

HOMESCHOOL INDIANA

Teens



AN IAHE PUBLICATION
BY TEENS FOR TEENS

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This digital publication is a compilation of articles written by the students as part of the IAHE Internship Program. We hope you are inspired by their writing and enjoy reading their thoughts, interviews, book reviews, and more.

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- ★ Kristin Steier, Internship Coordinator
- ★ Tara Bentley, Executive Director
- ★ Nancy Manos, Graphic Designer



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IAHE INTERNSHIP

IAHE's inaugural class of interns hit the ground running in 2021. During their 15-week program, the students worked hard, learned a lot, and earned high school credit for their transcripts.

This digital publication is a compilation of articles written by the students as part of the IAHE internship. We hope you are inspired by their writing and enjoy reading their thoughts, interviews, book reviews, and more.

The IAHE Internship Program is an exciting opportunity for junior and senior high school homeschool students to serve the Indiana homeschool community while earning high school credit. Interns gain valuable insight into what kinds of work they may be suited for and add practical work experience to their transcript.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

IAHE interns from all over Indiana engage with speakers across the nation through live weekly video calls, explore individual strengths, gain insight into the inner workings of a nonprofit, learn about homeschool laws and research, try their hand at writing blog posts and designing graphics, and much more!

Interns will build skills in a variety of areas including:

- ★ Critical thinking
- ★ Team problem solving
- ★ Creative innovation
- ★ Interpersonal communication
- ★ Research and reporting
- ★ Legislative bill reading
- ★ Google Workplace tools
- ★ Graphic design in Canva
- ★ Presentation skills
- ★ Magazine layout, design, content

This 15-week program runs from the end of August through mid-December.

Indiana homeschooled juniors and seniors are invited to apply for the 2022 intern program!

SEE PAGE 40 FOR MORE HIGHLIGHTS

IAHE.NET/IAHE-INTERNSHIP



MEET THE 2021 INTERNS



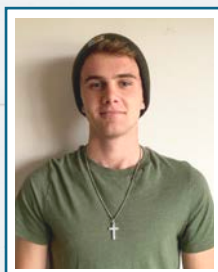
URIAH BIRD

My experience as an IAHE intern has been incredible! I learned how the homeschool laws in various states differ, and how an organization like IAHE protects homeschooling families. It has also shown me some of the back-end things that need to be done in an organization. I especially enjoyed the guest speakers that we learned from.



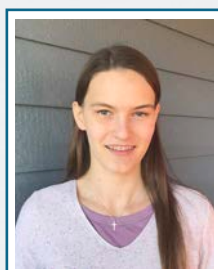
TIFFANY CHOU

This internship has been a wonderful experience for me! I have learned how the IAHE runs and taken part in furthering its mission of serving Indiana homeschoolers. I have explored various kinds of work, ranging from writing blog post articles to graphic design. This variety in activities has helped me discover new things that I like and will influence my future pursuits. I have collaborated on projects with some amazing people. I have loved helping fellow homeschoolers through this internship.



TRAVIS MCCOY

I was very pleased to intern for the IAHE. I learned a lot about the homeschool community, the work to preserve our rights as homeschoolers, and how nonprofit organizations function. The internship has given me the opportunity to practice skills that will be useful to me in the future such as reading and responding to emails, working on projects with others, and even learning some graphic design skills!



EMMA SAGER

The IAHE internship has given me the opportunity to learn about the IAHE and how a nonprofit organization works. I have heard from incredible speakers and learned about graphic design, the power of storytelling, using my strengths, stewardship, being a good leader, and more. I learned about jobs and skills that I might want to pursue in my own life.



SIMONE SMITH

I've really enjoyed my IAHE internship. It's been a great experience that taught me about the behind-the-scenes workings of a nonprofit. It's been neat to cover topics like graphic design, homeschool law, and more. I especially appreciated learning how to best utilize my natural skills in communicating with others. Interning is a great way to both learn new skills and support the IAHE.

A Courageous Young Patriot



THE STORY OF SYBIL LUDINGTON, 1777

by Emma Sager

Hooves pounded as a figure on horseback rode furiously through the rainy night. The area was dangerous, and the rider's mission was even more dangerous: mustering Colonel Ludington's militiamen to stop British troops from attacking the nearby town of Danbury, Connecticut.

The figure didn't dare stop to rest. Outlaws and bandits were not uncommon sights in these parts. The horse's hooves pounded a regular beat into the muddy road. The rider's thoughts drifted back to the events of only a few hours before.

It was the evening of April 26, 1777. A messenger had ridden up and banged at the door of Colonel Henry Ludington's house. Colonel Ludington was commander of a group of militiamen. He had opened the door, and the exhausted messenger quickly warned him that a band of British were attacking the town of Danbury to get to Continental supplies that were being stored there.

Colonel Ludington had a dilemma on his hands. His militiamen had disbanded for the season and were scattered about the country. The messenger was too exhausted to ride further to gather them up and he, Ludington, must prepare for battle and be ready to meet his militiamen as they arrived.

His oldest child, Sybil, solved his dilemma. In a few moments, 16-year-old Sybil was on a horse riding out into the night to round up the 400 militiamen. The night was dark and rainy, and Sybil risked capture by the British and by outlaws and robbers.

Despite the dangers, Sybil rode bravely on. By daybreak she had managed to rally most of Colonel Ludington's militiamen and had ridden nearly forty miles. Although the troops arrived too late to stop the British, they did catch up with the British and inflict heavy damages upon them.

Sybil Ludington has been remembered today for her brave actions with a statue in Caramel, New York. The plaque beneath the statue reads:

**Sybil Ludington—
Revolutionary War Heroine,
April 26, 1777. Called out the
volunteer militia by riding through
the night, alone, on horseback,
at the age of 16, alerting the
countryside to the burning
of Danbury, Conn.
by the British.**



Sybil Ludington stepped up to the large responsibility that was handed her and carried it out with bravery and courage. Although her story is often forgotten or passed over, it is certainly an important and inspiring one to remember. Her age proved no hindrance to her ability to help.

The Charles Colson Story

by Uriah Bird

*Excitement, scandal, incarceration, forgiveness, transformation—
Charles Colson's life is worth remembering.*

Charles Colson was a lawyer who served as Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon. His autobiography tells the story of his rise in the Nixon administration, his entanglement in the Watergate debacle, and his radical transformation after surrendering his life to Jesus.

After serving in the marines and then becoming a lawyer, Colson co-founded a prestigious law firm. A friend asked him to manage his campaign for governor, and Colson did so successfully, although with rather sketchy methodologies.

He played a large part in Richard Nixon's election as well. Colson managed his campaign and was promoted to Special Counsel to the President. Unfortunately, his questionable methods continued; these included bullying, radically and purposefully misconstruing motives, and "leaking" information about Nixon's enemies. This soon earned him the nickname "Nixon's Hatchetman." When Watergate occurred, an event Colson had no knowledge of beforehand, the media was out for blood. One man they wanted almost as much as Nixon was Charles Colson. This period became a turning point in Colson's life.

It was at that time that a close friend of Colson shared his experience with Christ. This friend also gave Colson a copy of C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. The book was so convincing, Colson stated that he would consider himself lucky to never have to face Lewis in a debate. Colson studied the Bible with other followers of Christ in D.C. He repaired relationships his actions had broken. The media, however,

labeled this as a stunt, staged to deflect accusations. Although innocent of any involvement in Watergate, his conscience hurt him over other actions he had taken. His decision to plead guilty to those actions surprised many; some claimed he turned traitor to the president.

Colson was sentenced to one to three years in prison.

In prison, he drew closer to God and felt led to minister to the other prisoners. He turned down highly coveted office labor positions, and instead chose to do one of the more menial tasks: laundry. Slowly he began to help turn hearts toward Christ. A group of four fellow inmates were his closest friends. Together, they would pray for God to speak to the prison guards and the inmates. Their faith became so strong that God used them to heal a man who doctors believed was on his deathbed.

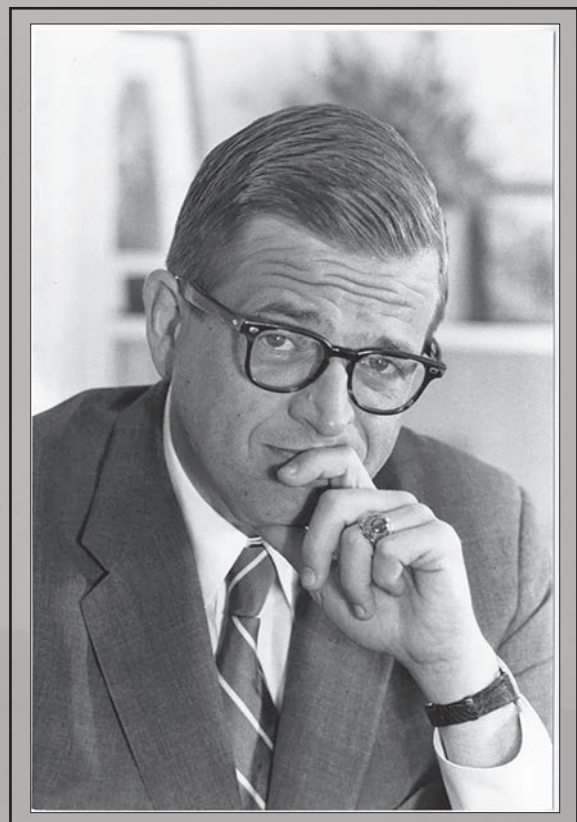
After nearly seven months, rumors spread that Colson would be released. While this was heartening, something else occurred that nearly broke him: his son was sentenced to prison for selling and doing drugs. Colson prayed and forced himself to carry on. Shortly afterward, he was released. Having been disbarred, he could not continue his law practice.

Colson felt the Lord leading him to start a prison ministry, and he went on to found Prison Fellowship, which is “the nation’s largest Christian nonprofit serving

prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, and a leading advocate for criminal justice reform.” His story shows how in the mess of sin, anger, and politics, God can create something for His purposes. It also shows how God will strengthen you if you are doing His will, fighting for His cause.

Charles Colson once said, “One of the most wonderful things about being a Christian is that I don’t ever get up in the morning and wonder if what I do matters. I live every day to the fullest because I can live it through Christ and I know no matter what I do today, I’m going to do something to advance the Kingdom of God.”

Colson’s life is a perfect example of redemption in action. No one is beyond hope. Everyone can have a second chance.





Internship vs. Apprenticeship

by Travis McCoy

High school is a great time to explore career options. Discovering your interests and available careers will help you determine whether or not you want to pursue college, some form of vocational education, or another option. But how can you decide what it is that you want to do for a career? It is a pretty difficult thing to figure out on your own; an apprenticeship or an internship can be very helpful tools. Although sometimes the terms are used interchangeably, they are not the same thing at all, and deciding which one is right for you is important to get the most out of the relationship.

Internships

An internship is a program offered by an employer that allows you to get some real work experience in a particular field to see whether it interests you or not. It is less focused on training you in the field and more focused on exposing you to it, letting you explore what it is about in order to decide if you like it or not.

Internships are also very diverse in how they are set up. An internship could last for a week, a year, or somewhere in between. Some internships are part-time, and others are full-time. Some are paid, and some are unpaid. It is all about learning what the business is about and deciding if it is something you would like to learn more about and/or make a career out of.

Apprenticeships

On the other hand, an apprenticeship is more geared towards people who have already decided what field of work they seem to enjoy. An apprenticeship is a long-term program (typically lasting one to six years) offered by an employer that combines on the job training and paid labor. While internships many times also lead to a full-time job offer afterwards, the likelihood of keeping a full-time job at the same business after the apprenticeship ends is almost 100%. The company will have trained you in the way their business works so you will fit in best with them, but you would also have the option to go elsewhere if you desire.

Finding One

Now, the big question is how do I find and apply for an apprenticeship or an internship? The answer to that question is relatively simple: just go out and look. In our current economic climate, almost all businesses are short-handed which makes right now the best time to seek apprenticeships or internships. Businesses will be much more willing to take the time to train a potential employee since employees (especially good ones) are so hard to come by. Go to local businesses in your area that you think might interest you and ask them if they would be interested in taking you on as an intern or an apprentice.

It is important to be clear as to which one you are interested in and make sure both you and the business owner are on the same page. Since the terms apprenticeship and internship can tend to be used interchangeably, it is important to be clear on what it is that both you and the business owner expect from the relationship. Many people find more success working for smaller companies who are looking for good employees. You may have a better experience with them, since they are typically more focused on people than just numbers on a sheet.

Trust His Plan

Both internships and apprenticeships can be very useful tools when it comes to deciding what career you want to pursue if you take advantage of them and of the other opportunities that God gives you. I have no doubt that through all that He will guide you to a career that is best for you. His plans are always good. Someday, you will look back and see it all come together through your experiences. So don't worry about having it all figured out now; just trust God, be willing to learn, and enjoy the journey.

THE Freedom IN Homeschooling

by Simone Smith

Sometimes, we can take homeschooling for granted. We fall into a daily routine, forming our own schedules and establishing habits. But do we ever take a step back and really consider the freedom we have in homeschooling?

In a time when our government controls more and more aspects of our lives, we need to appreciate our hard-won homeschool freedoms. Generations of dedicated families have fought for our homeschooling rights. With the freedom to homeschool, we enjoy aspects of schooling that can't really be found anywhere else.

Let's take a look at what we can be thankful for.

HOMESCHOOLING ALLOWS FOR FLEXIBILITY

Flexibility is an amazing part of the homeschool experience. By homeschooling, you have the freedom to do school whenever it works for you! Education is different for everyone and sometimes studying in the afternoon or evening

is a better choice. Through homeschooling, individuals can experiment to find out when they're most productive.

During high school, having flexibility in your schedule allows students to get a job or join extracurricular groups. I've found homeschooling to be a huge benefit in the workplace. As the demand for workers increases, employers want employees with flexible schedules. Students who are available to work when their public-schooled peers are in class have a natural advantage when it comes to getting a job.

Flexibility in your schedule also lets families make time for what really matters. The ability to do school whenever and wherever is convenient allows for customized Christmas breaks, vacations, and field trips. Unlike a public or private school, homeschoolers don't have to do school the same way every year. Many students edit their schedules in order to graduate early! Flexibility is a huge bonus when homeschooling.

HOMESCHOOLING IS ADAPTABLE

Mark Twain once said, "I've never let my schooling interfere with my education." He understood that sometimes, the best learning takes place outside a traditional classroom! Another example of the freedom we have in homeschooling is through adaptability. With homeschooling, parents and students have the freedom to "change it up" and find what works for them.

Another way we enjoy adaptability in homeschooling is in customizing schoolwork to each member of the family. Everyone has a different style of learning, and an assignment that's simple for one person might be more challenging for another.

Parents know their children better than any public school can. "One size fits all" programs can be a waste of time. Adaptability of teaching methods and even school subjects is helpful to ensure each student is learning to his or her full potential.

HOMESCHOOLING ENSURES THE PARENTS DIRECT WHAT IS TAUGHT

The reason many parents choose homeschooling is the adaptability they have in choosing curriculum. Unlike public schools, homeschool allows you to customize your

subject material. With material taught in public and even private schools becoming questionable, homeschool parents can make sure their children are learning good solid facts and truth.

Generations of dedicated families have fought for our homeschooling rights. With the freedom to homeschool, we enjoy aspects of schooling that can't really be found anywhere else.

Homeschooling supports the parent's right to educate their children as they think best. This is true for history and science and every other subject. Parents are also free to pass on their faith to their children and incorporate it into every subject and all of life if they choose to.

We truly have great freedom in homeschooling here in Indiana. The freedom to choose how to carry out education is vitally important to a free society and should never be neglected. Through the hard work of organizations like Indiana Association of Home Educators and the passion of individuals, parental rights can stay strong, and children can get the best education possible.

The Benefits of ATHLETICS

by Travis McCoy

Sports have always been very important in American culture. It's hard to imagine America without names such as "Michael Jordan," "Babe Ruth," and "Peyton Manning." They, and many others like them, along with the sports that they play, have shaped our country in numerous ways.

What has made sports so important to us, and why do so many people encourage kids and especially teens to participate in them? Part of it is just human nature. Ever since we were little kids we liked to play and to expend our energy doing things that were frivolous but brought us joy. For many people, sports are just fun. It is that connection to their youth that they enjoy and the good memories attached to them.

For others, it is the camaraderie that they feel either being part of a team or even just watching their favorite team and cheering them on. That feeling of being a part of something bigger, the competition, and rivalries between teams is the thing that they enjoy most.

However, I think the biggest reason that sports are so popular and why many parents encourage their children and teens to take part in them is because of the respect folks have for athletes that have trained hard to become great along with the

things they have learned while doing so. They want their children to be able to earn that same respect and to take advantage of the many benefits that participating in sports can bring.

Improving a person's health is a major benefit of playing sports, but here are three other equally important benefits.

FOCUS AND TRAINING

The greatest thing that athletics teaches you is the importance of being driven and focused. You learn how to give your absolute all and live it day in and day out, never letting up, always pushing yourself to be better and better, because that is what it takes to be great.

That drive and focus is a trait that many desire, but few achieve not only in sports but in life as well. Having that drive to work hard and the focus to stick with it even when you don't want to or when things get tough is a skill and trait that will stay with you throughout your life. It will help you tremendously.

PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Sports provide an opportunity to develop good character and integrity. Traits like being on time for practice, working hard all the time (even when you don't feel like it), being a good teammate (even when tensions are high), working together

(even when you don't want to), and learning how to keep your cool in high pressure situations (even when everyone else is panicking) are all priceless principles that carry over into the real world. Athletics put you in an almost perfect environment to sharpen these important skills.

Participating in athletics will help build your character and also help you to learn things about yourself that you may not have otherwise known. Granted most of them may not be good things, but we all must learn the bad things about ourselves in order for us to be able to work on removing them. Being in many high pressure situations with a healthy dose of competition will put you in a perfect environment to learn about your specific character traits. So, not only will participating in athletics help make you stronger physically, but they will make you a better person as well.

COMMUNICATION AND TEAMWORK

Athletics also teach you how to communicate well. When you are playing sports, you have to communicate mainly with two groups: your coach and your teammates. Communicating with your coach isn't very hard most of the time, but those interactions are still valuable for teaching you how to interact with and communicate with those who are in charge whether that be your boss, your parents, or a teacher. Learning how to communicate well with them will certainly help your relationship with them and your reputation.

However, the biggest communication lesson in sports is how to communicate with your team. Learning how to properly and effectively communicate with your peers without sending the wrong message is a very hard skill to learn, especially in today's day and age where most of us are more content to text one another than to

actually have a face to face conversation. This is true, especially about important topics such as relationship problems, not only between a man and a woman but also between friends and family. Most of us are so easily offended that if you do try to have a conversation, even very small things mistakenly said can sour the relationship.

Athletics teaches you how to communicate constructively with your teammates when someone messes up, when someone sees something that should be fixed, when someone has an idea, and even just letting someone know that you've got their back. Athletics gives you ample practice at communicating these things effectively and without offending anyone especially in high tension or high pressure situations.

These lessons in communication all transfer easily into your everyday life. Whether it is your boss, parents, coworkers, friends, siblings, or your future spouse, these lessons in communication will help you to have more vibrant, happy, and healthy relationships.

STEP OUT

There are many other lessons and skills that taking part in sports can teach you, but these three are key. Athletics have so much to offer you when it comes to learning and growing as a person. Maybe you think athletics aren't your thing. However, if you consider all the skills you can learn through participating in athletics, what do you have to lose? In our culture, we are all so content to stay in our comfort zones and watch the world go by. Maybe you aren't going to be a star basketball player or a starting quarterback-but maybe you could be. You just have to step outside of your comfort zone and give it a try, and you will probably learn some priceless lessons along the way.

Homeschool Co-ops

OR ONLINE CLASSES

by Tiffany Chou

Homeschool co-ops and online classes have been fundamental elements of my homeschool journey. I attended a co-op from fourth through eighth grade, taking fun courses like nutrition and wellness, art, and drama (as well as not-so-fun ones like science and writing). Throughout high school, I have been taking online courses through the HSLDA Online Academy. I am currently enrolled in the Academy's Computer Science and Business courses, with Personal Finance lined up for the spring semester. Having taken both co-op and online classes, I thought I would give you some benefits and challenges of each so you and your family can make an informed decision as to which option you can use to supplement your home education.

Homeschool Co-ops

BENEFITS

Attending co-ops is an excellent way to meet fellow homeschooled students in your area! My co-op was the one place (outside of my own house) that I truly felt at home. I loved getting to know homeschooled people just like me and taking classes with them. Despite not being part of a co-op since eighth grade, I am still in contact with several friends that I met during my time there!



Co-ops are also beneficial in that you get to experience learning in a classroom setting. Most often, homeschoolers receive one-on-one instruction from their parents, which is a great thing. However, it is also helpful to learn in a classroom setting so that you can feel more accustomed to that kind of educational environment if or when you go to college. You might also learn interesting, insightful things from your classmates that you otherwise wouldn't if you were learning by yourself at home.

CHALLENGES

Since members of co-ops meet at a certain place and at certain times, you have to carve out time from your schedule to accommodate the co-op meeting times. From my experience, homeschoolers tend to pride themselves on the flexibility of their schedules, so having to commit to making time specifically for attending classes at a co-op might be discouraging.

Traveling to the co-op meeting place might also be a con for some families. For example, if your family only has one car that one of your parents drives to work every morning, you might not have a way to get to the co-op. Or if you have many siblings who each have a lot of activities, it might be difficult to schedule drop-offs and pick-ups for all of you.

Online Classes

BENEFITS

One major advantage of online classes is the flexibility. While some online courses have live class sessions for students, others do not—and none of them require traveling anywhere to attend class. For me personally, my HSLDA Online Academy courses do have live sessions every week. These are recorded for anyone who cannot attend; if I miss a class or can only attend part of it, I can always watch the recording of the class at my own convenience.

I have also taken online classes from other institutions like Memoria Press Online Academy which do not have any live sessions at all. Those are truly flexible courses, but overall, online classes offer more adaptability than in-person co-op classes.

Online classes also give homeschoolers a different way to make friends. If you are an introvert like me and dislike talking to people in real life, you might find that using other means of communication in your online classes, like discussion boards and chats, is a more comfortable way to make friends.

CHALLENGES

If you live in a rural area or somewhere with bad internet access, online learning might not be a good fit for you. Because your assignments need to be turned in using a computer connected to the internet, not to mention that you might have to attend live class sessions, having good wifi is a must.

Online classes generally also limit face-to-face communication and interaction. If you are more extroverted and prefer speaking to and making friends in person, the virtual nature of online classes may be a drawback for you. Similarly, you and your online class teacher might not get to know each other as well via an in-person class setting.

So, depending on your family's situation and your own preferences, you might choose to attend a co-op or register for online classes—or maybe both! Hopefully the information above helps you to make a suitable decision as to whether co-ops or online classes are a better option for you!

A Homeschool Pioneer

AN INTERVIEW WITH JEAN SMITH

by Simone Smith



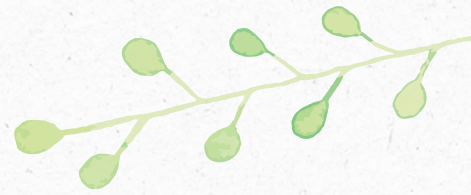
My grandma was a homeschool pioneer back in the early days of the modern homeschool movement. My grandparents were hippies and traveled around the United States. In the mid 1980s, they took their family and traveled with a mission called Christ is the Answer. Their four children had varied experiences, but were mostly homeschooled. I'd consider my grandmother a pioneer because she chose to homeschool even when facing opposition and limited resources. I asked her to describe her experiences.

WERE YOU HOMESCHOOLED AS A CHILD? HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?

No, I was not homeschooled as a child. My son, Ian, was in a Christian school in California. In about 1978, we were going to move to Washington state and live on the side of a mountain, so I needed to have some kind of provision for school. I didn't want to send him to public school because I didn't know what our situation would be.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO HOMESCHOOL?

My biggest reason for wanting to homeschool was my conviction that I was not going to send my children "to Egypt" to be educated. So, I decided to homeschool. I wanted to choose my own curriculum, and I researched different places to find some curriculum that I could do at home.



DID YOU EVER TRY PUBLIC SCHOOL?

The only time I tried public school was when the youngest was 15 or 16 years old. I had two jobs, and I was going to school. He wasn't working for me at home, so I put him in public school. But he didn't work for them, either!

DID YOU FACE ANY OPPOSITION TO HOMESCHOOLING?

Yes. First of all, I was homeschooling in the state of Washington. At the time that I was homeschooling, it was illegal. We had to lay low, not be obvious, and do our own thing. My other opposition came from my family. They were saying, "Don't you want your children to be socialized?" But I said, "I did research, and the children who were homeschooled were more socialized because they knew how to talk to adults instead of just their peers." It was more of a "well-rounded" environment for them to be in. I could customize my own curriculum to each of their needs as children.

WHAT WERE SOME THINGS THAT YOU FOUND TO BE DIFFICULT IN YOUR HOMESCHOOL JOURNEY?

I would say in the very beginning it was finding appropriate materials to teach them. I kind of went off of the idea that they needed to know reading and arithmetic. I was developing my own curriculum. Later on I was able to tap into Christian Liberty Academy and get their full curriculum for appropriate grades and testing. It was hard to make sure they were getting a well-rounded curriculum at an early age, but I think they did. I wasn't worried about that.

WAS THERE EVER ANYTHING THAT YOU SAW HAPPEN THAT MADE YOU GLAD YOU WERE HOMESCHOOLING?

I remember when I was in El Paso, Texas in a missionary group. I would drive down the road, thinking, "My kids are missing out on high school!" Not long after, I drove by the high school and could see kids smoking in the parking lot. Then I thought, "Ok, I made the right choice."

From Public School Teacher TO HOMESCHOOL TEACHER

An Interview with Renee McCoy

by Travis McCoy

Renee McCoy is my mom, but that is not the reason I thought she would be a good subject for this interview. She taught in the public school system in Fairgrove, Michigan for 12 years. After this, she quit her job in order to be a stay-at-home mom and homeschool my three younger siblings and myself. I was interested in what it was like being a public school teacher and why a 12-year veteran of the public school system would choose to homeschool her children instead. This is what I learned.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND?

I received my teaching degree in All Grade Physical Education and Secondary Math from Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana. I taught one year at Lowell High School in Lowell, Indiana then moved to Michigan and got married. I taught for 12 years at Akron-Fairgrove Junior/Senior High School in Fairgrove, MI. During my tenure there, I received a Science Minor from Saginaw Valley State University and began work on a Masters in Agriscience Education at Michigan State University. I was also certified to teach health. I retired from public school on March 26, 2008 to become a stay-at-home mom.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A TEACHER?

After graduating high school, I had notions of being an engineer or a lawyer. After praying, spending time counseling at summer camps, and really thinking about where my sweet spot was, I came to realize that I was great at working with kids. So I decided to pursue being a teacher.

WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU TEACH?

I consistently taught geometry every year, but the rest of my schedule changed each year. I have taught biology, advanced biology, ecology, 7th and 8th grade science, physical science, 7th and 8th grade math, agricultural science (along with being an FFA advisor), junior high physical education, and high school physical education.

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE TEACHING LIKE?

Teaching is a lot of work. It takes a lot of time to get the prep work done for your classes and create great projects and assignments. Once that work is done, it gets a little easier; however, great teachers are always making their lessons better. My schedule always changed, so there were times I felt like I could never get really good at teaching my subjects. I loved working with kids but disliked the regulation side of things and having to teach standards to prep kids for state mandated tests. That takes the joy out.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT TEACHING PUBLIC SCHOOL?

I loved building relationships with kids. I loved getting the kids with the worst reputations and finding a way to get them to learn and enjoy my classes—even math. I loved seeing the lightbulb moments. I loved running labs and projects—seeing the creativity that the kids would bring into their projects. I loved being the teacher that would allow students to complete independent studies to help them graduate. I loved having students show up on my doorstep just to say “Hi” because they were driving by. (I taught at my alma mater and knew a lot of the families of my students well.)

WHAT WAS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE THING ABOUT TEACHING PUBLIC SCHOOL AND WHY DID YOU RETIRE?

The things I didn't like were more prevalent as I had children. Leaving my babies home everyday and going to work was miserable. Also, the longer I taught, the less control teachers had of their classrooms. Fortunately, my reputation of being fair kept most of my discipline problems small, and I dealt with them myself. However I will never forget the day I was told by my administrator that I could not make a kid open his book in my room, and that he had the right to sit in my classroom and fail. That was the day that I knew the school was no longer for me. I knew I could not sit back and allow kids to just fail, to not complete assignments, and to just slip by.

WHAT LED YOU TO HOMESCHOOL? DID TEACHING AFFECT YOUR DECISION?

I have always been a do it yourself person, and I was thrilled with the idea of being able to use my teaching background to teach our kids. I had seen enough apathy out of my students to know that I did not want that for my own. I also saw the trend where the smart kids who excelled were constantly being made fun of and the less skilled students were always trying to pull them down. Excelling wasn't cool—being a poor student was. There were trends toward not being involved with athletics too. Most important was the fact that God was less and less welcome. Evolution was being taught as fact with teachers being told that they could not speak about creation. Lastly, I felt school was not necessarily the best place for busy boys. They really are not made to sit still and do book work for hours. They need to use their hands. We wanted better for our kids.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCE HOMESCHOOLING?

We have been homeschooling for 13 years. We started when our oldest was 5. I teach at our co-op (physical education, logic, Bible, and science classes with labs) and coach volleyball and basketball. It is hard work to keep it all together and I feel like a failure most days, but I am praying it is all worth it and they will be successful.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING?

I love teaching our own kids. I love reading the Bible with them and teaching them God's Story. I love teaching them that God made the earth in six short days. I love being able to pick and choose what is truly important and teaching them those things. I love spending time with them and talking with them. I love reading great books to them and with them. I love working on science labs and projects with them. I love seeing them grow in the Lord.

WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE PART OF HOMESCHOOLING?

My least favorite part is being stretched too thin, like Bilbo Baggins in The Lord of the Rings—"I feel thin, sort of stretched, like butter scraped over too much bread." I never feel like I do enough, but that I need to do more. There is always something better that I should have the kids do. Trying to keep it all organized and moving forward with life happening all around us can be so hard.

HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE HOMESCHOOLING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE?

I prayerfully hope that I never have to go back to teaching in the public school. There is no comparison. Even feeling like I should have done more, I still in my gut know that our kids will be fine, and they have a solid Biblically-based education that will do more for them than anything else. We have a great group of friends and families that make up our community, and we are blessed.

I learned quite a bit about my mom in doing this interview, but I think the most important thing that I learned is how much effort it takes to be a teacher. It is impressive to me to see how parents, whether or not they have a background in teaching, are able to homeschool their children and do it well. It has also really impressed upon me the importance of being a good student. Teachers have enough stress as it is, and all they are trying to do is help you succeed. Making their job more difficult is not beneficial to you in any way.

I am really grateful to my mom, not only for being my teacher all these years, but also for all the sacrifices she has made to give me a good Christian foundation for learning, a solid education, and a caring home in which to do it.

- Travis McCoy

An Interview with Sophie Madl

by Tiffany Chou



Homeschool Student to *College Student*

I reached out to a longtime friend of mine, Sophie Madl, via email. She is currently a junior majoring in illustration at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN. Before attending college, though, Sophie had grown up homeschooled her whole life in Indiana. She and I met several years ago at a local homeschool co-op where we were both students and where her mom taught art, drama, and writing classes. Even though we were only classmates there for two years, we quickly formed a strong bond that has lasted to this day. Here Sophie tells us more about her homeschooling experience and how that has affected her college life right now.

Tell us a little bit about your homeschool journey.

Homeschool journey

I was homeschooled from first grade all the way through high school; my parents decided to homeschool my sisters and me because they weren't happy with the school system we were a part of. The only classes I took "outside" of homeschooling were from two different co-ops throughout the years.

What do you think was the best thing about homeschooling?

Best thing

For me, the best thing about homeschooling was the freedom to work at my own pace. Also, it was nice to have my schoolwork tailored to fit how I learn best.

How do you think homeschooling could have better prepared you for college?

Prepared for college

I think in my experience, I could have had better math classes. That was my one really big struggle going into college—my lack of knowledge in math.

*College
life*

**How did homeschooling
better prepare you
for college life?**

Homeschooling better prepared me for college because I was very used to managing my time and doing work without a lot of guidance or help.

**Do you think being homeschooled
helped prepare you to pursue art, both
as a major and a career? If so, how?**

*Pursuing
art major*

I think homeschooling definitely helped prepare me to pursue art as a major and career! Having the freedom to schedule my day gave me the opportunity to work on a lot of projects I wouldn't normally have had time to do.

*College
classes*

**In general, how would say you are
doing with your college classes?**

I'm doing really well! I've gotten A's in all my classes so far, so I feel like I'm not just getting by—I feel like I can keep pace and challenge all my peers.

Homeschooling ON THE ROAD

An Interview with Brooklyn Hampton

by Emma Sager

I first met Brooklyn at a homeschool leaders' conference in North Carolina two years ago, and again this past summer. She is an awesome person and a great friend! She also has a really neat story to tell. She, with her parents and younger sister, began driving around

the U.S. in 2016 to make a film about homeschooling called **Schoolhouse Rocked: The Homeschool Revolution**. Brooklyn made many neat friends and fun memories.

I hope you enjoy her story!



**HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE SOME THINGS
YOU ENJOY DOING?**

I just turned 16 years old in December. I enjoy art, baking, and spending time with my family and friends.

**HOW OLD WERE YOU
WHEN YOUR PARENTS BEGAN
DRIVING AROUND TO MAKE
SCHOOLHOUSE ROCKED? WHAT WAS
IT LIKE HOMESCHOOLING
ON THE ROAD?**

I was 11 when we started our journey with Schoolhouse Rocked. We left California in December of 2016, 15 days before Christmas. Homeschooling was super fun because we were always learning something new while traveling.

**WHAT WERE SOME OF
THE CHALLENGES OF
HOMESCHOOLING WHILE
DRIVING AROUND?**

The only challenge I can remember while doing school and traveling was that it was a little bit hard to stay caught up. But we managed.

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE BENEFITS?

One of the most amazing parts about traveling is all the new people I met. I've made so many good friends that I would never have met if we hadn't traveled. I also got to see so much of God's creation and how beautiful this country is!

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU HAVE ENJOYED ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING?

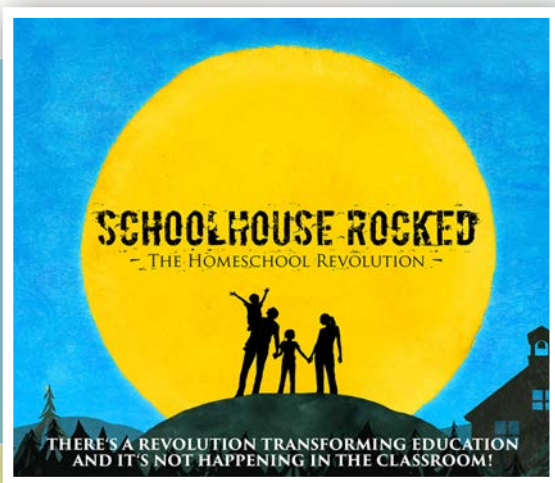
Something I love about homeschooling is that it's not rushed. I can learn at my own pace. I've also been able to spend more time with my family which has been really awesome!

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD USE THESE EXPERIENCES TO BUILD YOUR FAITH AND POSSIBLY SHAPE YOUR FUTURE?

I've definitely learned to put my trust in God and rely on him 100%. Even though traveling has been fun it also has its challenges. But I'm really thankful for how I've grown in my faith.

DO YOU HAVE ONE STORY OF TRAVELING ON THE ROAD OR ONE MEMORY THAT REALLY STUCK OUT TO YOU AND IS SOMETHING YOU REMEMBER WELL?

One really funny memory was at the Grand Canyon. My dad and I had hiked down to a little ledge and I decided to hang my feet off the edge and take a picture ... my mom was not happy at all.



Schoolhouse Rocked: The Homeschool Revolution is a feature-length documentary. This important and timely film helps break down common misconceptions about homeschooling, encourages new families to homeschool, and equips those already homeschooling to stay the course.

WATCH.SCHOOLHOUSEROCKED.COM/INDEX/IAHE

A Book Review
by Tiffany Chou



Pride and Prejudice

by Jane Austen

One of the most popular tropes in young-adult literature today is that of enemies-to-lovers. You might have read contemporary novels in which two characters who started out despising each other ended up falling in love by the conclusion of the story. However, this trope is by no means exclusive to modern literature. It is also present in classic novels, most notably *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

This book is one of my all-time-favorites because of the enemies-to-lovers storyline, the well-developed characters, and its timeless message that is as relevant today as it was when it was first published.

The main character in *Pride and Prejudice* is Elizabeth Bennet, the second of five daughters who is also second in beauty to her older sister, Jane. When Elizabeth meets the wealthy, handsome Mr. Darcy at a ball and overhears him insulting her looks to his friend Mr.

Bingley, she immediately forms a prejudiced opinion against him. Mr. Darcy actually finds Elizabeth attractive but is too proud to admit it. His high social status and wealth also make him treat Elizabeth disdainfully, worsening their relationship. Eventually, as the two work through misunderstandings and overcome their respective pride and prejudice, they find love.

All the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* are fully fleshed-out, especially Darcy and Elizabeth. Their journey from hatred and contempt to acceptance and love is extremely well-written and realistic. The hate-to-love arc of the characters is also inspiring to readers, encouraging them to give people they may dislike a second chance.

While not all of us will marry the person we initially scorn, *Pride and Prejudice* shows us the importance of understanding and empathy towards others and how developing those qualities can lead to happy endings.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Emma Sager



The Next Fithian

by Rick Barry

If you enjoy suspense, excitement, and action, this book is for you! Seventeen year old Rankin is boarding a plane for an archaeological dig in Israel. On route to his destination, the plane is attacked and explodes. The next thing Rankin knows, he is in a foreign world being given an important assignment from God. He is to share the gospel with the people on the planet. It seems like an impossible task. Enemies dog his footsteps, and wickedness abounds. A nagging question looms in Rankin's mind: Will he succeed? Or will he be killed like the Fithian before him? Rankin's character and faith are challenged and grow over the course of the story as he speaks truth and life to lost people in a war-torn land.



Speak Truth in Your Heart

by Sarah Mally

Sarah Mally is an amazing young woman; she seeks to help other young women walk in a way that glorifies God and live a life that honors Him. In *Speak Truth in Your Heart*, Mally encourages her readers to know God's word and to daily spend time in it. This equips young women to not only know the truth and not be deceived by lies, but also to live their life for the Lord and know that pleasing Him is more important than anything else. She deals with common lies that young women believe and disproves them by holding them up to Scripture. This book will encourage and challenge you to replace lies with the freeing, redemptive truth found in God's Word.

Amazing Grace

by Eric Metaxas

Although we hear much about the American Civil War and the fight to abolish slavery, we do not hear much about Britain's fight to free slaves and do away with the slave trade. It is somewhat of a forgotten story. Eric Metaxas tells the story of William Wilberforce who said, "God almighty has set before me two great objects: the suppression of the Slave Trade and the reformation of manners." Though Wilberforce was introduced briefly to Christianity and the Methodists in his early

childhood, his mother and teachers quickly chased such thoughts out of his head and much of his youth and young adulthood was wasted away dancing, drinking, and spending lots of money. However, God worked in his life and Wilberforce was transformed. He spent the rest of his life seeking to serve God by abolishing the slave trade and reaching out to help the poor. This is a story brimming with perseverance, redemption, and amazing grace.

GRAB A BOOK

It's Good for You

by Tiffany Chou

In the age of smartphones, video games, and television, reading for fun may seem like a pastime from a bygone era. Even though new kinds of entertainment from technological advances may cause the popularity of recreational reading to decline, the importance of reading stays constant.

Here are three reasons why, despite the myriad forms of entertainment available today, reading is still an excellent way to spend your time.

READING BENEFITS YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health constitutes a significant part of your overall well-being. Many stressors in life negatively affect mental health, but reading is not one of them. According to research done in 2009 by the University of Sussex, reading can reduce stress up to 68%—even more than the common de-stressing methods of listening to music and taking walks.



READING HELPS WITH YOUR WRITING SKILLS

Chances are, if you're reading this, you're a student who has to compose essays for school. Or, maybe you're an aspiring author who enjoys writing for

fun. Whether you write more often for school or for recreation, reading can improve your writing skills. You can learn new vocabulary, grammatical structures, and writing styles from the authors you read, which you can then implement into your own work.

READING IMPROVES YOUR DISCERNMENT

Consuming literature with a Christian worldview in mind can assist you in better understanding what characters, themes, and behavior in a story are good and true—and which are not. Comparing these aspects of a book to Scriptural concepts helps strengthen your discernment, which you can then put into practice in real life when you encounter things that may or may not be morally correct according to the Bible.

As you can see, then, there are some great benefits to reading. If you are not sure where to start on your reading journey, check out "The Reading Corner: Books for Teens" on pages 32-34 in this epublication for book reviews and recommendations!

SOURCE: Five Ways Reading Can Improve Health and Well-Being

huffpost.com/entry/five-ways-reading-can-imp_b_12456962

TIPS FOR TIME MANAGEMENT

by Simone Smith

As a high school student with a part-time job, I often find it difficult to manage my time effectively. Balancing homework, extracurricular classes, and a job can be really difficult. Through speaking to some of my homeschooled friends, I've come up with a list of tips and strategies useful for managing your time.

ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS

It's really easy to get sidetracked during school, especially if the assignment isn't something you're passionate about. Almost any distraction can be used as an excuse to not get things done. If you feel like you're always getting interrupted, try removing everything that could be a distraction from your space. Do your work in a quiet place where you won't be disturbed. Sometimes, having nothing else to focus on is the key to productivity.

It sounds obvious—but put away your phone if you have one. It's so easy to be distracted by messaging friends or by entertainment. These aren't necessarily bad things, but they need to be set aside in order to achieve your goals. Of course, what constitutes a distraction is different for everyone. Identify what keeps you from accomplishing what you need to do and set it aside for later!





Setting time limits can also be important to ensure you get everything done. Maybe you tend to get sucked in and spend all your time on one topic. If you find yourself a little too focused, limits will let you know when it's time to work on something new.

DO WHAT WORKS FOR YOU

Learning is different for every person, and the beauty of homeschooling is that you're free to customize school to fit your needs. Maybe you feel like you can't get anything done early in the morning. Or maybe you work best when listening to classical music. There's no right way to study. Through trial and error, you can learn what makes you the most productive.

PRIORITIZE

A skill essential to managing your time well is learning to prioritize. As an overthinker, I know it's easy to get caught up in the to-do list. We can spend more time worrying than actually sitting down and getting things done. Prioritizing your tasks is a great way to avoid this!

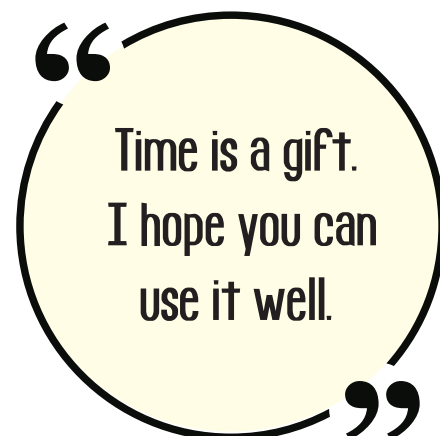
Organizing tasks by order of importance ensures you stay on track and don't waste your time. If you feel overwhelmed by the amount of work before you, try starting with the most crucial assignments first. You can see where you need to spend your time to get things done.

SET TIME LIMITS

When faced with a list of things to do, it can be helpful to set time limits for each task. For example, you might spend an hour on one school subject and then switch to another. This helps avoid "burnout" on one topic. In addition, if you feel like you aren't making any progress, it's beneficial to exercise a different area of your brain by switching to something else.

TAKE BREAKS

One tip that's really helped me in school is taking breaks. It can be beneficial to pause and let your brain rest! This doesn't necessarily mean a waste of time, however. If the weather permits, it's refreshing to take a walk outside and clear your thoughts. Doing something you enjoy, such as playing an instrument or working on a hobby, is also a great way to take some time off. Of course, there's a balance between taking breaks and just getting it done. But managing your time well includes giving yourself space to breathe!





EASY RECIPES
FOR CHILLY

Winter Days

by Emma Sager

Looking for a warm drink and a delicious, sweet treat this winter?
Try spiced hot chocolate and thumbprint cookies!

Spiced Hot Chocolate



INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups milk
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup honey or sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

FUN EXTRAS - Use some or all!

- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne or chili pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon anise
- Whipped cream
- Marshmallows

INSTRUCTIONS

- Pour the milk into a saucepan and heat until it is hot. (5-10 minutes)
- When the milk is hot, add the rest of the ingredients and stir together.
- Serve and enjoy!

Thumbprint Cookies



Makes 14-20 Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon arrowroot powder (or cornstarch)
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup coconut sugar (or honey or white sugar)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter or coconut oil, melted slightly
- 1 large egg white
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Jam or chocolate chips



INSTRUCTIONS

In a bowl, whisk together flour, arrowroot powder, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Set aside.

In another bowl, mix together butter or coconut oil, egg whites, and vanilla extract.

Add the wet ingredients in with the dry and stir together.

Chill the dough for 15 minutes or so.

When you are ready to make the cookies, pull out the dough, roll into little balls, and put them on a greased cookie sheet. They will expand when baked so don't make them too large.

Press your thumb into the middle of the cookies to make the thumbprint and then add little spoonfuls of either jam or chocolate chips into the centers.

Bake the cookies at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes. They should not look wet on top.

When they are done, take them out of the oven and let them cool for 10 minutes before putting them on a wire rack.

Enjoy them with some spiced hot chocolate!



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