

WESTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS PSP



WESTERN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
A Legacy of Excellence Since 1920

K-8 MANUAL

2018-2019 EDITION

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WELCOME TO WESTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRIVATE SATELLITE PROGRAM

We are pleased that you have chosen to join our home school group. We look forward to this school year and to working cooperatively with you for the common goal of educating and nurturing our children in mind, soul and spirit.

Through home schooling we can tailor curriculum, set our own pace, and cater to the interests and gifts of our particular child. At the same time, we can immerse our children in our Christian values and train them in service and obedience to God. We perceive this as both an awesome responsibility and an incredible privilege and blessing.

Our program is designed to assist you in two areas. The first is allowing you to home school legally, according to the State of California under the Private School Provision (which includes the maintenance of all required records and files). The second is to provide you and your family with support, guidance, and educational as well as social opportunities.

We find children learn best through “hands-on” experiences, and so we seek to offer field trips that will enhance learning. We also enjoy park days and social events that allow both students and parents to fellowship with one another. Our Parent’s Meetings are designed to present information, improve our teaching and parenting skills, and encourage one another.

Whether this is your first year of home schooling or your fifth year, this year will offer it’s own set of challenges. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of help - even if you just need a listening ear that will understand the unique needs of home schoolers.

Our support group is largely based on volunteer help. We cannot overemphasize how greatly enhanced our program has, and still can become, due to the many diverse talents and capabilities of parents and their willingness to invest time and energy to make our home school more successful and well-rounded. Please be encouraged to get involved, to share your talents, or to open up your home for a Parent’s Meeting.

We pray that God will give you peace and confidence in your calling to parent and educate your children, that He will give you wisdom and strength for the journey, and that you would have a deep sense of appreciation for the gift of time that He is giving you with your children.

Statement of Philosophy

Western Christian School exists in the tradition of private church-related educational institutions to advocate an approach to life based on the truths and values of the Christian faith.

Western Christian School affirms that God is the source of all knowledge, truth and virtue, and it is to Him that we must look as we work to educate the total individual. This knowledge and truth is revealed to humanity generally through His creation, and specifically through His revelation in historical events, particularly in the life of Jesus Christ.

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God given by the Holy Spirit and that it is an authoritative, accurate revelation of God's will and purpose for human lives. As such, instruction in the Old and New Testament Scriptures should be an integral part of the educational process.

Western Christian School affirms that there is an essential unity in all truth. That truth may be perceived through a variety of human disciplines, the artistic, scientific, and theological. The goal of education should be the integration of knowledge discovered by human inquiry with knowledge revealed especially by the Creator.

Western Christian School affirms that all men have sinned before God and as sinners deserve condemnation. Man's only hope for salvation is for him to obey Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in faith, and having been united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and to live in response to His will. We, therefore, believe that it is our duty and privilege to tell everyone that Jesus is the Son of God and that as a result of His death on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead, we can have eternal life.

Western Christian School affirms that God has entrusted the training and education of children to their parents. As a school, we see ourselves as an extension of the home to be used only as an aid in the child's training. Entrusted with this responsibility, we believe that it is our duty to adequately prepare every child to meet the challenges of this life while equipping them with the knowledge that can lead to eternal life.

SCHOOL SERVICES

CUMULATIVE RECORDS

Western Christian School will maintain cumulative records on each student. If your child has been previously enrolled in another school, we will request transcripts and maintain them with the current files. Parents may view the cumulative file on their child by making an appointment with Marilyn Stephens at (626) 332-9981.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A newsletter is compiled and e-mailed around the 25th of each month. If you have not received yours by the 1st of the month, please contact Marilyn or Sandi. The newsletter is always available at freedomtoteach.org , if you can't find your copy, or if you want to look back at archived issues. If you have any information you would like to share with our group, please discuss it with Marilyn, and get the pertinent info to either her or our newsletter editor, Martha Lujan (phone numbers and e-mail addresses for both ladies are in the current directory). The deadline to receive information is the 20th of the month. Be sure to take the time when your newsletter arrives to check out and put on your calendar all the events of the month and to respond to those who need either a head count or payment in advance.

MOM'S SUPPORT MEETINGS

Mom's Meetings are held once a month, as specified in the newsletter. These meetings are FOR MOMS ONLY (with the exception of nursing infants).

The meetings serve several purposes:

1. To communicate important facts and events in more detail than is possible in the newsletter
2. To plan and make decisions about future events
3. To host guest speakers to help us improve parenting and teaching skills
4. To allow parents a time of fellowship, prayer and encouragement

SCHOOL SERVICES *continued*

FIELD TRIPS

We believe that first hand experience is the best way for children to learn about the world around them. Our field trips are designed to offer a wide variety of learning experiences. Many field trips are scheduled each month that will be fun and educational. Field trip dates, times, and locations are published in the monthly newsletter. Please feel free to offer field trip suggestions, whether you have a particular place in mind, or are looking for a type of place that can illustrate a particular lesson for your children. We make every effort to schedule trips that are appropriate for a variety of age groups. Families are responsible for their own transportation. Field trips are sometimes coordinated by individual parents, and if you have the gift of coordination, please let us know that you can help out in that way. If you want to attend, but transportation is a problem, let the field trip coordinator know and every effort will be made to assist you.

PARK DAYS

We currently have Park Days at three different locations. Park Days are intended to allow fellowship for both moms and students.

Our PRIMARY Park Day will be at San Dimas Canyon Park in San Dimas (1512 Sycamore Canyon Rd., San Dimas Canyon Rd, where we've traditionally done our Pilgrim's Feast each year) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Organized activities are available for children who wish to be involved, with our awesome Park Day Coach. See the directory coverletter or the current newsletter for the Park Day schedule, which will let you know what activity is scheduled, and what you should bring. Our American Heritage Girls and Contenders for Boys groups will meet on those days at that location, as well.

We also have smaller, more informal "meet and greet" Park Days at two different locations about twice a month. We will meet at Beryl Park in Rancho Cucamonga (6524 Beryl Street) from 12:30 to 2:30 after Tuesday School - the first two Tuesday School dates, and then every other week after that. We will meet at Grand Ave Park in Chino Hills (1301 Grand Ave) and/or Ayala Park (14225 Central Ave, Chino) at 12:30 every other Friday, after Friday School, beginning on the first day of Friday School. See the newsletter for the Park Day Calendar.

During the first few Park Days in San Dimas, small group meetings are organized for the moms, so that recent additions to the group can get to know a few other moms, make connections, and feel an integrated part of the group, as well as to facilitate information distribution at the beginning of the school year.

Park Days are canceled in the event of rain or if it is VERY wet outside.

SCHOOL SERVICES *continued*

SCHOOL PICTURES

We do “official” school pictures once a year during our Terra Nova test week (the week following Easter Sunday). Pete Garra is our photographer, and both class and individual pictures are taken. These pictures are incorporated into our yearbook, and are available for purchase for a very reasonable price.

FRIDAY/TUESDAY SCHOOL-The Center for Creative Learning

Friday/Tuesday School is a great supplement to the homeschooling environment. Friday/Tuesday School gives your children an opportunity to be in a classroom environment, with children of their age group, and a teacher other than you in charge. This provides a broader base of experience for your children, gives them the opportunity to build relationships in a smaller group environment with other children in the PSP, and gives you a short reprieve from teaching for the week!

These are **OPTIONAL** programs for grades K-8, with additional registration and fees required (see the corresponding enrollment forms for specifics). The classes offered vary from session to session, depending on the requests of parents and the availability of teachers. Specific information regarding which classes are being offered, and what fees are attached to them, is published in the newsletter prior to the beginning of a session. See your newsletter at www.freedomtoteach.org for specifics of each.

For Junior and Senior High students, classes are offered on a sixteen-week semester basis **FOR CREDIT**. We offer a wide range of courses designed to fill the requirements of academic coursework for a semester or year. These are intended to be a **partnership** between instructor and parent, with the instructor dictating curriculum and establishing the assignments for the week, teaching the overview lessons once or twice a week, and the parent following through and supporting the coursework and overseeing completion of assignments in the days between classes. Be sure to check the newsletter descriptions of these classes for prerequisites, grade levels, instructors, class locations and schedules. **Parents** are responsible to turn in grades and paperwork along with their other coursework per the high school schedule.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Fee is \$30.00 per child. Registration fees are due at the time the application is received, and are not refundable.

Check is payable to Western Christian School. (NOT WCS, please!)

Program Fee is \$50.00 per family and includes 1 yearbook. This fee will also help cover the expenses of running the PSP, such as some Terra Nova week expenses, speaker fees, printing costs, graduation, etc.

Check is payable to Center For Creative Learning (CCL).

Both of these fees should be turned in **each year** to Marilyn, accompanied by a registration form for your family.

PSP TUITION

May be paid in full, or in 10 monthly installments.

Monthly payments are due on the 1st of each month, with a \$5 late fee for tuition received after the 6th.

Checks are payable to Western Christian School. (NOT WCS, please!)

Grades K to 12: \$520 per year per family (\$52 per month)

For Other Program Amounts due:

On Campus Western Christian High School part time

Contact Western Christian for details (909) 920-5858

Friday School / Tuesday school classes: Check newsletter for current information/amounts. Payable to Center for Creative Learning (CCL)

For Credit Courses PSP Enrollment fee per semester \$30 per class for one day a week classes, \$45 per class per semester for two day classes, plus tuition cost.

All class fees (enrollment fees and tuition) are paid to instructor / varies per class / See newsletter for specifics

Ten Important Suggestions for All Home Schooling Families

1. Be convinced of your purpose and convictions as parents. Are your children's needs more important than pressure from family, neighbors, etc.? Are their needs more important than bad legislation? Coping through pressure is better handled when you really get to know your child and are able to depend fully on the Lord for His guidance and loving care.
2. Evaluate yourself. Are you willing to be a patient, caring parent, willing to further grow in the areas of consistency and self-discipline where needed? This will benefit you, your children and your entire home school atmosphere.
3. Be knowledgeable in the ways your children to learn and develop. Be able to verbalize these methods to others.
4. Parents have Biblical and constitutional rights and responsibilities. Learn what they are. Become aware of the current issues in our local, state, and federal government which can affect us. Do something about them.
5. Seek good counsel from those who are knowledgeable in the areas you are weak. Be a vital part of a local support group.
6. Choose curriculum that suits the need of your child.
7. Be a balanced Home Schooler. Do not expect the information from textbooks to be all you will need. Study from the curriculum part of your day, but don't neglect household responsibilities, reading aloud, singing, playing, reading, building and creating things, etc. Your imagination is your only limitation.
8. Be proud of your unique educational stand. On the other hand, there is no need to flaunt it. "And make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands..." (1 Thes. 4:11)
9. Don't get ruffled if your children do not progress as quickly as you think they should be progressing. Unnecessary pressure from parents on a child, who is not ready, can be harmful and chaotic. Dr. James Dobson reminds us that comparison is the root of all low self-esteem.
10. Dr. Raymond Moore suggests, "Let's have more warmth and consistent firmness, less indulgence, more work with you, more tools, sticks, nails than fancy toys, more service for others-the old, the young, the poor, the infirm-less sports and amusements; more self-control, patriotism, responsibility, which lead to, and follow, self-worth as noble citizens. Parents and home undiluted, usually do this best."

The above suggestions are an amplified version of "*The 10 Little Commandments for Home Schools*" by Dr. Raymond Moore; Home Grown Kids, pp. 21-22

REQUIRED FORMS

Included in this chapter, you will find the necessary forms for your child's school records. These forms are to be used for duplicating and you will not receive more of them during the school year. If you need additional copies, you can go to the Forms page of our website (www.freedomtoteach.org). Be sure to make copies for your own files before sending completed forms to us.

QUARTERLY PROJECTIONS:

We require that you turn in quarterly projections twice a year, at the beginning of each semester. If you prefer to do them all at once at the beginning of the year, that is fine also. The due dates for these projections are September 30 and February 1. These forms may be filled out as simply or as detailed as you prefer. A sample form is enclosed that has been completed, to give you an idea of how to go about it. These forms are kept on an ongoing basis in your child's cumulative files.

ATTENDANCE RECORDS

State law requires that attendance records be kept on all school files. Included is a form for you to keep track of your child's attendance. Simply mark the days that you worked with your child. A "school day" can be flexible, but we recommend two hours a day minimum for younger students. Field trips and special classes should also be counted as school days, even if they occur during a weekend. The following notations are standard:

- H Holiday
- V Vacation
- S Sick

A minimum of 175 school days are required by law to make up a school year. If you use any notations not listed here, please be sure to write a "key" at the bottom of your form, so we will be able to understand them. Attendance records are due by the 20th of June at the end of the school year.

HEALTH RECORDS (Vaccination Records)

State law requires complete health records on all students. You must complete vaccination records forms upon enrollment to our program, and periodically update those as State law requires. If any information changes on your records, please be sure to notify us. Even if your child has not had any vaccinations, the forms must still be completed and filed in order for your files to be kept in compliance with the law.

TERRA NOVA TEST SCORES are automatically filed in your child's permanent file, and a copy will be sent to your home.

OPTIONAL FORMS

REPORT CARDS

Western Christian School PSP does not require you to keep report cards for the K-8 program. You will find in this chapter a copy of a report card form you may use if you would like to have report cards kept in your child's files. Be sure to make copies of this form in order to complete it (so you have the original still available for future use) and make copies of the COMPLETED forms for your own files. You may complete these forms in any way you choose.

Some people use a grading system of E/S/N:

- E Excellent
- S Satisfactory
- N Need Improvement

This is traditionally used in lower elementary grades.

For older children, a traditional grading system may be more appropriate (A/B/C/D/F). If you choose to keep report cards, mail them to Marilyn when they are completed, and she will file them in each child's cumulative file.

LEARNING DISABILITY OR SPECIAL ED INFO

Occasionally, families choose to have their children tested for learning disabilities or special education problems. (If you are in this situation, you might find some assistance on our resources list in the Curriculum section of this manual). Usually you would receive some kind of documented diagnosis or recommendations after such testing. In this case, it would be a good idea to have copies of those documents in your child's cumulative files. Mail them to Marilyn, and she will include them in your child's file.

If there is any other information you would like kept in your child's records or any information you would like FROM your child's records, contact Marilyn.

WCS Private School Satellite Program Quarterly Projections

Child's Name: _____

School Year: _____

Semester: **FALL** **SPRING** Grade Level: _____

page # _____

SUBJECT _____

TEXTBOOKS _____

 Weeks 1-3 Dates _____
First Weeks 4-6 Dates _____
Quarter Weeks 7-9 Dates _____

 Weeks 1-3 Dates _____
Second Weeks 4-6 Dates _____
Quarter Weeks 7-9 Dates _____

SUBJECT _____

TEXTBOOKS _____

 Weeks 1-3 Dates _____
First Weeks 4-6 Dates _____
Quarter Weeks 7-9 Dates _____

 Weeks 1-3 Dates _____
Second Weeks 4-6 Dates _____
Quarter Weeks 7-9 Dates _____

SUBJECT _____

TEXTBOOKS _____

 Weeks 1-3 Dates _____
First Weeks 4-6 Dates _____
Quarter Weeks 7-9 Dates _____

 Weeks 1-3 Dates _____
Second Weeks 4-6 Dates _____
Quarter Weeks 7-9 Dates _____



WESTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
3105 Padua Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 624-8291

KEY CODE:
P = Present
X = Absent
= Vacation
= Break/Holiday

HOME EDUCATION ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name:						Teacher:							
Grade:	Birth Date:					School Year:							
Address:													

	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													
11													
12													
13													
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22													
23													
24													
25													
26													
27													
28													
29													
30													
31													
TOTALS													

Total Present Attendance: _____

Independent Home Study Program
Quarterly Projections

Childs Name Sean Daniel Carnighan Date 9-1-94

Semester: (FALL) SPRING Grade Level Third

SUBJECT Science TEXTBOOKS Exploring God's World

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>Wonderfully Made</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	<u>The Plant World</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	<u>Vertebraes</u>
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	<u>The Desert</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	<u>The Ocean</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	<u>Ponds</u>

SUBJECT Language TEXTBOOKS A-Beka 3rd

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>Sentences and Capitalization</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	<u>Punctuation & Creative Writing</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	<u>Plurals and Contractions</u>
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	<u>Word Usage & Synonyms, Ant., & the</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	<u>Review & Letter Writing</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	<u>Creative Writing & Word Usage</u>

SUBJECT Arithmetic TEXTBOOKS A-Beka 3rd

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>Lessons 1-15</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	<u>16-30</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	<u>31-45</u>
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	<u>46-60</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	<u>61-75</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	<u>76-90</u>

SUBJECT Reading TEXTBOOKS A-Beka Series

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>Pilgrim's Progress</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	↓
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	<u>Pilgrim Boy</u>
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	↓
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	<u>Happiness Hill</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	↓

Independent Home Study Program
Quarterly Projections

Childs Name Sean Daniel Carnighan Date 9-1-94

Semester: (FALL) SPRING

Grade Level Third

SUBJECT History TEXTBOOKS Our American Heritage

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>Columbus and John Smith</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	<u>Pocahontas and Miles Standish</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	<u>Squanto and William Penn</u>
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	<u>Ben Franklin and George Washington</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	<u>Thomas Jefferson</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	<u>Daniel Boone</u>

SUBJECT Spelling TEXTBOOKS Working Words In Spelling

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>One lesson a week</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	

SUBJECT Bible TEXTBOOKS Learning To Think

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>Intro and wisdom</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	<u>Obedience and attentiveness</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	<u>Faith and Thankfulness</u>
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	<u>Orderliness & Meekness</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	<u>Loyalty and self-control</u>
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	<u>Honesty and Diligence</u>

SUBJECT Penmanship TEXTBOOKS A Reason For Writing

First Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>9-6</u>	<u>One page a day</u>
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>9-27</u>	
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>10-18</u>	
Second Quarter	Weeks 1-3	Dates <u>11-8</u>	
	Weeks 4-6	Dates <u>11-29</u>	
	Weeks 7-9	Dates <u>12-20</u>	

CURRICULUM

Each family enrolled in our program is free to choose the curriculum and supplies that best meet the needs of their children. Please research curriculum carefully before you purchase anything. Some programs are very expensive, and refunds are generally not available. Some factors to consider are:

- *Students' learning needs and styles
(hands-on? workbooks? independence?)
- *Parents' time, skills, interests and teaching abilities
- *Number of children in the family being home schooled
- *Financial resources available

Several books are available to assist families in choosing curriculum. You will find a book list on the next page with some recommended resources -- this is by no means a comprehensive list!! It is often useful to preview a book before purchasing it, so check with others in the group to see if you might borrow a copy if they own it.

There are some local curriculum supply stores in our local area that specifically cater to the needs of homeschoolers. You can visit them and look through books, and purchase them at these locations. One of the most comprehensive is

Excellence in Education (EIE) (626) 821-0025
2640-A7 Myrtle Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016
(call for hours)

There are many "seasoned" homeschoolers in our group who would be glad to give you their opinions and an idea of what has and has not worked for them. Often, parents in our group are willing to sell or loan out curriculum they own but are not currently using. PLEASE let your needs and questions be known! We have a used curriculum sale in the spring during Terra Nova week where you might be able to pick up some bargains, and a few times a year our parent meetings are devoted to the topic of choosing curriculum and/or curriculum reviews.

The resources listed here are not the only ones available, nor are they necessarily the best for your family's needs. They are listed here for you as a guide and not as a recommendation. If you know of a resource we should include here, please contact Marilyn and let her know.

WHAT SHOULD I TEACH?

We are often asked what a parent should be teaching to each grade level. Because we believe that each family and each student is different, we allow you to have the autonomy to choose the curriculum and the approach to schooling that best fits your specific needs. We do not, therefore, dictate specific content or curriculum. Many parents are concerned about preparing their students for the Terra Nova tests in the spring. It is our goal as homeschooling families to provide a well rounded education for our children, NOT to “teach to the test”. A good, well-rounded, complete curriculum, regardless of the publisher or publishers, should be sufficient preparation, and test results can be used as a guide for things to cover more completely the following year, if necessary.

In general, a complete K-8 Program should include the following:

Language Arts *includes reading, penmanship, language (grammar, punctuation), spelling, vocabulary, creative writing, literature*
Numbers/Mathematics
Science
Social Studies *includes history, current events, social structure*
Art/Music
Bible

Most curriculum companies listed in the following pages include a “Scope and Sequence” which describes the content of their material, and often the skills a student should gain/master in completing the work. If you look at the Scope and Sequence of one of the more traditional “complete” systems for the grade your child is in, you’ll get a good idea of the kinds of content you should have. You are not restricted to using those systems, but can use their content as a guide to ensure that what you are using is covering all the components that should be covered.

Scope and Sequence for ABeka Books:

www.abeka.com/HomeSchool/ScopeAndSequence.aspx

Bob Jones University Press:

www.bjupresshomeschool.com/store/product_2015-Scope--Sequence___2258731

Of course, California has educational standards (Common Core) that are published as well, and if you’d like to determine how your curriculum choices are matching up to those, you can find them here (this is VERY detailed, if that’s what you’re looking for!): <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/grlevelcurriculum.asp>

APPROACHES TO TEACHING

There are two basic approaches to teaching that are often used in home schooling settings - Traditional and Unit Study. The following is a brief description of each and how they work, so that as you evaluate curriculum, you will understand the approaches they may advocate.

TRADITIONAL STUDIES

This is the way most of us studied as children. Each academic subject is treated separately, and a certain amount of time is planned for each of them. With many programs, a parent can simply follow an outline or possibly a time schedule of what to teach on a specific day. These curriculum companies essentially offer a textbook/workbook approach to learning, often with a great degree of emphasis on memorization and repetition - the old “three R’s - reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic”.

There are many “ready-made” programs perfect for home schooling that provide information in this way. Companies like A Beka Books, Bob Jones University Press, and Alpha and Omega (see resources list for contact info) provide excellent Christ-centered curriculum. Please note that some of these are considered to be relatively accelerated curriculum, and are not recommended in situations where children are struggling academically.

Some Home School publishers offer a variety of options:

- a. You purchase materials, and are responsible for grading, testing, etc.
- b. You may have the option of ongoing support/question answering
- c. Some have a “correspondence” school arrangement, where you do the teaching and test administration, but then send some of the work and tests to a central teacher for grading and record keeping (Alpha Omega and A Beka offer this)
- d. Some companies go so far as to provide video schools, DVDs and/or online instruction and support

When evaluating these options, consider how much supervision and accountability you desire to have as a teacher to another organization. It’s a good idea to talk to other parents to see how these programs have worked for them. Also consider that, in general, the more accountability/services is required/provided, the higher the financial commitment.

To some degree, you can combine texts from different publishers/companies. In other words, you could use A Beka's reading program, Bob Jones math, etc. Be aware that some curriculum publishers (such as A Beka) do "intertwine" information between subjects - the Bible verse is reinforced in penmanship and spelling, the spelling words parallel the reading assignments, the math refers to Science lessons, etc. This can be a benefit in reinforcing material for your child.

ADVANTAGES OF TRADITIONAL STYLE

- *Teacher normally doesn't have to spend as much time planning
- *Education can be monitored by the publisher or supervising teacher
- *Allows for a more objective grading system
- *Daily schedules often prepared in advance by supplier
- ***Especially helpful to new homeschooling parent who lacks confidence and/or direction, and feels he/she needs structure and support**

UNIT STUDIES

A unit study is one in which you focus on a topic, and relate all of your academic subjects to that topic.

This is a basic example of a unit study:

Topic: Animals

Reading: stories about animals - fiction and/or nonfiction

Science: animal classifications, life cycles and/or anatomy of animals

Social Studies: How are animals seen in our culture as compared to others?

Bible: What animals are mentioned in the Bible?

What do animals that Jesus referred to symbolize?

Spelling: words taken from stories read, science vocabulary, etc.

Creative Writing: student writes about how it would feel to be their favorite animal, or makes up a fictitious animal, or describes what it was like on Noah's Ark

Music: Find a tape of Peter and the Wolf, or attend a local musical performance about animals

Math: often supplemented with another program, traditional approach - in lower elementary, you could develop animal-related problems - "If one turtle lays 50 eggs, and another lays 70, how many more eggs does the second turtle lay?"

Fine Arts: Draw pictures of animals using various mediums

Health: Learn about diseases carried by animals

Field Trips: Zoo, Sea World, Wild Animal Park, your backyard, etc.

This approach to learning can allow you to spend time on subjects that are of particular interest to your child. Unit Study often involves a high degree of “hands on” learning. Different publishers of Unit Study based curriculum focus on different kinds of topics - (i.e., Konos uses character traits, like obedience, orderliness; The Weaver uses particular Bible passages, others use books, or stories, or periods of history, etc.). Many companies who produce unit study curriculum do not cover all subjects (often math and sometimes other subjects must be supplemented with other materials).

ADVANTAGES OF UNIT STUDY

- *Allows for a high degree of creativity for parent and child
- *”Boring” academic studies come to life
- *Facilitates teaching children at different grade levels together. Using the example above, the older child could be working on animal biology, even dissection, while a younger one could work on animal behavior, and the littlest one is learning animal names and habitat

- *May be less costly, especially since you can stretch out your curriculum materials throughout the school year and can use it for several different grade levels. You can also often utilize a high degree of library resources.

It is possible to combine the traditional and unit study approaches - by using, for example, a traditional curriculum for Math and Social Studies/History, and employing a unit study approach to Reading, Art, Writing, and Music. The method you chose should depend largely on your style, what appeals to you as the teacher, and the learning needs and styles of your children. Whatever you choose, it is important that you are comfortable teaching the material, and that your child is learning effectively. Examples of each of these kinds of curriculum are marked on the resource lists that follow.

READING/RESOURCES RE: HOME SCHOOLING

(with thanks to Cathy Duffy for some of the information)

BOOKS - listed alphabetically, by author

How to Get Your Child Off the Refrigerator and on to Learning (Homeschooling ADHD, Distractible or just Plain Fidgety Kids), Carol Barnier; YWAM Publishing

Dr. Beechick's Homeschool Answer Book, Dr. Ruth Beechick, Mott Media

The Three R's, Dr. Ruth Beechick, Mott Media

You Can Teach Your Child Successfully, Dr. Ruth Beechick, Mott Media

The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling, Debra Bell; Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Home Educating with Confidence, Rick and Marilyn Boyer, Holly Hall

Educating the Whole Hearted Child, Clay and Sally Clarkson, Whole Hearted Ministries

Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual (2 volumes) Cathy Duffy, Grove Publishing

No Place Like Home . . . School, J. Richard Fugate; Foundation for Biblical Research

The Simplicity of Homeschooling, Jack and Vicky Goodchild; HIS Publishing Company

The Christian Home School, Gregg Harris; Noble Books

Homeschooling Children with Special Needs, Sharon Hensley, M.A.; High Noon Books

Timeless Teaching Tips, Joyce Herzog; Simplified Learning Products

Countdown to Consistency: A Workbook for Home Educators, Mary Hood, Ph.D., Ambleside Educational Press

The Relaxed Home School, Mary Hood, Ph.D., Ambleside Educational Press

The Joyful Home Schooler, Mary Hood, Ph.D., Elijah Company

Homeschooling Almanac 2000-2001, Mary and Michael Leppert, Prima Publishing

A Charlotte Mason Education, Catherine Levison

More Charlotte Mason Education, Catherine Levison

For the Children's Sake, Susan Schaeffer Macaulay, Crossway

Better Late Than Early, Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore; The Moore Foundation

School Can Wait, Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore; The Moore Foundation

Home Grown Kids, Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore; The Moore Foundation

The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook, Dr. Raymond & Dorothy Moore; The Moore Foundation

Charlotte Mason Companion, Charlotte Mason Research and Supply Company

The Big Books of Home Learning (3 volumes), Mary Pride; Alpha Omega

Let Us Highly Resolve, David and Shirley Quine; Cornerstone Curriculum Project

The Home School Manual, Ted Wade, Gazelle Publications

The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home, Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer; W.W. Norton & Co.

Gifted Children at Home: A Practical Guide for Homeschooling Families, Janice Baker, Kathleen Julicher, Maggie Hogan; Castle Heights Press, Inc.

Your Child Wonderfully Made, Larry Burkett and Rick Osborne; Moody Press

Developing Your Child's Learning Style, Mariaemma Willis and Victoria Kendle Hodson; Prima Books

OTHER RESOURCES - VIDEO

Creating the Balance, Konos Character Curriculum

Dads: The Men in the Gap, Konos Character Curriculum

Workshop-in-a-Box: Beginning Homeschooling (video/kit) Trudy Abel; H.O.M.E. Inc.

OTHER RESOURCES - MAGAZINES/ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

The Teaching Home www.TeachingHome.com

Home School Digest www.homeschooldigest.com

Practical Homeschooling www.home-school.com

CURRICULUM PUBLISHERS AND RETAILERS

A quick note from “The Editor”: THIS IS BY NO MEANS A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING!!!

There are hundreds of companies out there, with amazing and wonderful products - this is a compilation of some local “favorites”. This also does NOT constitute an endorsement of ANY of the enclosed companies or products. Evaluate your choices and your needs carefully, and purchase at your own risk!! By the way, some have specifically Christian/Biblical content, some do not. (thanks to Cathy Duffy’s Curriculum Manual for some of the included info)

A Beka Book Publishing

Box 18000, Pensacola, FL 32532 (877) 223-5226

www.abeka.com

Conservative, Christian, patriotic, **traditional** style, with emphasis on drill, repetition and memorization. Textbook format, with workbooks/activity books in some subjects (high color content), quizzes, drills and tests. Generally considered to be an academically “accelerated” program - students with learning problems or just coming out of a public school situation could have trouble with “grade level”. Advocates reading at an early age, and teaches cursive in Kindergarten (though you can order some texts with printing rather than cursive). Early elementary Science and History tend to be very “basic”, not a lot of in depth content - that changes dramatically in the 4th grade, and texts are very detailed at that point forward. Correspondence and DVD courses available.

A.C.E. (Accelerated Christian Learning -- also known as “School of Tomorrow”)

P.O. Box 299000, Lewisville, TX 75029-9000 (800) 925-7777

<http://www.aceministries.com/>

Biblically based, traditional program designed for independent study for students. Children work through worktexts, called PACES. There are 12 PACES per course, per year, but students work at their own pace. Diagnostic testing is provided (parent administered & evaluated) to determine placement (which courses you should pursue). These tests can be helpful to many, even if NOT using this curriculum, to evaluate performance levels and levels of mastery of subject matter. K-12, most full color. A main criticism of this system is that it relies heavily on simple answers and doesn’t emphasize thinking/reasoning skills or application to the degree that other Christian publishers do.

Alpha Omega

300 North McKemy, Chandler, AZ 85226-2618 (800) 622-3070

<https://www.aop.com/>

Different approach to **traditional** style - students work through LifePacs - self-paced, all-inclusive workbooks on each subject - workbooks contain instruction, information, questions to answer, and tests - emphasis on subject mastery (traditional study style without traditional textbooks). Company does NOT advocate children working entirely independently, however! Teacher/parent involvement is important -- Alpha Omega also publishes other products (Horizon, Math, Language/Phonics), as well as Switched On Schoolhouse, a computerized version of LifePacs.

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

Purposeful Designs Publishing

<https://pdp.acsi.org/pdp/>

P.O. Box 35097, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3509 (800) 367-0798

Instructional Resources; Character Foundation Textbooks · Elementary Art · Elementary Bible Textbooks · Elementary Mathematics Textbooks · High School Literature and Grammar · Middle School Literature and Grammar · Middle School Mathematics Textbooks · Preschool & Kindergarten Instructional Materials · Secondary Bible Courses · Spelling Textbooks

BackHome Industries P.O. Box 22495, Milwaukee, OR 97260-2495 (503) 654-2300

<http://www.bhibooks.net/home.html>

Provides resource books for history, plus reading and language arts materials - proponent of “The Writing Road to Reading”, with published supplements and instructions for that program.

Beautiful Feet Books

1306 Mill Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (800) 889-1978

<http://bfbooks.com/>

Company founded with the intent of teaching History through Literature. Provides study guides and collections of literary works with that end in mind, as well as other resources, including historical approaches to Science and Music. Study guides provide daily lesson plans that “incorporate biblical principles, geography, poetry, character studies and much more!”. Study packs are available that include all required books that are discussed in the study guides.

Bob Jones University Press

1700 Wade Hampton Blvd., Greenville, SC 29614 (800) 845-5731

www.bjup.com

Conservative Christian, **traditional** style; text and workbook style presentation - colorful pages, strong Biblical teaching, less “busy work” than A Beka (per Cathy Duffy and many others). In general, high quality content, with high level of active learning built in, especially with use of teachers guides/manuals, which are sometimes essential to teaching material properly.

Christian Liberty Press

502 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004 (800) 348-0899 www.shopchristianliberty.com

Conservative Christian, **traditional** style - texts and workbooks. As one of earliest home school curriculum companies, very “home friendly” and cost-conscious. Utilizes “supplemental” books in addition to their published curriculum texts, and company does sell other companies’ products as well as their own. NOTE: company offers substantial online discounts (20% at time of writing) over their catalog/phone order pricing on self-published materials.

Christian Light Publications, Inc.

P.O. Box 1212 Harrisonburg, VA 22801-1212 (800) 776-0478

<https://www.clp.org/>

Similar to Alpha Omega’s LifePac system (was an off-shoot of that system, originally) - strong Mennonite doctrinal content, **traditional** style education. Focus on reading first, with “Learning to Read” Lightunits, then branches to Bible, language arts, math, science and social studies. Company also carries extensive supplemental books and resources.

The Concerned Group (A Reason For . . .)

P.O. Box 1000, Siloam Springs, AR 72761 (479) 549-9000

www.areasonfor.com

The company motto splashed across the website says “Love and Teach What You Believe”. This is a Biblical-based curriculum for the subjects of Science, Handwriting, Spelling, and Reading. Basic philosophy is that children will enjoy and be more successful learning these skills when they are related to fun and interesting stories and activities. Scripture forms the basis for the handwriting, for example. Each week, the child works on the skills necessary to properly write the verse of the week. Decorative bordered papers are provided to “frame” the finished product. Children are instructed in practical usage of skills, based on researched and well organized teaching methods. Homeschool teachers guides available as well. Science is hands-on, but appears to be built around a team of 5 students (you buy a 5-pack kit). Maybe a good coop kind of thing?

Five In a Row Publishing

4553 SW Gull Point Drive, MO 64082

www.fiveinarow.com

Unit study program geared primarily for students ages 4-8. Not specifically Biblically-based, but continual reinforcement of positive character qualities (compassion, forgiveness, honesty, etc.). A separate Bible supplement is available with specifically Biblical lessons related to the program lessons. Literature based program, a recommended children’s book is read every day for five days, each day a “subject” is chosen (social studies, math, language arts, science, art) and the corresponding activities/discussions/lessons are completed. NOT intended to be a complete curriculum for math and language arts. Math, phonics, and writing are not taught in a progressive way, so supplementation is recommended in those areas.

Houghton-Mifflin

1900 South Bataria Ave., Geneva, IL 60134 (800) 733-2828

<https://www.hmhco.com/search/shop/homeschool>

Traditional style text books for all grades, including complete curriculum. Website is very “corporate” and company has a very “we sell to schools” feel, but they do sell to homeschoolers. Catalog available upon request.

KONOS Character Curriculum

P.O. Box 250, Anna, TX 75409 (972) 924-2712

www.konos.com

Unit study approach to learning, with units featuring character traits as unit topics for K-8. Has High School level as well - contact for catalog or visit website. Activities not broken down by grade level, so you select the ones that sound appropriate for ages you are working with. High number of alternate activities (you would never do EVERYTHING, you pick and choose). Curriculum materials supplemented with library books, and Lifetime Books (800) 377-0390 - www.lifetimebooks.com carries a line of books that correlate to KONOS units if you have difficulty finding something. Lesson plans are provided if you choose to use them, to simplify things. KONOS-in-a-Box is offered for a more comprehensive package. Math and phonics are NOT included.

Saxon Math

Now a part of Houghton-Mifflin, can be purchased through Sonlight and other distributors.

Saxon Math is a very popular series of texts, among homeschoolers and in conventional school settings. Saxon Homeschool Math is unique because the entire program is based on introducing a topic to a student and then allowing them to build upon that concept as they learn new ones. Topics are never dropped but are instead increased in complexity and practiced every day, providing the time required for concepts to become totally familiar. Every assignment (and every test) is a cumulative review of all material covered up to that point. At upper levels (Jr High and High School), new concepts are often unrelated from day to day (the new concept today is percentages, the new concept tomorrow is calculating area), and most daily assigned problems are cumulative review, from previous lessons, not the current one -- frustrating students who need to do something several times to really grasp it initially, resulting in the need to thumb back through the book frequently to refresh their memories, and sometimes leaving them feeling lost.

Scholastic Inc.

Box 7502, Jefferson City, MO 65102 (800) 325-6149

www.scholastic.com

Scholastic is the largest publisher and distributor of children's books in the world, including the phenomenally successful *Harry Potter*™, *The Babysitters Club* ®, *Dear America* ®, *The Royal Diaries*™, *Animorphs* ® and *Clifford the Big Red Dog* ®. Through the company's unique school and community-based distribution channels, including its book clubs and book fairs, Scholastic reaches 35 million children, 40 million parents and nearly every school in the U.S. Most people know Scholastic from its "book club" fame, but they now have an "e-store" where you can buy products directly, without that little flyer kids get from their schools. Books, toys, games, videos, software. They have it quite a bit -- this is a secular company, and they do carry the "popular" kids things, so content can be questionable for some. **Brenda McGilvra (Math Fundamentals/ PreAlgebra/Bible/Calligraphy teacher) does distribute those fun little "book club" flyers you remember from school -- so watch for her if you want them!**

Timberdoodle

1510 E. Spencer Lake Rd., Shelton, WA 98584 800-478-0672

www.timberdoodle.com

Carries unusual and limited inventory specifically for the home-schooler. Company owned by a homeschooling family. Variety of resources available, from games, arts and crafts, science supplies, etc. Sells complete curriculum kits and allows you to build customized ones as well. Both Christian and secular resources.

Sonlight Curriculum

8121 S. Grant Way, Littleton, CO 80122-2701 800-903-1675

www.sonlight.com

Offers a complete literature-based program built around historical themes. Stresses subject over grade level. Designed for use with multiple ages, uses “levels” rather than grades - each level encompasses multiple grades. Offers great teacher’s manuals for each subject. Generally based on the educational philosophy of Dr. Ruth Beechick: structured, but flexible and allowing for maximum “life lessons”. Sells complete packages, or individual items.

Usborne Books (Educational Development Corporation in U.S.) <https://www.myubam.com>

Usborne publishes a line (1500+) of educational childrens books, primarily non-fiction, that are used and recommended often by publishers as supplemental materials. Books are colorful and informative, with many photographs and diagrams. Books cover a wide variety of subjects - hobbies, history, science, nature, foreign language - and appeal to all ages, from infant to adult. Kids LOVE these books! Line is designed around the idea of “active learning”, drawing the kids into the subject matter. Full catalog available, in print as well as online - When product is sold in “home show” distribution mode, hosting a presentation results in SUBSTANTIAL free product allowances. Contact company for local distributors.

The Weaver Curriculum Company

now a part of Alpha Omega Publications

www.aop.com/weaver_overview

The Weaver Curriculum is a unique unit-based, Christian homeschool curriculum. For grades PreK-12, this family-based curriculum uses the same daily Bible theme as a foundation and then creates lessons for each student. Your students are then studying the same main subject the same time with individual lesson assignment geared to each student’s grade level. For example if you were teaching about the plagues of Egypt, your student would learn about frogs in science, Egyptian topography in geography, pharaohs in history, and so forth. Using this one-room schoolhouse type teaching, students are able to glean information from each other. “Interlock” is a program specifically for PK-K. Each volume covers a specific span of Scripture, and relates all other subject matter to that. They have some nice resource material as well, including a homeschooling skills evaluation book that could be very useful in determining what your students have mastered and where they need additional work.

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE LISTED HERE THAT’S NOT, or if you find info that is outdated ---

LET ME KNOW - AT NEXT REVISION, IT’LL BE CONSIDERED AS AN ADDITION -- IF YOU WRITE THE REVIEW FOR ME, ALL THE BETTER !!!

SANDI

LEARNING DISABILITIES/SPECIAL ED RESOURCES

Home educating our children is a blessing from God, filled with unexpected joys and challenges. The joys of listening to them read their first story, write their name and figure out those math problems. Sometimes, however, those tasks seem a little “too difficult” for some children to master without some additional assistance.

If these “challenges” appear to be learning “difficulties”, here is a list of references and reading material that may be helpful to you:

PERPETUAL MOTOR CONSULTANT homebased therapy program adults and children

Linda Howe 4187 Bernardo Court, Chino CA 91710 (909) 628-9441

STOWELL LEARNING CENTER one on one therapy - learning disabilities -age 5-adult
Chino Location: 15192 Central Ave, Chino CA 91710 (909) 598-2482
Irvine Location: 1150 Main St. Ste C, Irvine, CA 92614 (949) 477-4082