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Welcome

It's hand to believe that the end of summer is almost upon us!

This particular summer has been a time of celebration for us here with the IAHE. While we are always in the process of moving forward, it also brings us great joy to look back at the last forty years and remember what God has done since 1983.

The strength of the IAHE has always been the heart of its volunteers.

Volunteering often consists of planting seeds in the world that one may never get to see bloom. We can't always see the full picture of what God is creating in the midst of our daily work. Individually, we may only get to play a very small part in preparing a garden, preparing the ground, or seeding a row. But together, a volunteer team pours their God-given talents into serving others and building a ministry that carries on for the next generation.

What a beautiful thing it is to take the time to look back and see what God has done!

> Tara Bentley Executive Director, IAHE

Tara Bertley

Issue 27, Volume 1

MAGAZINE TEAM

Executive Director | Tara Bentley Managing Editor | Amy Sager Design Director | Amanda Runge Editor | Lacey Hooie Cover Photo | Depositphotos: #45215907

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Homeschool Indiana Core Values

To be Christ-focused To be Indiana-focused To be encouraging To be a resource

Mike & Amy Sager The Indiana Association of Home Educators

(IAHE) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

BOARD MEMBERS

Steve & Penny Taylor

Mark & Tara Bentley

Legion 5

Grant, Howard, Miami, & Wabash County

Scott & Cindy Briggs

Scott and Cindy reside in Marion with two of their three children. Scott is a chiropractor. Cindy is a retired business professor who now does social media marketing and the business side of the chiropractic clinics.



New Reps for Region 17

Gibson, Perry, Posey, Spencer, Vermillion, & Warrick County

Will & Courtney Nalin

Will and Courtney Nalin have been married since 2004 and are honored to be homeschooling their two children. Courtney works full time as a licensed paramedic while Will works full time in IT. They have been homeschooling since the beginning and believe that anyone can do it if given the right resources, even in the imperfections.



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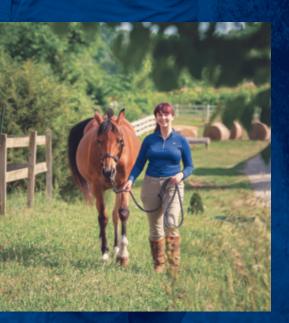




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Celebrate a Special Day



Dogs are the most popular pet in the United States, so it makes perfect sense that there be a day where we celebrate these special animals. The observation of this holiday began in 2004 when Colleen Paige, an author and animal behaviorist, invented it in order to show appreciation for dogs everywhere, but she especially wanted to raise awareness for dogs who are abused, to put an end to puppy mills, and to those who are singled out in other negative ways (breed bans, etc.). This holiday has now expanded to acknowledge your own pet and the wonder and achievements of the numerous service dogs out there helping their human companions.

- Research a breed from each of the different categories you can choose from size (Toy, Small, Medium, Large, & Giant) or type (Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, Herding, & Miscellaneous Class). The American Kennel Club website is a great place to learn more about these categories and the breeds in each.
- X Not all dogs require the same care-choose a few different breeds and research what differences there may be in their care. A husky is very different from a poodle, which are different from a Mexican Hairless!
- Read a few books about dogs-suggestions might be Harry the Dirty Dog for younger readers, or Old Yeller for older readers.
- Create a budget for how much dog ownership costs. Consider food, gear like leashes and collars, toys, and vet bills.



Someone usually uses the term, "When pigs fly," to refer to something that will basically never happen. However, National When Pigs Fly Day was created to remind us that sometimes those things that seem impossible can actually happen. It is a day for miracles, a day to have hope in the impossible. It is said that National When Pigs Fly Day is a day to set goals that may seem too high and strive to meet them and make them happen.

- 🕇 Fly a kite. September should be great kite flying weather. Have fun thinking about how a pig might actually fly. It definitely would take a miracle.
- Find a local pig farm and ask to visit. As you gaze at the bulky, awkward pigs, point out the near impossibility of pigs actually flying without some supernatural intervention.
- X A city located near to Indiana—Cincinnati, also known as "Porkopolis"—is known for it's Flying Pig Marathon, as well as several flying pig statues that can be found around the city. Do an online search for the statues to see all of the different types of creative artwork used on these silly aviary porcine wonders.





Homesteading & Homeschooling

Two Peas in a Pod, Part 1— Amy Sager

Homesteading has been making a steady comeback for quite some time, but since 2020, the growth of homesteading has skyrocketed.

why? Families are waking up to the fragility of our too-often-taken-for-granted food supply. They are renewing an interest in being more self-sufficient. And they are questioning modern, conventional medicine and starting to relearn traditional home remedies and cures for minor ailments.

Homeschoolers are no exception to this, and in fact, they have probably been a segment of the population that has held onto or newly explored homesteading practices more than any other segment. Homeschoolers are known for confidently taking care of themselves as much as possible. After all, we choose to educate our children ourselves without assistance from the government. It seems natural that many of us also seek to provide for ourselves in other ways.

My parents, in-laws, and grandparents have been examples to my husband and me of modern homesteading—from growing foods to raising animals to sewing clothes. They inspired my husband and I to find ways our family could be more self-sufficient. Today we work together on our homestead growing vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, and berries; raising meat chickens, laying hens, and lambs; making tinctures, and using essential oils to treat maladies.

Our children learn plenty from real living books and classes, but just as importantly, they are learning to value the land and the animals we are blessed to care for. They are learning the value of hard work (it's not always fun and that's ok), the rewards of self-sufficiency, and the joy of the creation around us. There is nothing quite like your own fresh eggs! I hope I can inspire you here to take a small or large leap into some aspect of homesteading—the rewards are significant.

What is homesteading?

Homesteading, like homeschooling, is, at its core, a lifestyle choice. It is choosing to live a more self-sufficient life by developing subsistence skills—working the land (even a plot in your backyard), or raising animals, or making homemade remedies, or sewing your own clothes, or all of the above and more.

Harold Thornbro at redemptionpermaculture.com says "Modern Homesteading is the pursuit of self-sufficiency and sustainability by adding certain components and acquiring and applying knowledge and skills that can accomplish this at the desired level. This pursuit results in a home becoming a provision and an asset, giving more than it takes for this desired lifestyle." In essence, homesteaders seek to be more self-reliant in many or all areas of life.

Here are some activities/areas of life homesteaders can engage in and build skills in:

Raising Animals There are so many options depending on the space you have—chickens, sheep, cows, goats,



pigs, rabbits. You can raise animals for milk or meat. Laying hens can be raised in a backyard and are a great place to start. It's where my family started 16 years ago.

Gardening Growing vegetables, berries, and fruit trees isn't as difficult as you may think. You can start small and expand a little each year. And fall isn't too late to plant! Lettuces, onions, garlic, broccoli, and more actually like cooler temperatures. Herbs are easy to grow too—in addition to being enjoyed fresh, they can be dried and saved to season your meals through the whole year.

Food Preservation Even if you haven't grown or raised anything this year, you can still preserve food for the winter. Fall farmers' markets are a great place to find healthy foods to can or freeze. The internet is full of recipes and directions for canning and preserving foods. Applesauce is a great one to start with.

Beekeeping Liquid gold! Honey is one of the world's best natural sweeteners. Coffee, tea, cakes, cookies, breads—you name it, and honey can sweeten it. Beekeeping takes a little study, but you'll be rewarded with some beautiful, sticky goodness. And if you want to plant fruit trees, your bees will help pollinate those.

Making Tinctures & Salves Homemade remedies for common ailments can save families money and help keep your family healthier. Elderberry tincture is a favorite of mine. It is easily made by soaking elderberries in vodka. Learning the art of using essential oils is also a great way to treat minor illnesses. Did you know that oregano oil, cinnamon oil, and many other essential oils actually have antibacterial properties?

Mixing Cleaning Supplies Many modern cleaning supplies contain chemicals that some of us don't want in our houses. Not only does mixing up your own cleaning supplies save money, but it can also make your home a healthier place to live. A little vinegar mixed into water does a nice job cleaning windows and wood floors. You can find many other simple recipes for kitchen and bathroom cleaners as well.

Sewing Clothes Sewing clothes is making a comeback with the modern homesteading movement. As many families desire to become more self-sufficient, making their own clothes fits right into that mindset. It may be best to approach this aspect of homesteading with a goal of making a few special items of clothing, rather than tackling your entire family's wardrobe at once.

Who can homestead?

Anyone can! You don't have to own 246 acres of farmland to homestead. You can be a homesteader with just a backyard, and you can even be a homesteader in an apartment building. In an apartment building, you can raise seasoning and medicinal herbs and certain vegetables in front of the window or under a grow light. You can also preserve vegetables, fruits, meats, and more through canning to help feed your family through the winter.

Urban homesteading is definitely on the rise. Instead of spending hours each week mowing grass over and over again, many families are choosing to add raised garden beds, fruit trees, and small animals to their backyards. With a little more acreage, your options increase to include growing a large garden, raising larger animals for milk or meat, keeping honey bees, and more.

Homesteading will look different for each family depending on the aspects of self-sufficiency they pursue and the degree to which they pursue them. Homesteading today can be a full-time pursuit or a part-time family activity. You get to choose how deep you dive. Beware though! Once you jump in, you may find the allure of homesteading to be stronger than you thought—the satisfaction of looking at a pantry stocked full of canned peaches, the joy of watching your chickens peck for worms, the fulfillment of learning how to use herbs and essential oils to care for your family.

How do these 2 H's fit together?

The natural world around us is a learning laboratory. Step outside or up to a shelf full of plants, and there are endless opportunities to learn about biology, botany, history of plant species and animal breeds, weather patterns, the human body as you sweat or get a sunburn, creative writing as you have your kids journal about what they see. The list goes on and on. Homesteading can provide all of these learning opportunities and more.

And this isn't reading a textbook kind of learning. This is hands-on learning at its best!

Homesteaders are a creative lot, known for being independent, creative, and innovative. Wait. That sounds like I just described homeschoolers. Ah yes! That's because homesteading and homeschooling are like 2 peas in a pod; they compliment each other and share many of the same characteristics and goals.

Part 2 We'll look more at the educational aspect of homesteading and how you can incorporate homesteading practices into the education of your children.



Amy Sager is the IAHE Publications Director and Managing Editor of Homeschool Indiana. She and her husband Mike serve on the IAHE Board of Directors and help run a thriving local homeschool ministry. They have graduated one and continue homeschooling the other four, dedicating much of their time to their farm, cooking from scratch, photography, reading, art & engineering projects, and more.



Comparison: Healthy or Harmful?

Jill Wildermuth

So, which are better: apples or oranges? "They're two different things," we say. "You can't compare them."

Comparison, as a tool, is not a bad thing. We compare cars, food, books, curriculum. It's part of the decision-making process that all humans must do; a useful and necessary tool to keep us healthy, happy, and hale. Comparing similar items lets us sort the features we like from those we don't, and in the end we get the object we want, the way we want it.

Are you ever tempted to compare two different things that cannot accurately be measured against each other? This is where we veer into harmful and unhelpful, especially when we're talking about education.

And so it is with homeschool versus public school. They are completely different from one another. Yet, as homeschoolers, we feel the judgment of society when our child is not "on track" or "on grade level." We may feel we must justify our choices by having children who not only meet public school expectations, but exceed them. Doubts creep in when we see the long, detailed lists of skills and metrics public school students must attain each year:

Am I doing this wrong?

Am I qualified to teach my child what he needs to know?

How can I make her learn this faster so she's on track?

Is my child "behind"?

And just like that, confidence in our homeschool can be shattered, all because we're attempting to compare two educational systems that are diametrically opposed to each other in form, function, and purpose.

Comparing to Public Schools

Is my child on par with the public schools? Homeschoolers want validation that we are providing a proper education for our children. Where do we look but to the most populous educational institution—the public schools? However, comparing your kids to public schools isn't really that helpful, for a number of reasons:

If you've chosen to homeschool, chances are you find the public schools lacking in some way. Academically, socially, morally... there is some reason you chose to homeschool. Public schools' function is to produce adults who all have the same education, and by extension, the same outlook, opinions, and worldview. If you are purposefully choosing a different path for educating your child, then you can embrace the differences.

Public schools operate on a massive scale of economy. They must serve hundreds and thousands of students simultaneously. Your homeschool serves one to maybe nine or ten students at a time. What becomes a huge undertaking just to go to the bathroom in public school is simply a 10-minute break in homeschool. Your time in homeschool is spent more efficiently, hence you can accomplish more in a shorter time period, while providing personalized education to your students.

Children develop individually at their own paces. Academic standards and testing, on the other hand, assume all children process and understand topics at the same rate. To compare your homeschooled child, who is allowed to spend extra time on those difficult subjects so he masters them, to a public school child who is moved through subjects at the same pace as other children, is not an apt comparison. And remember, just because a subject was covered in public school doesn't mean anything was actually learned.

Homeschool curriculum presents concepts in different orders than public schools. Most public schools align mostly or somewhat with Common Core. Not so for most homeschool curricula. This means that while a public school 4th grader may be learning long division, your students won't get to that until middle school in your current curriculum. Many studies suggest that early academics aren't always beneficial. Delaying formal education doesn't mean your child will never learn the same material, but that he will learn it later, on his own timetable.

Comparing to Other Homeschoolers

I know this will come as a disappointment, but there is no gold star for the most "homeschooliest homeschool." There is no award for the most perfectly patient mother or most gifted, well-behaved children. This is the nefarious side of homeschooling (looking at you, Pinterest, Instagram, and TikTok). If we don't use public schools as our measuring sticks, we naturally turn to fellow homeschoolers to help us measure ourselves. This is not apples and oranges, it's true apples to apples, or so we think.

They're homeschoolers; I'm a homeschooler.

They have three kids; I have three kids.

They even use the same curriculum we use!

Their homeschool is so much better than mine.

Now, there is nothing wrong with watching how others homeschool. We exchange great ideas by observing how others run



their homeschools, troubleshoot, organize, and schedule; that's how most of us get started in homeschooling! However, saying, "They homeschool better" is a harmful and unhelpful comparison that sets us up to always fail against someone else's life. Behind the picture-perfect feeds and scrolls is a family who has meltdowns, dirty dishes, struggling learners, and subjects that bring tears daily. We homeschool the children we have right here, right now, in struggle and in victory, not the children we wish we had.

It's easy to spiral down into overwhelming fear of the task which is before you when you attempt to homeschool by someone else's standards. The friend's child who taught herself to read at age 3 can make you feel like you're failing your 8-year-old who is still sounding out 3-syllable words. While this may seem like a major failing on your end, research tells us again and again that those gains made by early academic success all even out, usually by 11 years old.

Recalling the reason why you chose this path, and remembering (again) that each child matures at his own pace, can bring us back to the more important benchmarks. Character, courage, obedience, patience, and faith are the greater lessons that will carry our children through their adult lives. Our children are watching. When we exhibit those better values, we teach our children that more than just math scores and vocabulary matters in life. Mastering academic skills is both a good and noble endeavor that honors our Creator too, but let's keep everything in balance.

The True Measurement

The goal of home education has never been to solely give our children higher academic success. We are called to this journey when we feel the need to measure our children differently from the world's standards. Those invisible lessons learned that cannot be measured, marked, or graded are the lessons we desire most for our children, for those are the most lasting. When we lose sight of these larger goals and find comparison and doubts stealing our focus and our joy, it's time to step back and remember why we walk this path that leads us so far from where the rest of the world says we should be.



Jill Wildermuth and her husband, Ed, are IAHE Region 6 Representatives. They have been homeschooling their two children for six years. Jill is passionate about empowering new homeschoolers to embrace the lifestyle and educational freedom homeschooling offers. She writes for the IAHE blog and is a bill reader with IAHE Action. Jill enjoys reading, fishing, traveling, and backyard campfires.

Forty Years ... & Counting!

On June 24th, hundreds of Indiana parents gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the IAHE. The night was full of excitement, encouraging fellowship, and an inspirational message from reknowned speaker Heidi St. John.

In 1983, very few people knew the word "homeschool."

But, across the country, God was stirring a movement and people to consider doing something different than sending their children off to school. Here in Indiana, God was calling three couples to homeschool their own children AND establish an organization to serve others along the way. Since 1983, twenty-five couples have served on the IAHE Board of Directors. While many things have changed in the past 40 years, our mission has not. Our organization was "founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education."

Our work is only possible due to the countless hours of volunteer parents from across the state. These special people are the heartbeat of the IAHE, and it is their dedication that keeps our organization alive and thriving. They are making a difference one day at a time. What began as the work of just three board couples has grown to encompass multiple events and outreach programs. Today, we have more volunteer teams than ever before. Dozens of volunteers answer emails and phone calls, handle database management, and manage website design, writing, editing, social media, and so much more. As we celebrate our anniversary this year, we are mindful of what God has done and is doing through his people in the homeschooling movement.

Some highlights of our work over the past 40 years:

- IAHE has hosted legislative days at the state house and lobbied to protect homeschool freedom.
- IAHE launched and grew the largest Facebook group for Indiana homeschool parents. (Over 11,000 members!)
- The 1st IAHE Convention was held in 1986 and grew to meet the needs of a changing community. In 2020, just two weeks into the pandemic, we hosted the very first online homeschool convention in the country during the pandemic, with over 70 speakers, 150 sessions, and over 7,000 attendees.
- Over 116 couples have served as IAHE Regional Representatives.
- In 2015, in the face of growing threats to homeschool freedom, our sister organization, IAHE Action, was founded.
- IAHE launched a student intern program that teaches high school juniors and seniors how to use the gifts that God has given them within our ministry.
- IAHE offers an online course for homeschool parents, allowing families to build stronger homes as they disciple their children.
- Since 1996, the IAHE has published over 130 magazine issues, first as The Informer and today as Homeschool Indiana. We also hosted our own podcast.

Tara Bentley **Executive Director, IAHE**

Jara Bertley



- delivering the welcome & brief history of IAHE
- 2. Board member Penny Taylor | 3. IAHE Interns Emily Bowyer, Kaylin Hiehle, & Ellen Blackledge
- 4. Membership Coordinator Renee Blackledge helping attendees at the silent auction table



At our 40th Anniversary Banquet,

we gave attendees Share Your Heart cards and asked them to share with us memories of homeschooling, the IAHE, or special ways they have been blessed. We hope you enjoy the following snapshots of IAHE.

"When we attended our first convention around 2001, the keynote speaker was Bill Smith (we think). Our oldest was 4, so we were excited and a bit clueless. Bill made the statement, "God fills in the gaps." Our hearts latched onto that, and it became something we clung to through the years."

— Heather Jordan

"My six-year-old built a birdhouse and set it up in our yard. He and his four-year-old sister sat on a swing snuggled close for over two hours watching a bird build its nest...only possible because we homeschool."

-Brooke

"I went to the IAHE Homeschool Conference in March, and it opened my eyes to additional resources. I've told everyone who will listen about the benefits of homeschooling."

—Lucy Reyna

"Homeschooling is at the heart of our family. I was homeschooled, and now we homeschool our 6 children ages 5-18, kindergarten through college. My husband and I would both say we would not make it through if it had not been for the annual IAHE Convention. It is always the boost that we need. Thank you so much!"

— Roseann & Chris Knew

"We graduated our fourth (and last) child last year. Since we began in 1994, homeschooling has blessed and established our home. We trust the Lord will continue to grow the number of homeschool families, post covid and beyond."

- Dr. and Mrs. LD. LaTorre, Jr.

5. Ashley, Gail, & Michael Rodecker | 6. Listening audience

7. Ron Pitzer & Bill Rodecker | 8. Former board member

& co-founder Joyce Johnson sharing how IAHE was founded in 1983

9. Crystal Callendar & Heather Hill with speaker Heidi St. John

10. Regional Rep Amanda Runge & Joyce Johnson

1983 - Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) is founded by three couples after attending a workshop in Michigan with homeschool pioneer, Dr. Raymond Moore. IAHE is one of the earliest state homeschool organizations in the nation.

1985

In Mazanec v. North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation, a federal district court rules that parents have the constitutional right to educate their children in a home environment.

1985

1990

40th Anniver

IAHE celebrates 40 years of serving

1996

Focusing on content for Hoosier homeschool families, the IAHE publishes its first magazine The Informer. It is later rebranded as Homeschool Indiana in 2018.



2005

House Bill 1530 seeks to increase the compulsory school attendance age from 18 to 19, creating one more year of state "monitoring" of children. IAHE works to remove harmful provisions in the bill.

1995

2000

2005

1986

The first IAHE Convention is held in Indianapolis at the Indiana War Memorial.



1991

The IAHE Regional Representative network is created to serve parents throughout the state.

1994

A proposed amendment to federal legislation (H.R. 6) requires all teachers in America to be certified in every course they teach. IAHE joined HSLDA and other state homeschool organizations to defeat it with over 20,000 phone calls from angry homeschoolers, shutting down the Capitol Hill switchboards.



2012

House Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 384 requires homeschooling parents to submit an educational plan before withdrawing their children from high school. Massive pushback from Indiana homeschoolers defeats the amendment.

2015

Gov. Mike Pence addresses parents at the 30th Annual IAHE Convention, pledging: "so long as I shall serve in public office, I shall be a champion of the rights and the privileges of home educators in Indiana and in the United States of America."



sary Timeline

& protecting Hoosier homeschoolers.

2014

The IAHE Indiana Homeschool **Discussion Group** launches on Facebook, allowing families to connect all year long and receive accurate and timely homeschool information. It surpasses 11K+ members in 2023.



2010

2020

With convention preparations almost complete, national news coverage begins to talk of a potential health crisis and "short-term" lockdowns. The IAHE team pivots their planning from an in-person event to the very first virtual homeschool conference during the pandemic... all in two weeks!



2015

2020

2023 - IAHE's first in-person conference post pandemic sells out! With standing-room-only sessions,

a buzzing vendor hall, and encouraging fellowship, Indiana homeschoolers are excited to be back together.

We look forward to another 40 years of continuing this mission of equipping families to pursue home education in Indiana.

See the full timeline with more details on our website:

iahe.net/timeline



2015

IAHE Action is established to increase the ability to safeguard home education liberty and parental rights.



2016

IAHE defends Indiana homeschoolers before the Indiana Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights after testimony claims the **School to Prison Pipeline** supposedly includes "homeschoolers."

Depositributos com: #71978857 #38300039 #598316862 #313534734 #64529695 #18763013; Pence photo at IAHE 2015 Convention: Noah Drook

2021

HB 1531 grants the department of child services unwarranted access to all Indiana children without parental knowledge or consent, IAHE and IAHE Action work with the committee chair to remove homeschoolers from the bill.

2018

A massive snow storm, nicknamed "Snowmageddon", hits Indianapolis during the annual IAHE convention. A new daily snowfall record is set, 10.2 inches of snow in Indianapolis, and it becomes the second-highest one-day total of snow for the month of March.



Reflections...

In light of the Indiana Association of Home Educators' 40th Anniversary and the banquet celebration we attended, my husband and I were recently thinking about how IAHE initially played a huge role in our having the confidence and excitement to homeschool.

About 29 years ago, when I was expecting our first child, we attended the convention in downtown Indy, which we found to be phenomenal! We had no idea there were so many wonderful resources (and dear people!), which helped to give us the desire and confidence to undertake this "radical" educational mission with our own children! Most of all, IAHE reinforced our own convictions that the most important aspect of home education is to bring glory to our great Lord for all HE has done, and to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of Him.

And now, almost three decades later, we can say, Christ is the only reason our homeschooling has "worked." Because my husband and I are sinful, incapable people, we have to cry out to God every day of this home education journey. God has been so good to hear our desperate pleas and attempts, and my heart swells when I see our daughters loving Christ and teaching their little ones of the Lord as well! God Himself has been the best reward in life (Genesis 15:1) for our family.

Despite our inadequacies, we delight in proclaiming a God who is excellent (Psalm 8). "He is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments." (Deut. 7:9) May God open the eyes of more parents to realize how great of a battlefield we are on as Christians in this hostile world, and may He give them faith to teach their children at home, saturating their lives with the greatness of our wonderful, Triune God. We are so very thankful to IAHE for their 40 years of service, but even more so to our Lord who is the "author and finisher of our faith," who has "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ," who leads us, never leaves us, enables and equips us, and sustains us every step of the way—to Him be all the glory!

— Rachel Cosens



- 1. Ron Landry & former board member Phil Ketron
- 2. Copies of The Informer
- 3. Johnathan Sutton & board member Mike Sager
- 4. Bryan Varner & Adan Slatter
- 5. Board members Steve & Penny Taylor, Mark & Tara Bentley, speaker Heidi St. John, Amy & Mike Sager

Banquet Highlight

A special thank you to Steve and Penny Taylor for over twenty years of service to the IAHE! We are grateful for your time, dedication, and direction.





...of Hoosier Homeschooling

WOW, what a celebration at IAHE's 40th Anniversary Banquet! Reflection is so important to remember your roots and to recognize with great gratitude that you are standing on the shoulders of Hoosier home education pioneers! Stepping forward in faith, our founders fought for the freedom to educate their own children and ensure this freedom for future Indiana families, too. The fruits of their labor and persecution legalized a freedom that has radically transformed my family's life, and we are forever

IAHE has given my family an 'Inspiring Image of Action, Hope and Help through Equipping Education!' The IAHE's Homeschool Conventions alone encompass all of these keywords. From such homeschool giants as Jay Wile, Ken Ham, Andrew Pudewa, Michael Farris, and Heidi St. John, we were given, through the years, an inspiring image and vision of what homeschooling was and could be; tools were given to us to respond to this call to action. Continually hope and help overwhelmed us, as we were equipped with the education to

> begin, to persevere, to flourish, and to complete our family's homeschool adventure.

> However, our homeschool journey is not over and neither is yours, even if you have graduated your last dear student, as we have. The freedom to homeschool is actively under attack. Freedom is not free, and it is time for the grateful, in the inspiring image of our founding IAHE families, to actively be the shoulders for the next generation of homeschoolers to stand upon, receiving all the needed hope, help and equipping education that we ourselves were blessed with. IAHE would love to hear from you today.

> > — Kristy West



On June 24, 2023, I had the pleasure of attending the IAHE 40th Anniversary Banquet in Carmel, Indiana. Many Hoosier homeschool giants were present, including two founding families of the IAHE–Mark and Ellen Bell, and Joyce Johnson (Judge Ken Johnson passed away in 2021). The third founding family, Doug and Nancy Jesch, were unable to attend. Heidi St. John also took time out of her busy schedule to come and speak to us on this momentous occasion. Her impassioned speech struck a chord with me, a second generation homeschooler.

The Settlers

I have been fortunate to be the oldest child of a generation of homeschool parents that I will call **The Settlers**. The Settlers began homeschooling around the 90s and continued into the early 2000s. Beginning our homeschooling journey in 1991 with my kindergarten year, my parents began their venture without the internet. They started without having access to the same aids that we take for granted in the current generation of homeschoolers: online discussion groups for how-to's and best

practices; a plethora of homeschool curriculum options for any learning style; and knowledge of and easy access to a statistical database on the outcomes of homeschooling through NHERI.org with Dr. Brian Ray.

However, my parents had a small in-person community of homeschool families from which they could glean encouragement as well as suggestions for how to navigate tough challenges. They built support groups that still today provide aid and encouragement to hundreds of families every year. They helped to establish the "norm" of kids being home during the day and running errands with their parents during school hours. They established the world that we know and benefit from every day.

The Pioneers

My parent's generation had it easier than those before them—they are **The Pioneers**. The Pioneers began homeschooling around the 80s. They homeschooled only through the conviction of providing their children with an exemplary education, centered on God. They didn't know if it would be a success or not, but they knew they would give it their best attempt, and steadfastly trekked into the wilderness of educating their children at home.

They were pioneers in that it was not entirely unknown territory that no one before them had surveyed, but it was still only a rutted dirt road that they followed, with a few seasoned guides to help them along the way. They still did not have easy access to curriculum—only a few visionary private school companies like Abeka and Bob Jones would consider sharing their materials—so they created their own materials. They organized small bands of like-minded homeschool families and started their journeys together, relying on each other for encouragement.

The Explorers

But the pioneers were not the first homeschool families of the modern homeschool movement. That illustrious title goes to the first generation, who I call **The Explorers**. The Explorers were the first families who began homeschooling up until the 70s and early 80s. They were those who only knew that they wanted more for their families—more time, more love, more education, more focus on Christ. They set off together in isolated groups, sometimes banding together when the Lord brought them into contact with each other, but these were the first explorers of the modern homeschool community; they homeschooled only through the conviction of providing their children with an exemplary education, centered on God. They didn't know if it would be a success or not, but they knew they would give it their best attempt and trekked into the wilderness of educating their children at home.

Many Explorer families didn't have access to formal educational curriculum; curriculum companies wouldn't sell to private families. Dumpster diving in public school parking lots, or writing their own material were the only solutions to this hurdle. Questions of legality were what mothers encountered when out in public during the school day. The threat of having CPS show up at their door was very real, and many families had contingency plans in place for that event. HSLDA, a legal defense firm specifically for homeschoolers, was not even founded by Michael Farris until 1983. There were no homeschool support groups or other dedicated options for homeschoolers. Times have certainly changed.

Picking Up the Mantle

That first generation of families were certainly explorers. They blazed the trails of acceptability, forged the communities that we enjoy today, and built the castles of protection so that we can enjoy a world relatively free from outside forces. Yes, families will at some time or another feel the pressure of unapproving family, or the internal doubts of, "Can I do this? Am I doing the right thing for my kid? Am I irreparably messing them up?" Stepping away from the norm of what parents and society have known for decades is a hard thing to overcome. But we do not have the same questions of, "Is that legal?"

Indiana homeschoolers are fortunate that one of our founding families was a judge's family. They ensured that we had positive laws for parental rights to homeschool our own children. We have more curriculum options that could not have been imagined when I was growing up. Building on 40 years of home education, families today are beginning to have the relaxed setting to know that they aren't going to mess up their kids really—they have access to several successful second generation homeschoolers who can vouch for the benefits of being homeschooled, both academically



and professionally. Scientific research backs this up as well (check out NHERI.org for these studies).

But I worry that this comfort is going to breed complacency. We have this mighty castle of stability—legally, socially, and academically—but have perhaps lost that courageous spirit that is necessary for maintaining anything that is bigger than ourselves. We are not exploring uncharted lands, or creating well-worn roads through the prairie. However, we need a new courage—a courage to not only step out from the comfortable and familiar, but to stand firm and maintain the fortress that we have been handed the keys to. The laws that currently give us homeschool freedom here are not guaranteed to stay in place forever. Every year brings new threats against parental rights and religious freedom. We must be diligent in defending our fortress and our families—we are **The Warriors.**

Warriors are the homeschool parents of the 2010s and on. They are ready to combat the opponents of freedom when necessary to protect their homes. Ready to fight to preserve their way of life. Willing to shield their children from unnecessary overreach from those who wish to require an accounting. Warriors know that they themselves have been given a God-given responsibility to guide and protect their children in all facets of their lives. We are those warriors, and we must always be diligent, standing at the ready to defend our freedoms.

How do we stand at the ready?

- Connecting with our state representatives and senators when bills arise that may remove our freedoms
- Refusing state funds which will ultimately have red tape that binds future generations
- √ Supporting fellow homeschoolers in our local communities
- Supporting our state homeschool organization, the IAHE, who has been on the forefront of homeschooling in Indiana for 40 years

IAHE's existence and mantra—to encourage, to protect, and to serve homeschoolers—continues to tie Hoosier home educators together into a united front in the ongoing battle to protect and lead homeschoolers in Indiana. All of these pieces are necessary to hold the line firm if we wish to continue in our current status quo.

Heidi St. John ended the 40th Anniversary Banquet with a quote from Ronald Reagan that really summed up the need for our generation of homeschool Warriors to not back down from the fight: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." I pray that my generation of Warriors will stand up to protect our freedoms and our children's freedoms.



Amanda Runge is a Hoosier homeschool graduate who lives in SE Indiana with her husband Kyle and three daughters. She has been volunteering with IAHE for over the past decade as graphic designer, and more recently as their social media admin and Regional Representative for region 14. She loves helping homeschoolers find their stride and love homeschooling as much as she did (and still does!)







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Well, there are tiny little hair-like roots that also grow from these big, thick roots that are called rootlets, and their purpose is to seek out water. They draw nutrients and minerals from the ground to nourish the tree and its fruits and leaves, providing food for all living things. But when these tiny rootlets sense danger, such as harmful pollutants, (petroleum oils, pesticides, chemicals, ect.), they turn away from the area that is polluted, bypassing the danger.

They seek an alternate route by going around the danger or growing deeper under it. This is fascinating. It is a defense mechanism that God seeded in the tree to know what to do, to make a way to survive, to seek what is good.

Well, isn't it ironic how similar this is to homeschooling? We also desire to deepen our roots and the roots of our children in the Lord—seeking and providing through the Word, Living Water to nourish our spirits, and keeping us firmly planted through the storms of life. Sensing danger, we too, as homeschoolers, have sought out an alternate route in education for our children.

Seeking to avoid "pollutants" (world views contrary to the Word of God) that could harm them and their foundation in Christ, we strive to shower them with truth. We do not want the fruits in their lives to be tainted or harmed in any way. We want our children, as well as our lives, to be productive, growing good fruit to nourish and be examples of Christ to others, as well as growing stronger in the Lord. We too must keep our roots deep in the Word to stand strong during the storms of this life that threaten to take us down.

The Father seeded in us to seek Him, the Living Water we need, to be nourished and strengthened daily. The foundation in everything, especially in our lives, is vital and anything that could harm that should be bypassed and avoided.

I share this with parents that are on the fence about homeschooling and with parents that are questioning continuing. They have fears that they are going to harm their children as they do not feel equipped to teach them. It is so sad that society has led us to believe that as parents we are only good for one thing, and when the time comes, we hand our children over to be taught/tainted in the ways of the world. This is very contrary to the Word of God, leaving a very unstable foundation, even to the strongest of children.

"Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life. Rid yourself of a deceitful mouth and keep devious speech far from you. Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right or to the left; Turn your foot from evil." –Proverbs 4:23-27

When we as parents sense the "danger" as the tree's rootlets do, we need to ask ourselves... Do we heed the danger, do we change course, and do we seek an alternate route for the safety of our lives and our children's lives? We have to protect what God has given to us, that instinct can not be ignored; it is our warning sign.

It's interesting to read the meaning of "heed." To take heed means, "to give serious attention to warnings, advice, some realities or facts or situations and take them into account when acting. It means to be careful and precautious, to take care and ensure that certain things are done or not done to avoid ugly effects or unpleasant results."

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children."
-Isaiah 54:13

We as parents need to realize just how important it is to protect our childrens' hearts, minds, and spirits, and now, in this world today, their physical being as well. Even from outside sources, by seizing a false trust in the public educational system to teach our children what they must learn, believe, and accept, to live in this world. This is our responsibility, as parents, not the world's.

"Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!" -Deuteronomy 5:29

Scripture tells us, "Like arrows are in the hand of a warrior, so are children of one's youth." (Psalm 127:4) We have the opportunity as homeschool parents to shape our children, to seed not only a love of learning in them, but to seek God and to abide in Him and His Word. Homeschooling helps to build a foundation in them that cannot be moved or snatched away, encouraging a trust in the Lord that can only be found in God and His Word.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." –Proverbs 3:5-6

~For His Glory, By His Grace~



Debbie Good is a daughter of the King, and a devoted wife of thirty-two years. She loves being Mom to her six children and Mimi to three grandchildren. She has been joyfully homeschooling for twenty-seven years now. She enjoys teaching Bible studies, homeschooling, writing, photography, and spending time with her family.

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I often get asked by families if they can homeschool a child needing speech and language support because they have been told that their child will learn to talk better in a traditional "classroom environment." Each family situation and each child are different, but my observation, from working with hundreds of families of children with speech and language concerns is that homeschooling is a great way to support children with speech and language differences. The individualization of education materials, the high level of support and ability to adjust as your child becomes more independent, as well as the opportunity for daily intermittent practice, make it a great fit.

This is especially true when families have the speech therapy tools to impact speech and language growth and they have a supportive community (church, homeschool coop, extended family, play groups) where they can practice what they learn at home to gain confidence in a variety of settings. Having a speech language pathologist (SLP) that you collaborate well with will help you have the tools you and your child need as they grow. My takeaway from working with families from public, private and homeschooling communities, is that how parents use the tools they have makes the biggest difference.

Now, you might ask, if parents are so instrumental in a child's speech and language learning process, why do homeschool parents need speech therapy? Won't a speech and language delayed child get it on their own, in their own time and be just fine with the help of their parents and all the awesome individualization homeschooling offers? Well, the answer to these questions has multiple parts.

First, it's not just a question of nurture. Good parents have children with speech and language disorders too, just like they have children that need braces or glasses. It would be pretty silly if folks started blaming parents for their child needing glasses. We simply understand that the need for glasses can be genetically related. Speech and language disorders can also be genetically related. Those areas of the brain or body just might develop differently due to genetic reasons or other factor's out of a parent's control and might benefit from a little outside help.

Second, though homeschooling can be so, so good for developing speech and language, parents may need specific tools and techniques from someone who can bring a speech language pathology background, perspective, and experience to the mix. Let's take a peek at some common reasons you might want speech therapy in your homeschool:

Your Child is Difficult to Understand and/or Doesn't Speak Clearly

This is a top reason families seek out speech therapy; their child doesn't speak clearly. For typical American English speakers certain sounds should be pronounced consistently correctly by the following ages: by age 2-3 years /p, b, m, d, n, h, t, k, g, w, ng, f, y /; by age 4 years /l, j, ch, s, v, sh, z/; by age 5 years /r, zh/ and voiced /th/; by age 6 years the voiceless /th/.

It can be helpful to address speech sound concerns while children are younger and they're more able to undo and redo habits. When looking for resources for simple sound errors, watching a brief tutorial video might give you and your child what you need to "fix" the sound at home. Other speech sound errors are much more complicated to teach or are the result of an underlying issue that benefits from a speech language pathologist's specific skills and training to unpack. Speech sound errors can be based in the brain or in the muscles. That's when you may need to work as a collaborative team to help your child's speech sounds grow.

Your Child has Trouble Learning, Retaining, and/or Using Words

Some children are late talkers. They may have difficulty putting words together or speak sentences "out of order." Many of these children have difficulty pulling out specific words or learning new vocabulary. They may have difficulty understanding others or holding a conversation. Often a family will share that others in their family were late talkers. But though "they grew up to talk just fine", they sometimes did not do as well in reading comprehension or other academic areas. When that happens, it may be because there was an unaddressed foundational difference in how their brain learns and uses language. It can be helpful to receive a speech language pathologist's support when a child is younger and not developing near expectations in order to lay that groundwork for future language learning and use.

Your Reader isn't Reading (as well as you think they could)

There are SLP's specializing in reading and related speech and language disorders that affect a child's ability to reach their reading goals. If an underlying disorder is uncovered and diagnosed, some insurance companies will reimburse for speech therapy intervention, even though tutoring would not be covered. It's certainly worth considering if that is an area of concern in your home.

Your Child is Missing Social Cues

As homeschool families, we have all gotten grief from extended family and "well meaning" friends about "socialization." However, social pragmatic language disorder and other disorders, such as autism, often have connections to differences in how social language develops. Some children, homeschooled or not, benefit from explicit instruction for understanding social rules. This can improve their awareness of those unspoken "rules" of engagement, mental flexibility, and the ability to summarize spoken and written language.

Trust Your Gut

There are tons of other areas where speech therapy can help your homeschool (stuttering, feeding, swallowing, voice, and more), so if your parent "gut" is telling you something isn't developing as expected, consider talking to a speech language pathologist or asking your medical professional their recommendations. Consider digging into the American Speech and Hearing Association's website (ASHA.org) to better inform your web searches for tools, and connecting with other homeschool families that have walked the speech therapy path before. Homeschooling is such an asset to children with speech and language concerns because it gives you, their parents, so many options to tailor their learning and life experience to what they need next to grow!



Amanda Owens, MA, CCC-SLP is a homeschool graduate, homeschool mom of four, and speech language pathologist. Through her private practice Illuminate Communicate, she equips parents across Indiana to do speech therapy at home so their children can talk clea<mark>rly a</mark>nd confidently.





HOMESCHOOLING **MEETS TAEKWONDO**

From Student to Instructor

—Holly and Laura Carver

Every part of our Taekwondo

JOURNEY, from student to instructor, has been through homeschooling. The impetus? The IAHE Homeschool Convention. I remember that very first class...

Students were waiting outside the classroom door, and nervous energy rippled through the crowd. My siblings and I were the first to step through the door. I don't know exactly what I expected of our instructor, but it wasn't the grandfatherly type with a friendly smile who's also an ordained minister. After our first lesson, my siblings and I came out with beaming smiles. And here I am, nearly ready to test for my second-degree black belt and co-owner of my own school. All because our taekwondo instructor took a chance at the IAHE Homeschool Convention.

Seven years ago, in 2016, our mom started looking into martial arts as a way to get some physical education credit for high school. It seemed like a good way to complete PE and come away with some useful real-life skills like self-defense. We looked into a few different schools in the Indianapolis area, none of which seemed like the right fit for us. The owners were friendly and willing to let us come see what they did, the drive was doable, but nothing seemed quite... right. So, we waited and kept praying.

Then, a few months later, some friends of ours, in telling us about their homeschool co-op, happened to mention that their co-op would be offering Taekwondo for PE in the fall.

Let me back up some.

During the year that our family was exploring martial arts schools and looking for the right fit, we also attended the IAHE Homeschool Convention at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. So did the mom who coordinates the particular co-op that our friends told us about. She wasn't looking for an instructor to teach Taekwondo for PE at her co-op. Grandmaster Daniel Coblentz also wasn't sure what he could expect from his first ever booth at the homeschool convention. The first time, she simply walked past the Coblentz Martial Arts booth. Then she turned around and came back.

We're not privy to all the details of that conversation. We don't know what was said, but Grandmaster Coblentz ended up teaching Taekwondo at her homeschool co-op, starting that fall 2017. His first and only booth at the IAHE Homeschool Convention was a smashing success, and he loves to tell the story of how God orchestrated to bring Taekwondo to our co-op.

Now let me jump ahead.

During the next four years my siblings and I had our ups and downs as we went from one belt test to the next. There were points when we didn't feel like practicing, but our instructor warned us about moments like those, and we kept going. Some of us did not anticipate becoming involved so heavily in martial arts. But we enjoyed the rigors of training, and our instructor was very encouraging.

In spring 2021, my five younger siblings and I all successfully tested for our Black Belts after a grueling two-and-a-half-hour-long test. We were six of the fourteen students in the first wave of Black Belts at our homeschool co-op. Seven more students have tested for Black Belt in the past two years, and my siblings and I will be testing for Second-Degree Black Belt this coming fall.

God didn't just guide us to the right martial arts school and homeschool co-op. He didn't just orchestrate Taekwondo at a particular co-op at a particular time just outside of Indianapolis. He didn't just give us the strength and perseverance to reach Black Belt. We three oldest also became Certified Instructors when we earned our Black Belts, and God has been using that recently as well. We have helped test color belts in our own homeschool co-op, as well as started our own school – Carver Martial Arts – through a natural waterfall of events and God's planning.

We began teaching Taekwondo officially last October. And guess what? Our students are homeschool students and homeschool moms. We're a small school and meet in our basement toe-chong (Taekwondo school). This coming fall 2023, my siblings and I will also be teaching Taekwondo for physical education at another local homeschool co-op north of Indianapolis.

Many people think homeschoolers live under a rock. But we have seen God bring homeschoolers together again and again. Most of us went to that homeschool convention not knowing exactly what we wanted or needed at that point in time. But God knew and brought everything together.



Holly and Laura Carver are sisters, best friends, Black Belts, and Taekwondo sparring partners (don't ask about the bloody nose that one time...). Holly is a first-year student at IU School of Medicine, and Laura is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in history at IUPUI. Both enjoy reading, teaching Taekwondo, and breaking cement in their free time.

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Would you like to see your kids read

more books this year? Do you start the year off strong with a few good books that you intend for them to read, but then find that it devolves into "candy" books after only a couple of months? Or maybe you would like to see your children reading more books that are relevant to either their interests or what they are studying that year?

There are different ways to think about reading lists. A reading list can be as loose or as formal as you want it to be. Depending on your child's reading level and the size of the books, you can have them read one book a week or one book a month. Or if you like more flexibility, you can assign 2-3 books per semester. However it is laid out, a reading list shouldn't be a chore. It should be a joy—an exciting list of possible adventures. If you can involve your child in at least some of the choosing of books, your chances of them being on board will be much higher.

Here are five general methods for laying out a reading list. Try out one of these and see if you have more success on your reading adventures this year.

Organize your reading list by:



Historical Time Period

This is a great option if you are studying a certain time period in history. For example, if you are studying American History, you could choose a selection of biographies, historical fiction, and nonfiction books about that time period for your child.



A Theme

Is your child interested in fairy tales, dogs, WWII, or Native Americans? Consider making a reading list of a variety of genres all based around that theme.



One From Every Genre

This type of reading list would be great for exposing your student to a variety of genres—classics, science fiction, biography, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, etc.



You Choose, I Choose

If you have a child who is resistant to being assigned books to read, this is an option for sharing the book selection. You can let your child choose a several books (with your approval, of course), and you can choose several books. It's a great way to partner with them in their learning journey.



Random/Eclectic

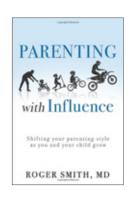
If creating a reading list is more than enough organization for you in the first place, don't worry about any rhyme or reason to choosing books. Just pick books you think would be engaging and good for your student. Enjoy the freedom of picking from your bookshelves, the library, or your local used book store.

Reading Books for Parents



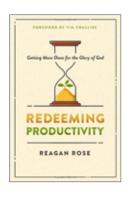
1000 Hours Outside Ginny Yurich

Leaning on her own experiences, her Masters degree in Education, and years of informal study of children and their development, Ginny Yurich shares some eye-opening statistics and very convincing arguments as to why children need to spend more time outside. While she briefly highlights the astronomical amount of time children today spend on screens, the majority of the book is spent on the many benefits of spending time outdoors, such as boosting their immune system, calming anxiety, learning through their senses, building relational skills, and more. Homeschool parents will love the practical tips Yurich shares for managing schoolwork, chores, cooking, and more. Yurich is vulnerable and real, giving readers confidence that 1000 hours outside is not only attainable, but is worth the effort.



Parenting with Influence Dr. Roger Smith

In a heartfelt, relational writing style, Roger Smith, MD (a fellow homeschool dad) shares parenting insight and wisdom pulled from years of experience in pediatrics, youth ministry, his own parenting experience, and what he has learned from mentors. This isn't a book about quick fixes and better rules, although there is indeed plenty of practical help. Smith helps us understand that the parent-child relationship is at the heart of parenting, and that parenting starts with the parent. Readers will love the short chapters, the stories that illustrate points, and the insight into each stage of development children go through. From 'Teaching Responsibility in the Elementary Years' to 'Trading Control for Influence with Your Teen', readers will walk away from Parenting with Influence with more confidence in their parenting abilities.



Redeeming Productivity Reagan Rose

It seems fitting, since this book is about productivity, that Reagan Rose limits his insights to 148 pages. Between a manageable length overall and short, clear sections, readers will find this an easy read. Rose challenges readers to not only look at what they are getting done, but the why and how behind their activity. He looks at what should be motivating us. Then he gets into some practicals, pointing out three priority areas to organize in your life: your bedroom, your morning routine space, your work space. Homeschool parents will especially benefit from his suggestions about how to manage domains of stewardship such as relationships, finances, health, and recreation. We could add school time as a domain. If you are feeling overwhelmed as we move into this next school year, Redeeming Productivity may be just what you need.

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