contact Karen Guenther at KGCuppaT@cs.com

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

(*See ExCEL/ECHO in Where Can My Child Take Classes?, pg. 39*)

National Geography & Spelling Bees, Science Olympiad, Math Counts and more competitions.

SKATING

The local roller skating and ice skating rinks offer homeschool skates at reduced fees. Current information is available at homeschool support groups' monthly meetings and newsletters. Contact them at 4915 E Fourth Plain Bv.; 696-0368.

OMSI

800-955-OMSI

www.oms.edu

Oregon Museum of Science & Industry. Wish the science mess were somewhere else? OMSI is the perfect place. Hundreds of hands-on exhibits, free "mini-classes" in, volunteers to answer to questions. Thursdays after 2:00 admission is 2 for 1.

4-H

11104 NE 149th Street, Bldg C Ste. 100

397-6060 ext. 7708

Brush Prairie, WA 98606

clark.wsu.edu/youth/youth.html

They publish curriculum and reference materials for children to study and explore on many topics, as well as offering 'clubs'.

BOWLING LEAGUEwww.timberlanes.amfcenters.com

There is a homeschool bowling league at Timber Lanes which offers coaching and awards. Information is available at homeschool support groups' monthly meetings and newsletters. Or contact them at: 2306 NE Andresen Road; 694-8404

FLAG FOOTBALL & TRACK

687-2564

Coach Frank Schmidt offers a time of fun and fellowship in learning to play these sports for 7-17 year olds (boys & girls) at Heritage High School. Involvement is free but donations are gladly accepted.

BOOK-IT

This is a pizza awarded - reading program by Pizza Hut. Sign up at the beginning of the school year at homeschool support groups' monthly meetings.

NW CHILDREN'S THEATER**& OREGON CHILDREN'S THEATER PLAYS**

Group discounts are available for a number of plays throughout the year. See your support group for ticket information & arrangements.

www.nwcts.orgwww.octc.org

503-222-4480

503-228-9571

1819 NW Everett St.

600 SW 10th, Suite 215

Portland, OR 97209

Portland, OR 97205

TEEN PACT

1-888-343-1776

www.teenpact.com

Inspirational camp to study government Biblically. Apologetics training, discipleship, worship and advanced courses for alumni.

JIM PARSLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

313-4952

mjwood@vansd.org

4100 Plomondon

Vancouver

Amenities include: swimming pool, spa, rock climbing wall and gym; community classrooms, meeting area. PE activities abound.

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VANCOUVER POPS ORCHESTRA

Bert Coffman

573-7988

3300 NE 78th St.

www.vancouverpopsorchestra.info

Vancouver WA

First Church of God

Required to participate: ability to read music beyond beginner level and be committed to a regular program of practice. Open to all community to join. Performs several dozen concerts per year.

WHOLE ARMOR MARTIAL ARTS

521-0171

www.wholearmor.net

Enjoy the benefits of martial arts based upon Biblical principles. No eastern religious influence.

YMCA

11324 NE 51st Cir

885-9622

Offers homeschool PE and arts & crafts classes.

JUNIOR SYMPHONY

Junior Symphony of Vancouver for orchestral/chamber music instruments is open to all young musicians by audition. Contact Timoteus Racz, 696-4084 ext. 5. Also visit www.oregonchamberplayers.org.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Volleyball, swim team, basketball, track. Saturday events, weekly practices, for grades 3-8, open to all. Call 696-2586 for details.

FAITH BOOK CLUB

360-834-6838

fax 360-833-9641

Spiritual books for the whole family are offered through book fairs and flyers. Contact Donald Callen about free offers.

Who offers discounts to homeschoolers?

These companies have discovered what a great relationship can be fostered with homeschool families. Be sure to let them know

that you appreciate these offers and will continue to bring them your business.

Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

Offers a \$20 discount on membership to member support groups.
Inquire within your own support group.

Scholastic Books

www.teacher.scholastic.com/fairs/

Offers 50% off all books in the warehouse to teachers each May and December. Sign up online for notification of the next sale.

Kiggins' Theater

1011 Main Street

360-737-3161

Vancouver, WA 98660

www.kiggins.com

Offers student movie passes at discount rates.

Office Depot

253-2048

KINKO'S

694-8584

www.officedepot.com

www.kinkos.com

Enjoy 5% off purchases and 50% off copies at Office Depot.

Kinkos offers 20% off purchases & services with proof of homeschooling.

Barnes & Noble & B.Dalton & Border's

Enjoy 20% savings on each purchase with an Educator's Discount Card. Bring in your declaration of intent form, HSLDA membership card (or any other proof of homeschooling) to receive this card.

Jo-Ann Fabrics & Crafts

Visit them online to find out about back to school offers.

www.joann.com/shop/spotlight/back_to_school.html

The Oregon Coast Aquarium

2820 SE Ferry Slip Road

541-867-FISH

Newport, OR 97365

www.aquarium.org

Homeschool Days include special presentations and workshops. Visit the website for details and downloadable lesson plans.

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Oaks Park

503-233-5777

www.oakspark.com

Offers homeschool discount days. See their website to sign up for the newsletter and receive information on homeschool days.

Washington State Fair in Puyallup

Free passes at your local school district office. Or see the WHO website. Inquire early before ordering deadline passes.

Learning Palace

Use your declaration of intent form for 15% off of \$25 or more.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

2030 SE Marine Science Dr

541-867 -0100

Newport, OR 97365

<http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/>

Admission by donation. Petting zoo, learn about coastal and marine habitats.

Storyteller Books

10108 NE Highway 99

571-4099

Vancouver, WA 98686

stories@pacifier.com

Offers free, fun events at her store and discounts to homeschoolers.

The Oregon Zoo

503-220-2786

www.oregonzoo.org

Admission is \$2 each, the second Tuesday of the month from 1:00-closing. They also offer school group rates ordered in advance.

Staples

888-636-9555

www.staples.com

Earn rebates on purchases as well as a 'back to school' free gift. Sign up required to participate. Name your school or use your last name.

Children's Museum

503-223-6500

www.pdxchildrensmuseum.org

4015 SW Canyon Rd (off Highway 26, opposite the Oregon Zoo)

Offers an educators discount on yearly passes.

Free admission passes are offered by Fred Meyer stores. Contact them in July. Amusement ride tickets may be purchased in advance for a discount at www.clarkcofair.com/Admission.htm

What about socialization?

The issue of “socialization” is quite likely the most misunderstood aspect of homeschooling. But parents do not need to worry. Numerous studies show that homeschool children are well adjusted socially and emotionally*.

Homeschool children spend more time with their family but less time with same-age peers. This is beneficial for children. It allows them to become confident and to learn to think for themselves. Studies suggest that extensive peer contact during childhood can cause undesirable peer dependency. Young children are more likely to be influenced by the majority and to accept the values of those around them the most*. In homeschooling, families can use social situations to actively teach proper interaction rather than leaving children to figure it out on their own.

Homeschooling offers a rich and varied environment for socialization. Children experience positive social interaction with people of a variety of ages, e.g., in organized sports, educational co-ops, 4-H, music, science clubs, chess, dance, field trips, or community groups. Homeschool teenagers often pursue entrepreneurial ventures, internships, and volunteering. Children can build lasting friendships with people of all ages as they interact with church and family friends in the community.

So, when someone asks you the question, “What about socialization?”, you can relax. Socialization is simply part of the homeschool package. It will happen naturally as your children live and learn alongside you.

*To investigate statistics and studies regarding homeschooling, please visit the National Home Education Research Institute at nheri.org

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the support group for new
homeschoolers & Parent Qualifying
Course, and the

SWAHN information network:

www.swahninfo.net

and

Clark
County
Home
Educators



- "CCH Express" newsletter
- Website resource portal
- Homeschool special events
- Largest used curriculum sale in SW Washington

Event co-sponsor
w/ First Class
CC West Co-op

www.cchomeed.org

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