Introducing the NHSA Social Network

One special feature of the National Home School Association (NHSA) is their on-line “Social Network” that is designed to provide a safe environment for homeschoolers to meet, interact and study together. Unlike other social networks, there can be no anonymous or duplicate accounts to provide cover for stalkers or cyber bullies.

The NHSA Social Network allows each NHSA member to create and modify their own profile page and allows them to showcase anything that they have created including art, film/video, music/speeches, writing or anything else that can be put in a picture, a video, audio file or a pdf file. Click HERE to see exactly how this works and view a sample profile.

Home Learning Store Opens for Business

The Home Learning Store at www.HomeLearningStore.com is divided into two sections. The first is the "Vendor Products" section which includes listings of over 100 different companies that supply products that the National Home School Association believes will be of interest to homeschooling families.

The other section is for "Member Products". All members of the NHSA have the opportunity to promote products that they produce to all of the other members of the Association through this section. It costs nothing for the member to showcase their products in the Store but they will pay a small commission to the Association for each sale. The Association will also be setting up distributor relationships with some special products over time. The "Vendor Products" section of the store is now fully operational. The "Member Products" section will still be under construction until October, 2018 but members are encouraged to contact the NHSA to get their products and services added to the Store now.

“Because schools suffocate children’s hunger to learn, learning appears to be difficult and we assume that children must be externally motivated to do it.”

Sugatira Mitra
Publishers Note

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review this 1st issue of the Home Learning Digest. This publication is being produced in pursuit of what we believe are two very important quests. One quest is to uncover and disseminate as much accurate information as possible about what education really is, how it happens and how parents can best assist their children to teach themselves and become life-long lovers of learning. The other quest is to help the homeschool movement to grow in size and strength so that together we can overcome any challenges or obstacles put in our path.

We believe that the two biggest problems that new homeschoolers face is fear and programming.

Fear: that they are not qualified to teach; that they will get in trouble if they do something wrong; that they will be ridiculed; that their kids will not be “normal”; or that the diplomas that they produce for their children will be somehow insufficient.

Programming: that children must have a teacher in order to learn; that learning only takes place when at, or when doing, school; that tests, grades and gold stars are necessary or somehow beneficial; or that no one can be successful in life without a college degree, resulting in many children being forced to dedicate their entire childhoods to preparation for college.

As we disseminate more and more information, we believe our members will develop an ever increasing understanding of the truth about these fears and programming. If we do our job right then neither of these will be problems for very long. A great place to start would be to download the FREE comprehensive 285 page e-book called “Terra Scholar—A Complete Handbook for Today’s Homeschooler”.

―We believe that the two biggest problems that new homeschoolers face is fear and programming.―

Readers Questions

Since this is our first issue, we have not had the opportunity to receive questions from our readers. So we will address a couple of questions that have repeatedly come across our email. For future issues please submit any questions you might have on our “Contact Us Form”.

Q. What motivated the creation of the National Home School Association?

A. In short, we believe that there are strong forces at work against the homeschool movement and if homeschoolers do not come together as a unified voice to fight against the attacks being made then it will not be too long before homeschooling will once again be effectively outlawed. We felt that a comprehensive national organization, that offers dozens of programs, activities and services, would have the best chance of growing big enough and strong enough to prevent that from happening. Thousands of members will make a huge difference but millions of members will help to assure freedom for all involved. If we can get even 10% of the existing homeschoolers to join us then we should be able to make a real difference in the future of education in this country. We also got very excited about being able to provide opportunities to homeschoolers that they didn’t already have, ones that we wished we would have had during our 18 years of homeschooling, like student council, a national science fair and debate program, travel opportunities, fundraising opportunities, a safe social network, a national talent showcase, etc.

Q. Should I send my children to public high school so they can get a “real” accredited diploma?

A. This comes up a lot and the answer is “No”. First, a great many high schools are not accredited anyway and statistics now show that as many as 19% of public school graduates cannot even read their own diploma. So getting a diploma from a public school is actually becoming far less meaningful than one from a homeschool. Most of the colleges and universities have woken up to this and actively recruiting homeschoolers. Furthermore, the damage that will certainly be done to your child psychologically and most likely be done physically, far outweighs any perceived benefits that might come from the experience. If you have been smart enough to homeschool through your child’s younger years, don’t throw that all away by sentencing them to even a year in a public high school. If it is things like prom and graduation that you are concerned about them missing, get together with groups in your area and set up your own events. It’s not as hard as it might seem.
Tips and Fresh Ideas

Typically this section will have a variety of short blurbs about cool ideas and tips that homeschoolers have come up with that might be able to help others in their homeschooling adventure. This first entry however is going to be all about college. What you’re about to read may not be a “fresh idea” but it is one that needs serious consideration especially in this day and age. The idea is to rethink college entirely. Chapter 29 of the “Terra Scholar” e-book covers this very well but ask yourself why exactly you want your child to go to college and is it worth it.

We are programmed from a very early age to believe that in order to be successful and get a “good” job that we have to go to college and that if you go to college then you are assured of making at least a million dollars more in your lifetime. If that was ever true at all, it certainly isn’t any more. So called “higher education” has become a world class racket that for the most part provides little or no actual value and economically enslaves its victims for decades while they are dealing with their student loan debts.

John Taylor Gatto exposed that, especially the Ivy League, schools will only admit students that they already know will be successful before they attend. He points out that in one study it was discovered that those that attended a particular Ivy League school for 4 years and graduated were literally no more successful or wealthy than those that were accepted to go to that school but then didn’t go for whatever reason.

Add in the facts that: 64% of those that go to college never get a degree even though they are saddled with tens of thousands of dollars of student loans to repay; 33% of those that do get college degrees end up taking jobs that didn’t even require a degree; and with free on-line college courses now available on just about every subject the only reason to actually pay for college would be to get a diploma which has less and less actual value as each day passes. Worse yet, however, is that statistics show that one out of every four women that attend college will be raped before graduating. The sources for these statistics and more details about all of this are in the free Terra Scholar e-book mentioned above.

As an alternative please consider having your children become experts in whatever it is that they are passionate about and then have them pursue the concept of being self-employed by starting their own business around that passion. Small business is the engine that keeps our country running and public schools do everything they can to discourage any thought other than that of becoming a compliant cog in societies wheel. You can however save your children from that fate.

FUNDRAISERS

Homeschooling can be very inexpensive with the use of the public library and the internet. But the world is full of wonderful opportunities to learn and explore. There are adventures and trips to take that can open a child’s eyes to things they never imagined. There are microscopes and telescopes, art supplies, music lessons, dance lessons, etc, that all provide for the enrichment of a child that is hungry to learn and experience it all. The NHSA has worked very hard to figure out how to help homeschoolers with all of this without having them spend endless days going door-to-door selling everything from popcorn to cookie dough.

The NHSA has begun work on a new site called KickstartEducation.org. This will be the ultimate opportunity for any student to raise potentially unlimited and on-going funds to support their education and exploration of the world. The site is under construction now and should be ready by the beginning of September.

It will work like this. Just as each new business has it’s own profile page on Kickstarter, each student will have their own profile page on the KickstartEducation.org site. The profile can include as much or as little information as desired. It can include pictures, videos, postings of accomplishments or just a listing of hopes and aspirations.

There will be a wide selection of products for the student to choose from to add to their profile/store that can then be made available to those friends, relatives and neighbors that are most interested in supporting that students dreams.

Rather than guilt them into buying candy or cookies they don’t want, the supporters can choose things that they would buy anyway like ink for their printers, household items, decorations, and an occasional indulgence of one sort or another. Mostly things that they truly want and need.

Services like lawn mowing, dog walking, painting, etc can even be added to the profile on an individualized basis if a student wants to offer such services to get some exercise, make even more money and help out their supporters.

Once the profile is complete the student need only hand out cards with the address of the site and ask their supporters if there is anything on their page that they need or want. In cases like ink, the income can be on-going for years. All-in-all a perfect solution for all concerned.
Upcoming Events

Homeschool conventions, fairs and expo’s are wonderful ways for homeschoolers to interact, learn about new products and generally recharge their enthusiasm about homeschooling. Unfortunately however the majority of homeschoolers do not get to attend one of these events because the costs or time requirements are just too much.

The NHSA Expo with Virtual Expo was designed to not only solve these problems but to be much more than a typical Expo. Imagine being able to visit hundreds of vendor booths without having to walk to them. Imagine being able to connect with people from your area or that share your interests without having to look for them in the exhibit halls. Imagine being able to sit in on dozens of presentations while still being able to feed the dog and water the plants. All of this will be possible with the virtual NHSA Expo scheduled to run for seven days in May of each year starting in 2020. Now imagine your children being able to showcase their talents to a national audience. Singers, dancers, artists, writers, musicians, film makers and visionaries will all get their chance. Add in a national virtual science fair, the finals of the “Solutions Debate” program and presentations by some of the most inspiring homeschool graduates and you still won’t have seen it all.

There will also be dozens of seminars, workshops and panel discussions. There will be conferences for the Student Council, Leadership Council and Ambassadors.

There will also be a job fair, booths with college recruiters, support groups and providers of business opportunities.

Check out how your children can participate by going to the NHSA Expo page. It’s never too early to start thinking of a science project or to fine tune their talents. We hope everyone can participate one way or another.

“... members should not forget that their ID Card can be presented to numerous national chain stores and restaurants for substantial student and teacher discounts. “

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

The National Home School Association’s Membership ID Card serves a number of purposes. Members should remember that their ID Card can be presented to numerous national chain stores and restaurants for substantial student and teacher discounts.

Some of those already signed up to offer discounts to our members include:

Academic Superstore, Arbys, Banana Republic, Barnes and Noble, Burger King, Dairy Queen, Eddie Bauer, Joann Fabrics, JourneyEd, McDonalds, Michaels, Nationwide Insurance, Office Max, Regal Cinema, Schlotzskys, Staples, State Farm Insurance, Subway, Sweet Tomatoes and the Waffle House.

More are being added regularly so keep checking back and save.

Student Council & Parents Leadership Council

Until the NHSA established its Student Council program there were no opportunities for homeschoolers to participate in such an activity.

The NHSA is now gearing up for the new school season and has started work on a website dedicated to the Student Council program. The website can be accessed at www.HomeschoolStudentCouncil.com. The site will be fully operational by September 15th, 2019 when students can upload their video presentations to run for either a State or National Council position.

This is a chance for the students to speak out and show what they can do about the issues that matter most to them. Every State will need seven representatives to create a full council so if your child is at all interested in helping their fellow Terra Scholars then have them start working on a 2-3 minute video presentation to introduce themselves, tell what specific position they are seeking and explain why they believe they are the best candidate for that position. The "NHSA Student Council Candidate Guide" will be available by mid-July for all that are interested.

Attention Parents—You also have the opportunity to have your voice be heard. The “Leadership Council” is designed to give parent members a real voice with regard to what happens with the homeschool movement. Through the year the Council will be active in helping direct where the NHSA focuses its efforts to help promote homeschooling and to solve problems facing the homeschool community. Issues to be worked on through the year are: Legislative measures that threaten the movement and what can be done; Causes and community efforts that can be implemented nationwide with the help of the thousands of support groups; and Ways to improve the public’s perception of homeschoolers and other important matters that need our attention.

Toward the end of each year there will be an annual on-line NHSA Leadership Council Conference. At this conference, which will be held during the NHSA Expo each May, the parents will be asked to participate in the discussions on the most pressing issues facing homeschoolers at that time. We hope that every parent can participate. For details please contact us at ComOffice@NationalHomeSchoolAssociation.com
This Months Best Articles

100 Free Online Tools to Learn A New Skill In Almost Anything *from wakingtimes.com*

While there is much to be learnt from taking a course or learning from a professional instructor, there are many online tools that can help you learn just about anything you’d like and for free.

With a little dedication, these online tools can help guide you through the learning process step-by-step. Whether you want to learn how to cook healthy meals, renovate your kitchen, play a musical instrument, learn a new language, discover the intricacies of calculus plus so much more. You’ll find the assistance you need through the below resources. **CLICK HERE TO SEE THE REST OF THE STORY**

Top Ten Homeschooling Mistakes and How To Avoid Them *by Jessica Parnell - Director of Bridgeway Homeschool Academy*

Everyone approaches homeschooling with a different perspective. Some approach it with fear and trepidation; others with excitement and enthusiasm; others feel backed into a corner with no other options; and still others look forward to homeschooling as a way to invest more into their children.

No matter the perspective, everyone wants to do it right! We all look forward to a successful homeschool year full of rewarding experiences, rich learning and enjoyable time with our children.

However, it is easy to make mistakes, and though those mistakes can be learning experiences, it is so much more rewarding to look back at a year full of positive experiences than one that was full of learning experiences for the homeschooling mom or dad. **CLICK HERE TO SEE THE REST OF THE STORY**

18 Reasons Why Doctors and Lawyers Homeschool Their Children *by Kathleen Berchelmann, M.D.*

I’m going public today with a secret I’ve kept for a year—my husband and I are homeschooling our children. I never dreamed we would become homeschoolers. I wanted my kids integrated and socialized. I wanted their eyes opened to the realities of the world. I wanted the values we taught at home put to the test in the real world. But necessity drove me to consider homeschooling for my 2nd and 4th graders, and so I timidly attended a home school parent meeting last spring. Surprisingly it was full of doctors, lawyers, former public school teachers, and other professionals. These were not the stay-at-home-moms in long skirts that I expected. The face of homeschooling is changing. We are not all religious extremists or farmers, and our kids are not all overachieving academic nerds without social skills. **CLICK HERE TO SEE THE REST OF THE STORY**

Dark Side of Schooling *by Jim Strickland*

The damage school does to individuals and democracy...and how to fix it. Let me start by saying that I am not one of those people who believe that schools are part of an insidious conspiracy to turn our children into mindless automatons ready to sacrifice life and limb in the service of Big Brother — I think that job already belongs to television. But even if it turns out that schools actually are part of some sinister government plot to control us, I just can’t bring myself to believe that very many teachers are in on the plan. I’m going to generalize here, but the teachers I know are among the most sincere, caring and giving people I’ve ever met. I’m convinced that most teachers really love their students and truly believe in the work they are doing. And, in the interest of full-disclosure, I happen to be one of them. **CLICK HERE TO SEE THE REST OF THE STORY**

BEST OLD STORY

**Education Without School: How It Can Be Done**

*by Ivan Illich*

In a previous article I discussed what is becoming a common complaint about schools, one that is reflected, for example, in the recent report of the Carnegie Commission: In school registered students submit to certified teachers in order to obtain certificates of their own; both are frustrated and both blame insufficient resources—money, time, or buildings—for their mutual frustration.

Such criticism leads many people to ask whether it is possible to conceive of a different style of learning. The same people, paradoxically, when pressed to specify how they acquired what they know and value, will readily admit that they learned it more often outside than inside school. Their knowledge of facts, their understanding of life and work came to them from friendship or love, while viewing TV, or while reading, from examples of peers or the challenge of a street encounter. Or they may have learned what they know through the apprenticeship ritual for admission to a street gang or the invitation to a hospital, newspaper city room, plumber’s shop, or insurance office.

The alternative to dependence on schools is not the use of public resources for some new device which “makes” people learn; rather it is the creation of a new style of educational relationship between man and his environment. To foster this style, attitudes toward growing up, the tools available for learning, and the quality and structure of daily life will have to change concurrently. **CLICK HERE TO SEE THE REST OF THE STORY**
This Months Best Articles

Sleep and the Teenage Brain  
*July 17, 2013 Brain Pickings by Maria Popova*

How a seemingly simple change can have a profound effect on everything from academic performance to bullying.

“Sleep is the greatest creative aphrodisiac,” Debbie Millman asserted in her advice on breaking through your creative block. “Sleep deprivation will profoundly affect your creativity, your productivity, and your decision-making,” Arianna Huffington cautioned graduating seniors in her Smith College commencement address on redefining success. And yet, as German chronobiologist Till Roenneberg argued in his fantastic *Internal Time: Chronotypes, Social Jet Lag, and Why You’re So Tired* — one of the best science books of 2012, and undoubtedly among the best you’ll ever read — teenagers have already endured years of institutionally inflicted sleep deprivation by the time they get to college; there is a tragic disconnect between teens’ circadian givens and our social expectations of them, encapsulated in what is known as the disco hypothesis. Click here to see the rest of the story.

15 Reasons Why Standardized Tests are Worthless  
*February 28, 2013 by Thomas Armstrong*

It’s wonderful to see all the protests around the country against standardized testing. At Garfield High School in Seattle, Washington, teachers are refusing to administer the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). In Texas, hundreds of school districts have passed a resolution saying standardized tests are “strangling” public schools. The National Resolution on High Stakes Testing, which calls on government officials to reduce standardized testing in our schools, has been endorsed by hundreds of organizations, and over 13,000 individuals. And yet, in spite of all this, standardized testing still is putting a wicked half-Nelson on our students’ curiosity, creativity, and passion for learning in tens of thousands of classrooms around the country. Click here to see the rest of the story.

Let’s Call Our Public Schools What They Really Are -- ‘Government’ Schools  
*October 02, 2013 by John Stossel FoxNews.com*

People say public schools are “one of the best parts of America.” I believed that. Then I started reporting on them. Now I know that public school -- government school is a better name -- is one of the worst parts of America. It’s a stultified government monopoly. It never improves.

Most services improve. They get faster, better, cheaper. But not government monopolies. Government schools are rigid, boring, expensive and more segregated than private schools. Click here to see the rest of the story.

Boston College Psychology Professor Thinks School Stinks  
*Sept. 6, 2013 by Eric Schulzke, Deseret News National Edition*

Peter Gray’s new book, “Freed to Learn,” argues that kids hate school not because teachers are boring but because a school, inherently, is a prison. The Boston College psychology professor’s book argues that kids need freedom and creativity more than regimentation and testing. Click here to see the rest of the story.

ONE TO MAKE YOU THINK

“Why Don’t Students Like School?” Well, Duhhhhh...  
*September 2, 2009 by Peter Gray in Freedom to Learn*

Someone recently referred me to a book that they thought I’d like. It’s a 2009 book, aimed toward teachers of grades K through 12, titled *Why Don’t Students Like School?* It’s by a cognitive scientist named Daniel T. Willingham, and it has received rave reviews by countless people involved in the school system. Google the title and author and you’ll find pages and pages of doting reviews and nobody pointing out that the book totally and utterly fails to answer the question posed by its title.

Willingham’s thesis is that students don’t like school because their teachers don’t have a full understanding of certain cognitive principles and therefore don’t teach as well as they could. They don’t present material in ways that appeal best to students’ minds. Presumably, if teachers followed Willingham’s advice and used the latest information cognitive science has to offer about how the mind works, students would love school.

Talk about avoiding the elephant in the room!

Ask any schoolchild why they don’t like school and they’ll tell you. “School is prison.” Click here to see the rest of the story.
NOTABLE QUOTES

“The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn’t need to be reformed -- it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.” — Ken Robinson, The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything

“The plain fact is that education is itself a form of propaganda - a deliberate scheme to outfit the pupil, not with the capacity to weigh ideas, but with a simple appetite for gulping ideas ready-made. The aim is to make ‘good’ citizens, which is to say, docile and unquisitive citizens.” — H.L. Mencken

“The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think - rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with the thoughts of other men.” — James Beattie

“We cannot continue to send our children to Caesar for their education and be surprised when they come home as Romans.” — Voddie T. Bau-cham Jr.

“The best teachers are those that tell you where to look but do not tell you what to see.” Alexandra K. Trenfor

“If a young person is to have the courage to stand for the truth, he must be trained from early childhood to have an independent mind, to be unafraid of being different and to not care what other people think.” Anonymous

“Self-education is, I firmly believe, the only kind of education there is.” Isaac Asimov

“Often times it works out that the 8 hours of time that the designated parent spends working with the group each week is the most fun time of the week.”

Work vs Homeschool

One of the biggest reasons that parents now give to explain why they don’t homeschool is that they have to work so no-one would be home with the children or they simply don’t have time to work and homeschool.

While it is true that the state of the economy is making it tough on everyone there are ways to homeschool and still work.

The first thing that people have to understand is that children only get a few minutes a day of individualized attention at public school. So if a parent spends an hour a day working with their child then they will already be far better off. Besides children learn much better when left to figure things out on their own rather than being lectured and tested. With a little guidance, some inspiration and access to learning materials most children need little else. Learning to read, write and do basic math actually takes only 100 hours in spite of the fact that even after 13 years of public school over 19% of the graduates can barely read their own diplomas. So lack of time is not an issue.

Having someone to watch over the children and care for them while the parents are at work is a bit more difficult but not impossible for those that really want to give their child the gift of freedom. Some parents juggle their work shifts to make sure that one or the other parent can be home at all times. Other parents simply have one parent take a hiatus from their career and downsize their expenditures to accommodate their new lifestyle. Many parents are now turning to home businesses to allow at least one parent to be home and still generate an income. The NHSA strongly supports such efforts and encourages homeschool families to pursue this avenue as it produces many more benefits than just generating an income and allowing a parent to be home all day.

One additional alternative that works very well for some is to get together with other homeschool families in the area. Four or five families get to know each other very well and then each family takes turns hosting all of the kids for one day per week. The NHSA call them P.O.D.S. (Parent Organized Discovery Sites) and is actively involved in helping set them up. The kids can work on projects together, socialize and have a safe and caring environment in which to explore the subjects that are of most interest to them. Then for the one or two hours in the evening, when they would be doing homework from public school, the parents can work with the children to review and discuss the adventures of the day and develop plans for the following days activities.

Often times it works out that the 8 hours of time that the designated parent spends working with the group each week is the most fun time of the week. Assembling the perfect group of families can be tricky and sometimes a family will drop out or move away and a new one will come in but the rewards for all involved in this strategy far outweigh any inconveniences that might occur.

So the next time someone says that they can’t homeschool because they have to work --show them this.
WHAT'S NEW

We are very pleased to announce the long awaited release of the very comprehensive 285 page E-book—“Terra Scholar—A Complete Handbook for Today’s Homeschooler”. There are literally hundreds of books available now about homeschooling and frankly almost all of them include at least some useful and intelligent information. However, most people, especially parents with young children, do not have the time to read them all, sort out what is important and then decide exactly what they need to do. Besides the cost involved in buying all of those books makes the concept unrealistic from the start.

This handbook is a digest of the best information collected from literally hundreds of books, articles and websites. It represents a treasure chest of insights encompassing the wisdom of dozens of experts on every aspect of homeschooling, from deciding if it is right for your family, all the way through to getting a college degree or starting a business. This E-book will also be particularly helpful to those who are feeling a little overwhelmed and don’t know where to start or what to do next. It will also be useful to those who have friends or relatives that are uncomfortable with homeschooling. Ultimately it provides parents with the information they actually need in order to do the best possible job homeschooling their children. This E-book is FREE to members so please sign-in and download your copy. Non-members can download a copy a preview of the book at your convenience.

This 5 Disk Video “Homeschool Teacher Course” is being made available free for viewing on-line to the members of the National Home School Association. This course is designed to provide parents with exactly what is needed to develop the right mind-set and confidence to be able to help their children to teach themselves everything they need to know.

This Course contains hundreds of video clips, extracted from presentations that were given by some of the world’s foremost experts on education and homeschooling. Each of the presentations included were originally found by sifting through hundreds of hours of the best-of-the-best content available on-line. The content in this Course will be life changing for those that have not already been exposed to it. Click HERE to see a preview and for more details about the Course.

We would very much like to grow our organization to where it is big enough to be able to help protect the rights of all homeschoolers and to provide even more programs and activities for our members. Right now our goal is to reach one million members. We want to reward any homeschool meet-up group, support group, or any other homeschool related vendors and service providers, that help us to reach our goal. To accomplish this we have set up an account with “ShareaSale.com” that allows us to sign up any groups or vendors that want to become our Affiliates. ShareaSale keeps track of everything so we can properly compensate each Affiliate for each member they help us sign up. Those that are interested can set up a free account with ShareaSale as one of our “Affiliates”. Full details of the program can be found HERE.

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