

2022 Homeschool Iowa Conference Workshop Descriptions

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022

7:00-8:30pm – Homeschooling 101

Homeschooling 101 – Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives

(This session is open to the public, with no admission fee.)

Considering homeschooling? Not sure where to begin? This workshop will cover the basics on how to start homeschooling in Iowa. We'll offer a brief presentation of the Iowa homeschool legal options and a comprehensive overview of the essentials of home education. There will be a time for interaction and questions at the end.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022

8:30-10:00am – Keynote Address

Our Children: A Letter of Christ to the Culture – David Quine

What is it that we are praying that God will develop in the lives of our children? According to the Apostle Paul, we are 'letters of Christ' to the culture and this letter will be 'read by all men.' What will those in the culture be reading as they encounter our children? David will share insights from the Word of God regarding what God is desiring to write into our children's lives and hearts.

8:30-10:20am – Start Homeschooling Special Track Opening Sessions

Iowa Homeschool Legal Requirements – Scott Woodruff – 8:30-9:20am

This session covers everything you need to know about your state's homeschool law so you can homeschool with confidence. It includes a thorough presentation of the basics with plenty of time for questions.

Homeschooling for Beginners – Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives – 9:30-10:20am

Our Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives, seasoned homeschooling moms with lots of experience, will give the "real-life" version of how to home educate. Insider tips and helpful resources will be included.

10:30-11:30am – Workshop Session I

Unhurried Homeschooling: Why We Need to Slow Down – Durenda Wilson

In a world that is moving at warp speed, it's easy to forget that kids are still kids. Their needs haven't changed: they need time to explore and experiment with the real world around them, to absorb life through all their senses, to process their thoughts at their own pace. All of these are crucial in laying a firm foundation for higher learning, but this TAKES TIME. Learn why this is so important and how to protect and defend your kids' childhood.

START HOMESCHOOLING SPECIAL TRACK SESSION (*Open to All Attendees*)

Exploring Homeschooling Methods – Nancy Bjorkman

This engaging workshop will review several different teaching approaches found in homeschooling and then help attendees identify resources and curricula to fit their family's particular style. Are you just getting started homeschooling? Needing to refocus and redefine what homeschooling could look like for your family? Come benefit from Nancy's almost 30 years of experience and enjoy her dynamic style.

Charlotte Mason Foundations: A Paradigm Shift – Nancy Kelly

Join Nancy for an introduction to Charlotte Mason, including her belief in the child as a person and her viewpoint that education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life, and the science of relations. Who was Charlotte Mason? What was her educational philosophy? Can her methods be used in high school as well as in elementary school and middle school? Drawing from her 20 years of experience using Charlotte Mason's methods, Nancy will talk about the basics of a Charlotte Mason education and how it can transform your homeschool.

Building Monasteries in the New Dark Age – Rory Groves

It has been said, "Homeschools are the monasteries of the new Dark Age." What does it mean to raise a family in this day, and how can Christian parents prepare their children to thrive in an increasingly Dark Age? This talk addresses these questions and provides practical steps for families to build their households on the Rock, households that will be lights in the darkness.

Nurturing a Mathematical Gift into a Passion – Ed Zaccaro

A failure to find mathematics challenging, interesting, or relevant are significant factors when children lose interest in mathematics. All children, but especially those who are talented in mathematics, must be exposed to material that lights a fire and nurtures their gift. This session will give teachers information that will help them not only develop mathematical thinking in their students, but also ideas on how to nurture a passion for mathematics.

Are You Intimidated about Homeschooling High School – Vicki Tillman

Homeschooling high school can be the best years of all! Here's why you can do it and how to handle planning, organizing, record keeping (like transcripts) and finding the right courses and curricula for your teens.

Licensed Teacher Credit Course Orientation & Collaboration Project Training – Julie Naberhaus

This workshop is for conference attendees who have also registered with Heartland AEA for the professional development activity providing license renewal credit. It will include a brief orientation as well as training for the optional collaboration project that can be applied toward required hours. Time will be provided at the end of the session for a Q&A about the teacher credit course.

11:45am-12:45pm – Exhibitor Workshops

What Is Dyslexia? The Most Common Reason a Child Will Struggle with Reading, Writing, and Spelling – Heidi Kroner, Aspire Academy

Do you have a child who is struggling to read, write, and spell while your other children do not? Want to learn the signs of dyslexia in preschool, elementary, middle, and high school? It is never too late to identify it because all children who struggle with it can be brought to grade-level reading or have reading struggles prevented! Heidi Kroner will present what dyslexia is, why it occurs, how to help a child with the signs of dyslexia become a more fluent reader, writer, and speller, and how to identify it at any age.

Book Reports and Activities That Make Your Kids WANT to Read More Often – Sharon Fisher, BJU Press Homeschool / Home Works by Precept

Let's look at some creative book summary activities for your kids that you can assemble to provide many different inventive ways to summarize a book. We will also talk about the writing process, some quick ways to assemble a sandwich paragraph, and more. You'll experience a hands-on opportunity to learn about and assemble innovative tools that will encourage your child to read.

Making Wood Shop Available to All Ages – David Von Holten, Building with David, LLC

Building with David is an online wood shop program. All wooden pieces are mailed, and detailed videos are emailed monthly. Each project also comes with multi-subject supplements. Building with David is hands-on and makes learning fun and useful. Our slogan is "Large Construction Skills Learned Through Small Projects."

Do I Really Need to Teach Handwriting? – Cathy Angel & Ali Roemhild, Making Reading Heavenly

You are probably thinking that there is not enough time in the day, and handwriting seems an easy lesson to eliminate! Come to our workshop, and in five minutes we will convince you it is so important that you can't afford to skip it! Research tells us that fluent handwriting is necessary for your children to reach their potential in reading and composition! Poor handwriting is often the culprit that makes kids HATE to write. We will also be sharing games that enable kids to learn to spell and read while writing!

Homeschooling: More Than Just Education – Brian Young, Master Books

So many curriculums claim Christian foundations, but very few remain firm on Creation. Find out what a difference this can make. See how it not only excites your children for learning but will also build a solid foundation for them to resist the constant immorality faced at every turn.

1:00-2:00pm – Workshop Session II

The Happiness Habit: A Life Hack That Will Improve Your Moments and Memories – Jeannie Fulbright

Can you recall those early days when your children were very little? What do you remember most? The happy times? The fun adventures? Or do you remember the mistakes you made and the ways you failed? Science and research have shown that our brain is hardwired to recall negative memories over positive ones. It's vital that you take steps now to ensure your memories are not distorted with this natural tendency to focus on the negative. In this session, Jeannie will share what you can do now to preserve joys of your homeschool journey and how this will increase the joys your family experiences in your daily life.

HOMESCHOOLING SPECIAL NEEDS SPECIAL TRACK

You Can Homeschool Your Struggling Learner—and We Can Help! – Faith Berens

This workshop provides an overview of HSLDA's Struggling Learner / Special Needs Department and the many resources we provide to both members and non-members. Faith shares diagnostic checklists for struggling learners, discusses common roadblocks homeschooling parents face (and how to navigate around them), and shares strategies for achieving success with your children who learn differently.

Eyes and Ears to See and Hear: Teaching Art and Music – David & Shirley Quine

Living in an age that is filled with that which is ugly, we must be lining the hearts and minds of our children with that which is truly beautiful. Studies in music and art can do just that. This should not be considered as 'extra' to our daily curriculum. Make time to enjoy the beauty and richness of music and art together with your children. It's time your children will never forget it's time you will cherish forever. Teaching art and music is a wonderful way to bring beauty into a broken world.

Technology and the Future of Work – Nick Reddin

The world of work is changing, and that change is being driven by technology. In this session, you will hear about those changes and how to best prepare today's youth for tomorrow's workplace. We will discuss the changing landscape of needed workplace skills and technological developments that are reshaping the way America and the world works.

Managing Life & Home While Homeschooling – Nancy Bjorkman

Time must be budgeted just like money. We must determine the difference between the fixed (what we must do) and the discretionary (what we would like to do) and set our priorities. This workshop will be filled with practical tips and encouragement for everyday living as a homeschool family. Areas covered include understanding your calling, relationships, schooling, meals, household clutter and cleaning, and general household management. Attendees will leave with practical and applicable tips.

Homeschooling During Tough Times – Vicki Tillman

Sometimes unexpected things disrupt the homeschool year. When this happens, it seems like all the best-laid plans go out the window. We will discuss how to make realistic adjustments to academics and life rhythms, manage stress, and model resiliency for your teens.

Qualified for Life: High Schoolers as Persons – Nancy Kelly

Interested in a rich, vigorous, character-building education for your high schooler? Charlotte Mason had a successful plan for the high school years. Her offering was in response to the utilitarian system that was in place 100 years ago and unfortunately still reigns. This session will discuss Mason's blueprint and offer principles and practices to begin planning what could be your student's best years!

2:30-3:30pm – Workshop Session III

Homeschooling: Purpose or Performance? – Durenda Wilson

We all have clear reasons that we decided to homeschool, but as we continue this journey, the lines can become blurred. It can be so easy to get caught up in how our kids (and we) are (or aren't) performing when it comes to homeschooling. But what if that isn't actually what we are called to? Mastery *can be* important. God talks about becoming skilled and the importance of diligence. But what if we are giving up purpose and exchanging it for performance?

HOMESCHOOLING SPECIAL NEEDS SPECIAL TRACK

Teaching Struggling Learners at Home: The Nuts & Bolts for Success – Faith Berens

This workshop offers practical resources, lists of materials, and curricula to equip you as you work with a struggling learner in your homeschool. Faith explains multi-sensory teaching methods, direct instruction, modeled teaching, and "scaffolding" instruction. She also shares ideas for designing a unique home instruction program tailored to your child's specific challenges.

Parentcraft: Courage – Nancy Kelly

Charlotte Mason exhorts parents to have confidence and courage in their parenting, yet courage is not the first thing we usually pray for or think we need when it comes to raising our families. Learn how a fuller understanding of this virtue can make all the difference in your parenting through story, picture, and etymology! Be of good courage!

Durable Trades for a Durable Future – Rory Groves

Jobs in the building trades are projected to increase faster than jobs in every other sector in America over the next decade. Over the same period, many white-collar jobs requiring 4-year college degrees will cease to exist. This talk exposes the “Vital Lie” in our society that manual labor is only for low-paid, uneducated dropouts. In fact, trades are among the highest-paid, longest-lasting, and most resilient professions.

Teaching (and Learning) the 7 Elements of Art – Annie Pool

Ever feel lost when trying to do Picture Study, tour an art museum, or teach basic drawing? This workshop will train your eye to notice the 7 elements of art and how to teach them to your children. Navigating the art world is tricky for the homeschool parent. How do you choose a curriculum? Is the Internet an okay substitute for a teacher? How do you critique your child’s art without being an artist yourself? Learn not just what to teach about art, but how to see art with an artist’s perspective and how to convey that to your children through your own teaching style and at your own pace.

Breathing Life into Your High School Math – Jenny Conner

“The Principality of Mathematics is a mountainous land, but the air is very fine and health-giving.”

~Charlotte Mason

Is this indicative of high school math in your home? Are you enjoying the fine air and taking in the summit view, or does the air feel thin and your student is seemingly stuck hiking in a circle? In this workshop, we will learn how to help students retrace their steps to build a more solid understanding of place value, fractions, decimals, integers, and exponents. Then with this firm ground under our feet, we will navigate how to breathe life into your upper-level math lessons through hands-on discovery and practical examples of Algebra and Geometry concepts. Come explore with us, for a world of truth and beauty awaits to be found in this mountainous land!

MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP (*Advance Registration Required*)

Tea-Tasting & Cold Brew Coffee – Coleen Meyer

The perpetually positive and encouraging Colleen and Malia Meyer will lead you in tasting and learning about a variety of teas and ways to brew them, health benefits of tea, and all about cold brew coffee. The Make & Take workshop fee provides for samples and take-home bags.

4:00-5:00pm – Workshop Session IV

Building Resilience in Your Kids – Durenda Wilson

The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties lends itself to overcoming the countless obstacles that life can bring. As adults, we have all experienced things we never thought we would face, and we know that our children will have their own share of difficulties. Though there is no way to know what those will be, we can prepare our children by helping them build resilience throughout their childhood.

HOMESCHOOLING SPECIAL NEEDS SPECIAL TRACK

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities – Faith Berens

This workshop addresses a crucial but frequently misunderstood topic related to special needs homeschooling. In this power-packed workshop, Faith explains the difference between accommodations and modifications, describes 504 Accommodation Law, and answers homeschooling parents’ most frequently asked questions.

These include:

- Can I give accommodations to my child on end-of-the-year standardized tests? What type of documentation is needed to do so?
- How do homeschoolers apply for special testing accommodations for college entrance exams?
- What documentation is required by the College Board and ACT for my high schooler to be considered for and granted special testing accommodations?
- Should high school students with disabilities disclose their diagnosis during the college application process?
- Can my college student receive accommodations?
- What accommodations are colleges required to provide to students with disabilities?

Faith will also share a disability resource guide for teens and young adults.

Five Steps to a Superior Science Education – Jeannie Fulbright

There is a reason that American school children score at the bottom on international science assessments. It is the ineffective way in which science is taught in schools. Most of us were subjected to this system and obtained only a cursory understanding of science. As homeschoolers, we have the freedom and opportunity to throw out those unproductive techniques. We can truly impart a deeper knowledge and love for science. Jeannie will share five vital steps, inspired by Charlotte Mason, that will ensure you impart a superior science education. These five steps will not only enrich your homeschool, they will prepare your children for high school and college.

Meal Planning – Erin Port (*also presented on Saturday at 10:00am*)

Join Erin Port from *Simple Purposeful Living* as she helps you meal plan simply, on purpose, for your busy family. Together, you will debunk popular myths about meal planning and walk through the meal planning process step by step. You will walk away encouraged with tangible tips and tools to be successful and take the stress out of “what’s for dinner” so you can gather around the table for a delicious meal and meaningful conversation. Get ready to see meal planning in a whole new light. We will laugh and have fun along the way. (This workshop is repeated on Saturday at 10:00am.)

Start with Chickens: Homesteading as a School Subject – Rory Groves

In every generation except the last two or three, parents have taught their children how to grow their own food, keep animals, and provide for their basic needs. With wit and wisdom, this talk presents some ways parents can teach their children homesteading skills and “mend” the chain that has been broken with our great-grandparents.

Home Organization: Bringing Calm into Chaos – Amy Recker & Stacie Stanley

Do you struggle with organization? Do you and your family struggle to find things in your home? Does your home constantly feel like chaos? Do you struggle finding peace in your home? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, we would love to help you turn your chaos into calm.

MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP (*Advance Registration Required*)

Kokedama – Greater Des Moines Botanical Center

Create your own Kokedama to take home while learning about caring for this ancient Japanese garden art form. “Koke” means moss and “dama” means ball, so we will be crafting moss balls and planting into them. Kokedama may be used to create a hanging string garden or may be featured on a tray. You will leave with one beautiful and easy-to-care-for Kokedama.

5:15-6:15pm – Exhibitor Workshops

Navigating the College Journey with GCU – Callie Rafferty, Grand Canyon University

The process of applying to college can be daunting for everyone, but for homeschool families, it can be even more rewarding if you start early and do it right. At Grand Canyon University, we have a large homeschool student population, and our previous student body president was a homeschool student! In this workshop, the Homeschool Admissions team will walk you through how to start the college search process with confidence, and how parents and students can prepare early for college. You will learn how to create a stellar homeschool transcript, how dual enrollment can save you much time and money on your undergraduate degree, and the different ways you can earn college credit before starting college classes.

Five Core Habits to Help Your Child Learn Anything – Lauren Gideon, Classical Conversations

Come and hear about how you can help your child acquire the essential habits to learn anything. This talk will model these "core habits," allowing you to experience them yourself!

Virtual Music Lessons: Is That Even Possible? – Mike Nemeth, fp Music Academy

Mike Nemeth, founder and owner of fp Music Academy, has been playing piano all his life and in the past few years has begun to pass along his skills to others. Taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the pandemic lockdown, he began gathering teachers of other instruments to teach with him in his then-newly-expanded company. Their collective skills in making use of remote learning have flourished, and they are all successfully teaching people from coast to coast how to play their chosen musical instrument. Mike brings some of the best practices learned from their experiences to you in this workshop.

How to Develop Mathematical Thinking and a Love of Math in Early Childhood – Ed Zaccaro, Hickory Grove Press

Most parents know that reading to children is an important part of developing literacy, but, unfortunately, when it comes to developing mathematical thinking, these same parents sometimes feel confused and inadequate about how best to jumpstart their young children's interest in and understanding of numbers. This session will go over easy-to-understand explanations of important number concepts, along with activities and resources to develop them. In other words, this session will help show participants a pathway not only to mathematical excellence, but also a love of math!

Making It Count – Barry Pettyjohn, firstBible International

There's no doubt that our goal as parents is to raise our children to love Christ. Salvation is just one step in that process. Service is the next step. How can we utilize our time as parents and educators to teach our children to love God, not just in word, but also in deed?

6:30-8:30pm – Couples' Dinner (*Advance Registration Required*)

Seven Prayers of a Parent – David & Shirley Quine

As homeschool moms and dads, we plan and prepare, but let us never forget to pray for our children! It is easy to fall into the daily routine of lesson planning and teaching but forgetting that "except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1). Therefore, let us pray.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

8:00-9:30am – Special Breakfast Sessions *(Advance Registration Required)*

Moms & Muffins: Nurturing Sibling Relationships – Durenda Wilson

This is Durenda's most popular speaking topic! Most of us didn't factor into the equation just how much sibling conflict would be part of our homeschooling days! It can be exhausting! As homeschooling parents, we have a unique opportunity to nurture sibling relationships among our children. Find out practical ways to do this and what an IMPORTANT part of our homeschooling it really is!

Dads & Donuts: The Family Economy – Rory Groves

The Bible teaches that the basic economic unit of society is the Family—not the corporation, not the government, not the individual. This talk explores the basic elements of a family-centered economy and provides practical steps for families to reclaim productive households that will thrive in uncertain times.

8:30-9:30am – Workshop Session V

Guard Your Schedule: From It Flows the Wellspring of Your Homeschool Atmosphere – Jeannie Fulbright

As a homeschooler, you have a plethora of opportunities to enroll in classes, co-ops, extra-curricular activities, clubs, and organizations, as well as service, and ministry. You even have an abundance of curriculum choices for every area of education. The question you must ask yourself is, "How will choosing to do this affect your day, your week, and the atmosphere of your homeschool?" It's vitally important that you guard against being over-scheduled with courses or activities that 'seemed wonderful' when you were presented with the idea but do nothing but create stress and an atmosphere of chaos and hurry. Jeannie will share stories of her own mistakes and triumphs, as well as how you can know when to say "yes" and when to say "no" when creating your homeschool schedule.

Simplicity – Nancy Kelly

"The parent who would educate his children, in any large sense of the word, must lay himself out for high thinking and lowly living; the highest thinking indeed possible to the human mind and the simplest, directest living." – Charlotte Mason

Simplicity is a topic near and dear to Charlotte Mason's heart and completely relevant in today's complicated and consumeristic culture. She said that the quality of simplicity is "the first condition of all successful work with children." What did she mean by that? Through Scripture, poetry, art, and lanterns, we will examine the nature of simplicity and uncover what hinders us from living simple lives and doing the deep work required of us as parents.

Engaging Early Learners – Nancy Bjorkman

What should "school" look like for early learners? What things are developmentally appropriate for the younger ages? How do we keep our "Littles" appropriately occupied while homeschooling their siblings? This fun and informative session will provide a comprehensive overview of teaching methods specifically geared to pre- and elementary-age children. Nancy will share resources, fun games, toddler tips, and easy activities, all designed to help parents think outside the box when it comes to "doing school."

Don't Judge Me: A Lesson from the Front Line of Parenting – Scott Woodruff

When your child gives you that look, and says, "Don't judge me!" you are at a crossroads, a moment of truth, a moment of great peril and great opportunity. This session will give you the tools you need to turn what could be an ugly situation into a transformative moment of healing and redemption. If your head sometimes swims when you try to figure out whether it's right or wrong to judge your child in a particular situation, this session will plant your feet on solid ground in ways that may surprise you.

10:00-11:00am – Workshop Session VI

Pulling Weeds or Applying a Pre-Emergent? – David Quine

What are we implanting into the hearts, souls, and minds of our children? What are we giving them to think about? God has given us wisdom in answer to these questions: "Whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, think about these things." Remember the saying: "An ounce of prevention ..." Come and hear how David and Shirley have applied these truths to education.

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND SPECIAL TRACK

The College Question: Exploring Alternatives to College – Rory Groves

For thousands of years before college was an option, people trained for work through the apprenticeship model. Rather than going tens (or hundreds) of thousands of dollars in debt, young people were paid to learn and were prepared for life by godly mentors. This talk explores alternatives to the college-debt route, including apprenticeship, mentorship, and entrepreneurship.

A Crash Course on All Things ACT – Jenny Conner

In this workshop, we will dive into the details regarding ACT and learn general test-taking strategies. Next, we will look at each of the four individual tests which comprise ACT (English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning) and discuss strategies and resources specific to each test. Lastly, since the math portion seems to strike fear in all high school juniors, we will spend time working through example problems together. We will come to understand how mathematical thinking, as opposed to rote memorization, is the key to success on this portion of the exam. Buckle up!

Meal Planning – Erin Port (*also presented on Friday at 4:00pm*)

Join Erin Port from *Simple Purposeful Living* as she helps you meal plan simply, on purpose, for your busy family. Together, you will debunk popular myths about meal planning and walk through the meal planning process step by step. You will walk away encouraged with tangible tips and tools to be successful and take the stress out of "what's for dinner" so you can gather around the table for a delicious meal and meaningful conversation. Get ready to see meal planning in a whole new light. We will laugh and have fun along the way. (This workshop is also offered on Friday at 4:00pm.)

TEEN TRACK WORKSHOP

Stretching, Posture & Poise – Hannah Melody

Our bodies function at their optimal level when they are flexible and limber. This workshop will cover some basic stretching techniques and tips for better posture. We will end the workshop with some simple fun exercises and dances.

Tackling Tricky High School Issues: Practical Help for Homeschooling High School Students with Special Needs – Faith Berens

This workshop addresses some of the challenges associated with teaching struggling or atypical learners at home in the high school years. Do you have questions such as, “How do I award my child with special needs a diploma?” or “What do I do since my child with dyslexia can’t read typical high school level material?” Faith discusses alternative coursework, specialized curricula and learning materials, assistive technology, transcript options, possible graduation guidelines, high school programs for special learners, and post-high school options. She also offers tips for navigating the process of applying for testing accommodations for college board tests.

MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP (*Advance Registration Required*)

Preschool Busy Bags – Annie Pool

Busy bags are a fun way to keep preschoolers engaged in creative learning play. Come learn about using and creating busy bags with components that may be reconfigured to create new ways to learn and play. You will leave with five busy bags and ideas on how to use them in different ways.

11:15am-12:15pm – Exhibitor Workshops

Yelling Is Lazy – Sean Allen, The Well Ordered Homeschool

Yelling is a quick fix with a short shelf-life. What’s worse, it rarely reaches the heart of our children for good. This talk will explore the reasons why we as parents often yell at our children and the damaging effect it can have on our relationship with them. We'll also look at a number of practical ways you can discourage disobedience without all the shouting.

Mr. Christian Goes to Washington – Greg Baker, The FAMiLY Leader

Can a Christian engage in politics without being "political"? Get involved with government for God's glory (instead of man's), to tangibly bless and help people and make an impact for good? Yes! The FAMiLY Leader's Greg Baker reveals how Iowa's Church Ambassador Network is transforming the way Christians across the country relate to their governing authorities and shares a unique opportunity Iowa teens have to become ambassadors for Christ in government, business, and beyond!

Parents, Kids and Money Matters® – Chris Wieting, Thrivent – Pine Lake Financial Associates

Movies, advertisers, friends. They can all affect kids' attitudes about life – and money. This workshop will help parents find out how to talk to kids about influences, choices, and responsible money habits. Parents and kids will reflect on their values and get practical tools to make teaching (and learning) about money fun.

School Choice in Iowa – Walt Rogers, Iowans for Tax Relief

Join us for a look at Iowa's current public school education monopoly and an analysis of how more school choice will improve parents’ options and outcomes.

1:00-2:00pm – Workshop Session VII

Preparing Your Mom Heart for the Post-Homeschool Years – Durenda Wilson

The homeschooling journey becomes such a big part of our lives as moms. Sometimes it seems as though we will never see the finish line, but talk to any homeschool mom with grown kids and she will tell you, "The days are long, but the years are short." What feels like a lifelong commitment soon becomes a distant memory, and when you've given your all to this worthy task of homeschooling, the next season can bring a conflict of emotions. Durenda has graduated seven (so far) whom she has homeschooled from the beginning, and, in this session, she shares some key thoughts to consider as you near the finish line.

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND SPECIAL TRACK

How to Homeschool High School – Vicki Tillman

You can do this! The high school years can be the best homeschooling years of all. We will discuss the basics you need to know about planning and goal setting, figuring out what your unique teens need, finding the right resources, record keeping that doesn't give you headaches, and preparation for your teens' futures.

The Well-Balanced Mind: The Imagination Factor – Nancy Kelly

Do you value your imagination? Your child's? This workshop is an exploration of the importance of imagination in education, faith, and life. Mason said that "imagination is, like faith, the evidence of things not seen" and is an integral part of everyone's personhood. How can we nurture this in our materialistic society where testing reigns supreme?

The Secret to Teaching Writing That Anyone Can Master – Jeannie Fulbright

Writing is one of the subjects a homeschool mother dreads to teach. There is a reason for this. Most people do not understand the difference between academic writing and creative writing. In fact, the difference is so vast that most publishers won't publish a novel from a person who is accomplished in writing nonfiction. Nonfiction, like math, is formulaic and easy to master. But few students are given the formula. Instead, they are given curriculum that increases writing anxiety, requiring flowery prose, metaphors, similes, onomatopoeias, alliteration, and the list tirelessly goes on. The truth is that this is not the kind of writing that earns one A's in college; it's quite the opposite. In this talk, Jeannie will share the simple formula that will make writing the easiest subject you teach.

TEEN TRACK WORKSHOP

Intro to Wilderness Survival – Tressa Vos

In this workshop, we will cover the basics of wilderness survival: finding water, building shelters, making fires, and finding food. We will also discuss how to approach survival situations, both in the wild and in life, from a calm and Christ-like perspective. Other topics will include navigation, team building, critical thinking, and rescue planning. Come ready to learn and explore!

The Algorithms that Control Us – Josh Bingaman

YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Google, the Metaverse. Social media has become an integral part of most American's daily lives, as the average person spends 144 minutes on social media every day. How do we navigate through the world of high-tech media without allowing it to influence our families? Join us for our workshop as we discuss media, Big Tech, and how to protect our families in this technological age.

MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP (*Advance Registration Required*)

Water Coloring Nature – Emily Verdoorn

Join us for a hands-on experience painting from life and the natural world around us. Come as you are, beginner or experienced, and walk with me through some practices to give you a little more courage as you seek to pay attention to the natural world through paint and paper. You'll get to learn a little about watercolor, practice using all your senses to engage with nature, and begin a nature journal entry of your own to take home.

2:30-3:30pm – Workshop Session VIII

The Essential Tools for Developing Self-Motivated Children – Jeannie Fulbright

There are few things more frustrating to the homeschool mom than a child who does not care to do his lessons. In this talk, Jeannie shares valuable tools for developing children with self-initiative. These tools are none other than Charlotte Mason's teaching called Masterly Inactivity. By implementing the seven elements of Masterly Inactivity, you will find yourself homeschooling from abundance, trusting in the Lord's plan for your children's lives, and watching your children blossom into self-confident people that pursue their learning with purpose.

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND SPECIAL TRACK

How to Build the Transcript Your Teen Needs – Vicki Tillman

Every teen has a different life destination. Here are ten tips for creating a transcript that truly shows who your teen is and where they are headed in life. We will discuss transcripts for teens headed into the workforce, the military, community colleges, private colleges, and competitive universities.

The Art of Self-Education through Notebooking – Nancy Kelly

Throughout Mason's six volumes, we read about dozens of notebooks. We will look at this wide variety and see how they were used, why they were used, and which ones we should use today. Nancy will share examples from Mason's day as well as what her own family has implemented, inspiring attendees to begin or continue this lifelong habit of self-education.

Defending Homeschooling When Critics Say Homeschooling Parents Abuse Their Kids – Scott Woodruff

One day a terrible parent in your state may do something criminal to a child— and the media may push the narrative that because the child was homeschooled, more restrictions should be placed on homeschooling families. This session will analyze some real-life situations where this has actually happened and equip you to give a compassionate, commonsense answer when family, friends, coworkers, or the local media assert that the problem is not enough homeschool regulations.

TEEN TRACK WORKSHOP

Drama Clinic: A Merry Heart – Natalie Ogbourne

In this informative and interactive workshop, we will talk about acting and improv and what place they might have in daily life. Then, we'll dig into a few techniques, rules, and, best of all, some improv activities.

Healthy Habits for Life: Making Physical Health a Priority – Meg Jacques

Wellness and how we fuel our bodies have become confusing topics, haven't they? It can be even more confusing to try to explain these concepts to our kids. What if you could strip away some of the noise around this topic and instead make informed, intentional decisions about how you fuel your body and your family? In this course, we'll walk through the foundations of wellness, including a simple strategy for categorizing food (so easy my four-year-old can do it!), mindful eating, the key components of a nutrition label, and how you can incorporate these ideas into your homeschool. We'll wrap up with a brief discussion about our habits and the stories that surround them. At the end of our time together, you and your kids will be empowered to have positive conversations about how you fuel and move your bodies with intention.

The Ten Things All Future Mathematicians and Scientists Must Know (But Are Rarely Taught) – Ed Zaccaro

Mathematicians and scientists have been closely tied to many famous disasters. The Challenger explosion, the failure of the Mars Explorer, and the Kansas City Hyatt Regency walkway collapse all involved thinking errors. Our future mathematicians and scientists must know how to prevent tragedies such as these from occurring. Because science and mathematics instruction is often dominated by facts and calculation, children are rarely exposed to these important concepts. You will leave this session with many high-interest stories and activities that will fascinate your children and show them the strong connections between math and science and the world we live in.

4:00-5:00pm – Workshop Session IX

Sustainable Homeschooling – Durenda Wilson

We all begin our homeschool journey with high hopes, but it often doesn't take long before we realize that some things simply are not working. We find ourselves, and/or our kids, in burnout mode. At the same time, we are confronted with the fear that we may somehow fail our children if we let go of something. Learn the importance of creating a sustainable homeschooling life unique to your family, bring joy back into your homeschool days, and help equip you to go the distance!

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND SPECIAL TRACK

How to Choose the Best Electives for Teens – Vicki Tillman

Every teen is unique! One of the best things about homeschooling high school is that we can help them choose electives that are meaningful to them and help build the life skills that they need (as well as an awesome transcript). We will discuss 10 different categories of electives, as well as traditional and creative ways to earn those credits.

Will Work for Food: The Economics of Self-Sufficiency – Rory Groves

The Apostle Paul calls us to "work with your hands ... so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one." (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). This talk explores the biblical mandate to work hard, build community, and decrease our dependence on worldly systems.

Literature: Filling Our Children's Hearts, Souls & Minds with Truth – David & Shirley Quine

You may be asking: "What are the BEST books for my children?" Books that make for wonder! Books that make one kneel in reverence and respect! Books that challenge one to pursue trust in God! Books that are filled with truth! Make time to have shared moments by reading aloud with your family. Share the heartaches and joys of characters from living books tonight and every night with your family. When your family is grown, they will remember the joy of literature!

TEEN TRACK WORKSHOP

Applied Color Theory: Art Design, Media & Style – Annie Pool

In this multimedia-style workshop, learn about how color theory is used in every aspect of life. This workshop will talk about how to recognize styles and aesthetics in media and culture, and how to easily begin or go further in incorporating that into your own life. Expect to have fun learning about color theory, aesthetics, symmetry, and balance.

Developing & Drafting Student Education Plans – Faith Berens

Does your child have a learning disability or severe special needs? Have you pulled your child out of public school where he used to have an IEP (individual education plan)? Participants of this workshop learn the purposes and benefits of an SEP (student education plan), the homeschool version of an IEP. This workshop also provides guidance on drafting an SEP. Participants look at sample student education plans and receive a template of a student education plan, as well as a resource list of books that will assist them in drafting their own homeschool student education plan.

Nature Journaling – Emily Verdoorn

Come and explore nature journaling as a formational practice. Responding to the natural world around us is not only a skill which can be learned, but, more than that, it is a practice which we form to, in turn, form us. It is a practice which trains our attention, our affections, and our devotion to the first Maker of good and beautiful things.