

THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 59301 701.662.6347 office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org

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Mutterings and Musings from the Editor:

From Secure in the Everlasting Arms
by Elisabeth Elliot.

We are paralyzed. Fear grips us tightly; grief disables us entirely. We have no heart.

At such a time I have been wonderfully calmed and strengthened by doing some simple duty. Nothing valiant or meritorious or spiritual at all--just something that needed to be done, like a bed to be freshly made or kitchen floor to be scrubbed, one of those things that will never be noticed if you do it but will most certainly be noticed if you don't!

Sometimes it takes everything you have to tackle the job, but it is surprising how strength comes.

Thomas Carlyle said, "Doubt of any sort cannot be removed except by action."

There is wonderful therapy in taking oneself by the scruff of the neck, getting up, and doing something. While you are doing, time passes quickly. Time itself will in some measure heal, and "light arises in the darkness"--slowly, it seems, but certainly.

Many a questioning, many a fear,
Many a doubt hath its quieting here.
Moment by moment, let down from heaven,
Time, opportunity, guidance are given.
Fear not tomorrows, child of the King--
Trust them with Jesus. Do the next thing!

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby

Labor Day Family Camp

Sept. 4-7, 2020

Questions call(218)-784-4804
or email to: wbnsp@gmail.com

The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit.
We rely on memberships
and donations to keep operating.



Homeschool Day

at the Capitol

Feb. 18, 2021

NDHSA Convention

Bismarck Civic Center

Feb. 18-20, 2021

The VIEW from my WINDOW

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



The last few weeks, since the governor's announcement on schools for the upcoming year, have been a whirlwind! The office phone has rung almost constantly with emails and Face book questions coming in faster than I can keep up!

Board members have been doing meetings around the state to help families as they try to figure out a homeschool plan for the year. To date we have had over 500 people at these meetings and there are still 6 meetings coming up. There have been newspaper and TV interviews and questions, questions, questions.

I did some quick calculating and I have already driven 1400 miles. That does not include the miles put on by other board members. I would add we are all doing this on our own dime and on our own time. That is the dedication of the NDHSA board of directors!

For those who have not felt comfortable attending an "in person" meeting, I did a Face book live presentation covering much of the same material. This was archived on our Face book page and the handouts are posted on the NDHSA website which already has a lot of great information.

Thank you to all of the support group leaders who have arranged these meetings and answered tons of questions themselves. I am so proud of how our North Dakota homeschool families have stepped up to help their neighbors who have health and safety concerns and want to protect their children.

Way to go!

Informational meetings coming up!

Aug. 8 - Dickinson, 1:00 p.m., Optimist Park

Aug. 8 - Watford city, 3-5 p.m., Rough Rider Center

Aug. 10 - Valley City, 6:30 p.m., City Park

BOARD COLUMN



Carpe Momentum

Ken Knight, NDHSA Board President

My Latin may not be great, but my intent is on track. We need to seize this moment. With the world in these uncertain times, and the government and public-school system scrambling for what to do and how to do it, there is an island of calm in the sea of unrest. It is called the homeschool community. With us there is no uncertainty, social distancing is what we do best, and the methods, standards, and projections for the future are already set.

The NDHSA has been in contact with the support groups throughout the state, setting up informational meetings and providing board members to speak and answer questions. Some of these meetings have already taken place, many more are scheduled, and I suspect after this article hits the webwaves, more will be planned in the near future. Check the NDHSA website or Face Book page for a list of meetings and contact the office if your support group wants to set one up.

Now I'm not a prophet nor the son of a prophet but I predict that many families will decide to join our ranks in the near future. This would seem to be a good thing but I can see a few bumps in the road ahead for all of us. Most of the practicing homeschool families have chosen this lifestyle because we acknowledge God's mandate.

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

A goodly number of those who will come along side with us, will be Christians who have been on the fence. However, I fear many of the new wave of homeschool families will be motivated by far less binding convictions. Convenience, desperation, and curiosity will not keep many in the battle for long. Many will take this on with a non-Biblical worldview and will bristle at the meager sources of secular materials available. I can see a rising percentage of parents discouraged and in danger of abandoning their commitment to homeschool. This is going to require a greater commitment from those of us who provide support, advice and encouragement.

I believe this will also open many opportunities for us to share the gospel of salvation in Christ with those who need it most. As we assist these rookies, we should be sensitive to their spiritual needs as well as their homeschool questions. We should prepare ourselves by getting our hearts right with God so we can be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Getting our heads right with accurate, timely and reliable information to pass on to those who need it. And getting our hands right to work by making our help available, our resources ample, and our eyes attentive to the needs. In the midst of all this, let's be careful not to get our focus on the outside so much that we neglect to fulfill our responsibilities to our own families because our testimony of homeschooling is our greatest tool of outreach to others.

Overview of methods and philosophies

- **Traditional:** textbook, workbook, teachers' manual with specific scope and sequence; Abeka, Bob Jones, Christian Light, Christian Liberty Press
- **Classical:** three stages - grammar, dialectic, rhetoric; Trivium Pursuit, Veritas Press, Classical Conversations, Memoria Press, My Father's World
- **Unit study:** topical studies which integrate all subjects; Konos, Sonlight curriculum. My Father's World, Tapestry of Grace
- **Charlotte Mason** (Living Books): teach children the basics then expose to best sources of knowledge; Beautiful Feet, Ambleside, Heart of Dakota, Five in a Row
- **Unschooling:** child pursues own interest, parent provides resources; unstructured
- **Online learning;** Abeka distance, Calvert, Liberty online, Switched on Schoolhouse
- **Delayed Academics:** education begins when child is developmentally ready; *Home Grown Kids* by Raymond and Dorothy Moore
- **Combinations** of any of the above that lend themselves to multiple methods.

Philosophy from a Biblical Worldview

https://homeschooladventure.com/sb/philosophy_adventure/?mc_cid=9c05a8b076&mc_eid=0d91706fd9

With [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](https://www.schoolhouseteachers.com), you don't need anything else. We offer [Preschool Playground](#) for the littles, and many options for the rest of your children all the way through [12th grade](#)! Science to language arts and everything in between, we've got you covered. Every subject, every grade, every student.

Find a support group near you at: www.ndhsa.org
Click on support groups.

For legal assistance
JOIN
Home School Legal Defense Association.
www.hslda.org

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education**:
Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,
Hampden, ND 58338
Check expiration dates.



The Old Schoolhouse is offering a coupon code for anyone who inquires directly with the NDHSA to try our online, preschool through high school curriculum: SchoolhouseTeachers.com **FREE** for 3 months. This is a no-strings-attached offer; no credit card or other payment method is needed to sign up. Any family who continues their subscription beyond the 3-month free period can join at a heavily discounted rate of **\$99/year**, using the NDHSA coupon code. (Normal retail price is \$224.97/year)

Just go to www.ndhsa.org under resources, all the way to the bottom for free online resources. When open that you will see a number of things, but you must use the link on the website and then enter the code.

Extracurricular Activities

Yes, your child may participate in extracurricular activities at your school district or at a willing approved nonpublic school. The child will need to meet the same standards as public school students. See NDCC15.1-23-16.

4 hours per day for 175 days... easy to do since everything in life is part of a child's education!

Even if you choose to **opt out of testing** on the SOI, you may still test for your own information. There are test suppliers listed at our website. Also there seems to be a little confusion on who may opt out. I read one post that stated you must be state certified, or hold a baccalaureate degree or have passed a national teacher exam. **This is only true if you do not have a moral, philosophical or religious objection to the use of standardized achievement tests.** See NDCC 15.1-23-09 (2 a.)

Required Courses

NDCC 15.1-23-04 lists the following courses that must be provided to elementary and middle school students. They are:

- English language arts, including reading, composition, creative writing, English grammar, and spelling;
- mathematics;
- social studies including U.S. Constitution, U.S. history, geography, government, and N.D, studies in 4th and 8th grades;
- science, including agriculture;
- physical education; and
- health, including physiology, hygiene, disease control, and the nature and effects of alcohol, tobacco, and narcotics.

Statement of Intent Refresher

NDCC 15.1-23-02 includes the legal requirements for statement of intent filing. Any other information asked for by your school district is not required by law. Here are the necessities: name and address of child; date of birth; grade level (you determine this); name and address of parent educator; qualifications of parent educator; any public school courses you child intends to participate in; any extracurricular activities the child will participate in. The SOI must be accompanied by the immunization record (or if you do not immunize the DoH's form with opt out information) and the child's proof of identity (e.g. copy of birth certificate). On the form you will list your qualification and attach proof of same. You may opt out of required testing in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 using this section of the SOI. If you do not change your school district of residency then once the immunization record, proof of identity and parent qualifications are on file, you needn't file them each year. The SOI must be filed annually on each child between the ages of 7 and 16, at least 14 days before you plan to begin homeschooling or within 14 days of establishing a new school district of residency. I still recommend filing by certified mail although some hand deliver the form and have it signed and dated by school personnel and then request of copy for their files. This seems sensible to me. To prevent including more information than required by law, be sure to use the form published by the NDHSA or HSLDA. It is available at our website: www.ndhsa.org

www.ndhsa.org

Here is a new perk to our members. There is a **FREE homeschool planner** on the member portion of our website. You can download as many as you want.

Unique Homeschool Science Freebie Printable Lessons

As we prepare for the upcoming homeschool year, here are some free, unique, multi-page printables from a homeschool science pioneer and former college professor. They are infographic style [science lessons and printable worksheets!](#)



TEENPACT

TeenPact is a dynamic, hands-on leadership experience for Christian students whose mission is to inspire youth in their relationship with Christ. We teach them to understand the political process, value their liberty, defend the Christian faith, and to engage the culture. TeenPact students learn how to embrace their call as the next generation of leaders, find encouragement among like-minded peers, and develop the skills to impact those around them. Registration kicks off September 1 and during the month of September we offer a Double Early Bird Discount which saves \$30 off the class.

Also, NEEDED: a local State Coordinator to be the boots on the ground for each state. Contact: lari.folmar@teenpact.com or call 903.243.2308 <https://teenpact.com/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcRH17JxJY>

HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM for Grades 1-5 (\$100 for a full year!) <https://homeschooleasy.com/>

Suggested reading

Some from Diana Waring's *Beyond Survival*; some from my library.

- For the Children's Sake by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay
- Homeschooling for Excellence by David & Micki Colfax
- You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully and The 3 Rs by Ruth Beechik
- Dumbing Us Down by John Taylor Gatto
- Learning in Spite of Labels by Joyce Herzog
- Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling by Mary Pride
- The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling by Debra Bell
- The Way They Learn by Cynthia Tobias
- Charlotte Mason Companion by Karen Andreola
- Homeschooling the Early Years by Linda Dobson
- Homeschooling the Teen Years by Cafi Cohen
- Books Children Love by Elizabeth Wilson
- Things We Wish We'd Known compiled by Bill and Diana Waring
- Understanding the Times by David A. Noebel



Diana Waring Maxim
Nobody knows
EVERYTHING about
EVERYTHING.
Instead of striving for that
unattainable goal, let's learn
something about most things
and learn lots about
some things.

I have found many books at www.abebooks.com for a fraction of the original cost. The NDHSA has a HUGE used book sale every year at their convention. Next one is **Feb.18-20, 2021, Bismarck Civic Center**. Many support groups now hold used curriculum sales and have you noticed on FB the growing number of materials available? When I began working for the NDHSA 30 years ago about the only curriculum catalogues available were Abeka and Bob Jones. Now one is overwhelmed by the options.

NDHSA Board of Directors

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- ~Thor and Amber Sand, directors 701.535.1335 sand723627@gmail.com

NDHSA Statement of Faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

The Eclectic Report

Gail M. Biby, editor

The *Eclectic Report* is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts and memberships of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at billbiby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for almost 30 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her: billbiby@msn.com She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org

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www.ndhsa.org Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/ndhsassociation/>

North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund
- 2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington
- 2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer
- 2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel
- 2018 Linus & Anna Evinger
- 2019 Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer
- 2020 Leroy and Ann Nelson, Greg Lange, esq.



PRAYER

- **PRAISE** God for His continued mercy over our land despite the current hoopla.
- **PRAY** for those who are anxious and fretting about the corona virus and its ramifications. Pray for safety for our police officers during this time of riots and unrest.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen those who are weary; ask Him to renew the homeschooling mom's courage and perseverance. Pray for those who are thrust into the role of homeschooling.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. If one dies apart from Christ, one is eternally lost...think about it. Speak to them.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray we will be faithful, obedient, and willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for all who are confined in nursing homes and not allowed visits. It's lonely.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen our resolve in all manner of godly living. Courage, Lord, give us courage.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal legislation; for their continued work to expand freedom for homeschoolers.
- **REMEMBER** the suffering Church around the world. They are giving their lives for the sake of the Gospel. Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Cameroon, Sri Lanka. Pray for those in Beirut.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!