



Why attend a homeschool convention this year?

By Andrew Pudewa, Institute for Excellence in Writing

Time is precious. Money can be tight. Travel must be prioritized. And, almost all the information you will ever need can be found online. So, is going to a conference really worth it?

In reality, a conference is a retreat—a place to gather with like-minded people, see and hear new ideas, ask questions, and contemplate.

I have been to many conferences—hundreds, actually. Of course, I go because it's my job. Although I primarily teach workshops and hang out near the IEW booth, I also meet fascinating people and listen to a variety of workshops. Now obviously, not every conference is a peak experience, and some are far more interesting than others, but I think it's safe to say that almost always something helpful, even enlightening happens, and often I don't even notice it until weeks or months later.

A friend of a friend once articulated for me something we all instinctively know: "Teaching is the overflow of the soul of the teacher to the soul of the student." To do that, of course, the teacher's soul must be full. Yes, we can read stuff. We can watch videos. We can pray. But for so many of us, the busyness of life makes all those things we can and should do to fill ourselves up somewhat less important than the crisis of the moment. (And in homeschooling, there always seems to be a crisis of the moment!)

In reality, a conference is a retreat—a place to gather with like-minded people, see and hear new ideas, ask questions, and contemplate. Even if the

talks you attend aren't the "incredible" talks that change one's life, there are ideas everywhere, and I've found that one small idea from an unexpected source can improve my life forever. Sometimes those ideas don't even come from speakers or workshops, but from one-on-one conversations with other homeschooling parents.

Taking the time to attend a convention is a little bit like doing exercise or practicing music: You may not want to do it before you do it, but after you do do it, you are happier for having done it. So step out, get yourself to a convention this year, fill yourself with inspiration and ideas, make some new friends, and if you're afraid of the exhibit hall, just don't go in! (Although that's where you'll usually find me, and I do hope you'll come by and say hello if we're at the same show.)

Blessings to you and yours,
Andrew ☩

Meet Andrew Pudewa at the 2016 C&CF conference. Get some great tips during his workshops and chat with him in person between sessions. Your teens will also benefit from his High School Essay Intensive writing seminar. See the back cover for details.



2016 NCHEA Legislative Day

March 3, 2016 at the Capitol

Watch for details at www.NCHEA.org
and on Facebook

The Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association

The NCHEA is a non-profit organization founded in 1986 to encourage and support Christian families in the education of their children at home in accordance with Biblical principles and to support the rights of Christian parents to homeschool their children. The NCHEA is made up of a volunteer board of directors and executive officers. Our major source of income is our annual conference, but with the growth of the home education movement, both our needs and responsibilities continue to grow. We do welcome contributions.

The "NCHEA News" is published by the NCHEA to provide information, inspiration, and support to Christian homeschooling families. The annual subscription fee is \$24. To subscribe to the "NCHEA News" and/or join the NCHEA send a check for \$24 payable to the NCHEA to the address listed below. A subscription to the "NCHEA News" is one of the benefits of NCHEA membership. The mailing lists of the NCHEA and the "NCHEA News" are never sold or rented.

Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association
P.O. Box 57041
Lincoln, NE 68505-7041
(402) 423-4297 fax (402) 423-4297
www.NCHEA.org • NCHEA@windstream.net

The "NCHEA Homeschool News"

The views expressed by the contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the NCHEA. The "NCHEA News" is looking for a variety of articles: teaching tips, field trip ideas, feature articles, outstanding student achievements (include an original photo if possible), curriculum and book reviews, etc. All articles must be submitted by March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1 to make the next edition. To submit articles for publication, please contact the NCHEA. The NCHEA reserves the right to refuse any article deemed inappropriate for our publication.

HSLDA

Affiliate Program

Go to <http://hsllda.org/a/2293207> to sign up for a new HSLDA membership.

Group Discount

The Home School Legal Defense Association offers a \$20 discount on their membership fee (\$95 per year instead of \$115) to homeschoolers who sign up as part of the NCHEA group. To receive your discount, include the NCHEA group discount number 293207 on your application under question #10. You may also include this number on your renewal form to receive the discount. Call NCHEA if you need an application or more information.

NCHEA

Executive Committee

President & Interim Treasurer – Nick Lenzen
Kathleen Lenzen
Vice President – Jeff Bennett
Jean Bennett
Secretary – Robin Gould
Tina Gould
Newsletter Editor – Danna Swartz
Patrick Swartz
Legislative Liaison – Dave Lostroh
Lorraine Lostroh
Legislative Liaison – Deb Badeer
Dan Badeer
Members-at-Large –
Tim and Angi Bates
Walt & Jolene Catlett

STATEMENT OF FAITH

God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, was God come in the flesh being fully God and fully man, yet without sin.

The Bible (the 66 Books of the Old and New Testaments) is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes completed and final revelation. The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole and in part, including theological concepts as well as geographical and historical details. We recognize the Bible as the ultimate and final authority on what is truth. The Bible and the Bible only is the sole rule of faith and practice for Christians. We believe that all theological beliefs must be judged by its truth, and whatsoever is not in full agreement with it is to be rejected.

All men are sinful, in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character both by nature and act; therefore, they are under His wrath and just condemnation. The central purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross, the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection.

Salvation is offered as a gift, free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to in individual faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but in the shed blood and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.

Jesus Christ will literally come to earth again in the second advent.



NCHEA



Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association

Conference & Curriculum Fair



*I have No Greater Joy than this, to hear
of my Children Walking in the Truth,
III John 1:4*

April 1–2, 2016

Indian Hills Community Church
1000 S. 84th St.
Lincoln, Nebraska

Featuring:

Andrew Pudewa

Institute for Excellence in Writing

J. Michael Smith

President, HSLDA

Diane Kummer

HSLDA High School Consultant



Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association

Conference & Curriculum Fair

April 1–2

Indian Hills Community Church
Lincoln, Nebraska

You are graciously invited to attend . . .

The NCHEA's 29th Annual Conference and Curriculum Fair (C&CF). The ultimate purpose of the C&CF is to bring glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ in all that is said and done. We hope that the workshops and keynote sessions serve to be a witness to the lost, encouragement to the downtrodden, provide fellowship for believers, and a time of rest for weary parents.

Why should you attend? Come to . . .

- ♦ Be inspired by our speakers
- ♦ Shop the exhibit halls and see what's new
- ♦ Renew your vision for home-based discipleship
- ♦ Meet and have fellowship with other like-minded home-educating parents
- ♦ Get refreshed and conquer "burnout"
- ♦ Share your experiences with those new to homeschooling
- ♦ Browse and evaluate curriculum
- ♦ Better understand the benefits of parent-led home education
- ♦ Mentor new homeschooling parents
- ♦ Learn about homeschooling and parent-led discipleship
- ♦ Spend "couple time" away from home and children
- ♦ Be blessed

Sincerely,

NCHEA Board, Officers, and Conference Committee

Conference Schedule

Friday, April 1

8:45 a.m.
Registration Begins
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Teen Conference
9 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
Exhibit Halls Open for Shopping
10 –11a.m.
Opening General Session
11:15 a.m. Navigating the Exhibit Hall*
11:15 a.m.–Noon
Vendor Workshops
1–5 p.m.
Workshop Sessions
6:30 p.m.
Exhibit Hall Closes
7–8:30 p.m.
Open to the Public
Keynote Session followed by Graduate Recognition

** For new conference attendees. Meet at 11:15 a.m. for a fun orientation session in Room 1404.*

Saturday, April 2

8 a.m.
Registration Begins
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Teen Conference
8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Exhibit Halls Open for Shopping
9 a.m.–Noon
Workshop Sessions
Noon–1 p.m.
Support Group Leader Luncheon**
1–2 p.m.
Workshop Sessions
3:30 p.m.
Exhibit Hall Closes
3–4 p.m.
Closing General Session

*** Support Group Leaders join us for an informational and inspirational session. RSVP on the Registration Form. Bring your own lunch or preorder on the Registration Form.*

Questions?

C&CF and Teen Conference

Call after 6:00 p.m.

Kathleen Lenzen ♦ nchea@windstream.net ♦ (402) 423-4297

Janell Papke ♦ cjpapke@yahoo.com ♦ (402) 798-0444

Jean Bennett ♦ bennett@nchea.org ♦ (402) 435-5717

Kids Conference

Addie Ridge ♦ nchea4kids@nchea.org ♦ (308) 830-3945

Pre-Registration & Payment

Save \$\$\$ with NCHEA membership and early registration!

Pre-registrations must be received by **March 1, 2016**. When your online registration is received, you will get an email confirmation. Please save this confirmation as your record of registration. If you do not have an email address, your canceled check will be your confirmation. Confirmation notices are not mailed.

Each individual or couple that pre-registers will receive one C&CF syllabus at check-in. The syllabus contains outlines and resources. Additional copies may be reserved in advance on the registration form for \$10. Individuals or couples registering at the door receive a syllabus while supplies last.

For quick and easy registration go to www.NCHEA.org.

C&CF Information

Pre-Registration

Save \$\$\$ when you register by March 1, 2016! Register online at www.NCHEA.org. Please save your online confirmation as record of registration. Or your canceled check is your confirmation. For quick and easy registration go to www.NCHEA.org. If you have any online registration questions, call after 6 p.m.: (402) 423-4297.

Lodging

Comfort Suites, 331 North Cotner Blvd.

Call (402)325-8800 for reservations. Mention Nebraska Christian Home Educators to receive the discount.

Hampton Inn, 5922 Vandervoort Dr.

Call (402) 420-7800 or (800)HAMPTON for reservations. Or go online to www.LincolnSouthHeritagePark.com. HamptonInn.com. Mention NCHEA and code NCH for discount.

CDs and MP3s

Buy your C&CF MP3s early and save \$15. See the registration form for payment information. Remember, the C&CF includes more information than you can absorb in two days! You can purchase CDs and MP3s at the booth in the lobby if you miss a workshop. No personal recording devices allowed.

Exhibit Halls

Your C&CF registration includes unlimited access to the Exhibit Halls featuring publishers, textbooks, and teaching materials. **There is no discount to attend only the Exhibit Halls.**

Free Friday Night

Know someone curious about homeschooling? The Friday evening keynote session is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Invite your interested friends, family, church members, and your neighbors to see the results of home education. All ages are welcome.

Solicitation

No unauthorized solicitation or distribution of material is permitted at the C&CF or in the parking lot.

Children

Because of space limitations and speaker requests, children may not attend workshop sessions. (Exception to this is quiet, dependent, nursing babies under 12 months/age.) For safety and security concerns, children attending the conference with their parents must remain with a parent at all times. Parents may want to alternate attending workshops to conform to this rule. One parent can shop the curriculum fair with children while the other parent attends a workshop.

"Children" is defined as persons under the age of 18 years. Adult children in the home who want to attend must pay and register for the conference.

On-site childcare is not available. A room is available for mothers to diaper or nurse babies or spend some quiet time.

Workshops are recorded. A parent should sit near and exit and step out when an infant becomes noisy, even happy noises.

Kids Conference and Teen Conference

The NCHEA provides a Kids Conference and a Teen Conference for students to have their own age-appropriate conference experience. These conferences are planned by young adults/homeschool graduates and homeschooling parents. Care is taken to provide a safe environment for fun and learning to take place.

Students attending the Kids Conference must be picked up by 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Students attending the Teen Conference will be escorted to the south lobby of the church at 5 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. on Saturday. Plan to meet your child in the lobby.

Refund Policy

No refunds or adjustments are made at the C&CF. All refund requests must be made in writing. All refunds are subject to a \$5 cancellation fee. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope when requesting a refund.

Volunteers

The C&CF is planned and conducted by homeschool parents like you. This undertaking requires many volunteers. Prayerfully consider volunteering. Please check the box on the registration form marked "volunteers" or call Kathleen Lenzen at (402) 423-4297 or Janell Papke at (402) 798-0444.

Support Group Leaders Lunch

Thank you for all that you do! Saturday at Noon, join us for a great time to connect with other leaders and encourage one another--Room 1101-1102. Please bring your lunch or preorder a sack lunch.

Food

Food and drink are NOT permitted in the church, except in the Teacher's Lounge. Friday, a chili lunch is available on site for purchase. Saturday, plan tailgate picnic lunch in the parking lot, or enjoy one of the many dining options available near the church.

Graduate Recognition

Homeschool graduate recognition is Friday evening. Graduates should contact Janell Papke at cjpapke@yahoo.com or Kathleen Lenzen at NCHEA@windstream.net, or visit www.NCHEA.org for the graduate questionnaire, fees and related information. Parents of graduates must register for the C&CF and graduate recognition by March 1, 2016. The Keynote Session and Graduate Recognition are open to the public.

Exhibit and Advertising

Advertising in the syllabus and exhibitor space is available. For information, contact NCHEA@windstream.net or NCHEA@NCHEA.org. Advertising and exhibiting is at the discretion of the C&CF committee and denials are without comment.

Calls

The church does not sponsor this event and no calls should be directed to Indian Hills Community Church.

Take the Conference Speakers Home

With You! Pre-order your C&CF MP3s on the registration form.

Save \$15 with your early-bird discount.

Featured Speakers

J. Michael Smith

HSLDA, President



Michael Smith and his wife, Elizabeth, along with Michael Farris and his wife, Vickie, incorporated Home School Legal Defense Association in 1983 and were the original board members. Mike graduated from the University of Arkansas, where he played basketball and majored in business administration. He entered the U.S. Navy and served three years before attending law school at the

University of San Diego.

Mike and his family began homeschooling because their 5-year-old flunked kindergarten. His family's life changed

drastically when he heard a radio program in 1981 which introduced him to the idea of homeschooling. When they started homeschooling, they began homeschooling one year at a time to meet the academic and social needs of their children. After spending lots of time around people like Mike Farris, he realized he had been called to use his gifts and talents in the legal profession to assist homeschoolers who were being prosecuted because they didn't hold a teacher's certificate or satisfy the school district that they could competently teach their children.

Mike came to HSLDA full-time in 1987 and has served as president of the organization since the year 2001. The most enjoyable part of Mike's job is when he is able to go to homeschool conferences and meet what he calls America's greatest heroes, homeschooling moms.

Andrew Pudewa

Institute for Excellence in Writing



Andrew Pudewa is the founder and director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing. Presenting throughout North America, he addresses issues relating to teaching, writing, thinking, spelling, and music with clarity, insight, practical experience, and humor. His seminars for parents, students, and teachers have helped transform many a reluctant writer and

have equipped educators with powerful tools to dramati-

cally improve students' skills. Although he is a graduate of the Talent Education Institute in Japan (Suzuki Method) and holds a Certificate of Child Brain Development, his best endorsement is from a young Alaskan boy who called him "the funny man with the wonderful words." He and his wonderful, heroic wife, Robin, have homeschooled their seven children and are now proud grandparents of eight, making their home in Northeastern Oklahoma's beautiful green country.

Dianne Kummer

HSLDA, High School Consultant



Diane and her husband, Tom, homeschooled their two children through 12th grade using a variety of teaching options. Their children went on to college, and are now well into their careers.

She joined the staff of Home School Legal Defense Association nine years ago to help develop HSLDA's Homeschooling Thru High School program and

website. As an HSLDA High School Consultant, Diane speaks at homeschool conferences and presents high

school symposiums where she shares from her experiences and her imperfect (but real) homeschooling days! Her practical and encouraging high school seminars provide information that inspires parents to continue teaching their teens at home with confidence.

Diane loves math and taught high school math classes for homeschooled students for many years. In her free time, she enjoys teaching ladies' Bible studies and being involved in pro-life ministries. Graduating from the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Business Management, she enjoyed a banking career prior to starting a family and beginning her homeschool adventure.

Workshop Speakers



John Baylor

John is the teacher and owner of Baylor Test Prep, a college consulting and ACT, SAT, and PSAT preparation company. John is a 1988 alumnus of Stanford University. Brief careers in banking, acting, and sportscasting convinced him that his true passion is teaching.

Henry Burke

Henry Burke is a Civil Engineer with a B.S.C.E. and M.S.C.E. He has been a Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) for 37 years and has worked as a Civil Engineer in construction for over 40 years. Mr. Burke had a successful 27-year career with a large construction company. Henry Burke serves as a full-time volunteer to oversee various construction projects at West Hills Church and Grace University in Omaha. He has written numerous articles on education, engineering, construction, politics, taxes, and the economy. Most importantly, Henry is a life-long Christian who has given his life to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

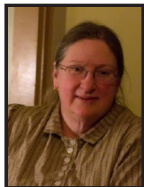


Gwelda Carlson

Gwelda has a M.A. and taught in public schools for more than 26 years, primarily as a special education teacher and RtI literacy teacher. She spent many years teaching in a Title I school system in Lincoln, Neb. Gwelda also taught preschool and Head Start. She is an academic tutor, focusing primarily on literacy instruction. She has provided literacy skills instruction at the university level and has provided numerous workshops and staff development sessions in reading. She is a past president of the Nebraska Dyslexia Association and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

Shelli Cook

Shelli, CCC-SLP, received her M.S. in Education in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and B.S. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has provided services in public and private schools, rehabilitation facilities, and private practice, including focus on reading instruction for more than 14 years. Shelli is on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Dyslexia Association.



Kay Cynova

A native of Grand Island, Kay has been associated with the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer since 1988. She is the Director of Interpretive Resources and oversees the interpretive and educational programs. She speaks and presents at regional and national conferences and often presents programs locally for the museum. She has actively worked to train living historians nationally and locally. Her areas of interest include genealogy, historic foodways, period clothing reproduction, and the study of material culture. She is a member of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) and is the regional representative for the Mountain Plains region of ALHFAM, the Midwestern Open Air Museum Coordinating Council (MOMCC), the Nebraska State Historical Society, The Hall County Historical Society, as well as numerous genealogical societies.



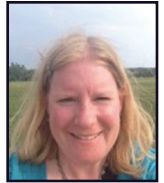
Mary Flory

Mary is the Southeast Regional ASD Coordinator for the Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network. She has supported students with disabilities for 39 years, working as a teacher, instructional coach, and by providing professional development about evidence-based

practices to local school district, parents and community groups.

Gretchen Garrison

Gretchen Garrison is pondering numbers. Never did she imagine that she would still be homeschooling her four children when she began this process eight years ago. She also is amazed that she has already been married for 16 years to her best friend, Kyle. Besides enjoying family life, she also relishes sharing stories on her blog (OdysseyThroughNebraska.com) about Nebraska people and places and is surprised that almost three years have already passed on that venture. Perhaps the most staggering number is that fact that she has been personally following Jesus for almost four decades, and she is so grateful that He continues to love her despite the fact that she is such a work in progress.



Carol Kelsey

Carol and her husband, Darin, have been homeschooling their five children for nearly nineteen years. Three of their five children have graduated from their homeschool and have attended the colleges of their choice. Their youngest are finishing up their high school careers. The Kelseys earned their bachelor degrees at Crown College in

Christian Education and Missions, respectively. They are active in teaching and leading in their local church. Carol has served as a convention consultant and workshop speaker for a number of years. She offers refreshment and encouragement to the weary or worried homeschool parent as she shares insights and experiences from homeschooling both traditional and special needs learners.

Donna Krahn

Donna has more than 30 years in education; her background includes public/private school and helping homeschool families. She has been married to Gary for over 30 years and has two children. She has taught from preschool to high school, in varied subject areas, with a special focus on Science, Bible and Early Education. Over the years she has volunteered in many capacities, been a junior high and high school youth sponsor in her church, and tutored students who needed a little extra help. She has organized science fairs and workshops, and has judged spelling bees and speech contests for ACSI. Donna joined the Rainbow Resource team full time in 2006 as a curriculum consultant where she answers homeschool questions, writes for the catalog and *Homeschooling Today* magazine, and presents helpful workshops that encourage and equip homeschool families in choosing curriculum. Donna has a degree in Christian education and early childhood education, both from Lincoln Christian College.



Workshop Schedule

Friday, April 1



Kirk Massey

Accomplished subject matter expert in technology and insurance with 20 years of experience as a problem solver, web developer and project manager. Thorough knowledge of computer technology web tools such as HTML, DHTML, CSS, JavaScript, XML, SharePoint and JQuery.

Accomplished group facilitator. Extensive experience with team leadership, project

management, sharing vision, providing innovative solutions and excellent customer service.

Dr. Rachel Smith

Originally from York, Neb., Dr. Smith earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from Indiana University School of Optometry with an additional year of comprehensive binocular vision and pediatric specialty training in Omaha after she graduated. Dr. Smith was inspired to become an optometrist after realizing the benefits of vision therapy after her own experience as a patient of the Vision Therapy program at EyeCare Specialties. She is excited to help kids and adults improve reading comprehension and achieve success in school or in their careers. She enjoys volunteering with the Special Olympics and the Down Syndrome Association for Families.



Danna Swartz

Danna and her husband Patrick have volunteered with NCHFA for more than 10 years. They are both involved with teaching their seven children in the home and work professionally as educators at Grace University and corporate training facilities.

They love to work with new homeschool

families to help equip them for the mission ahead.

Eileen C. Vautravers, M.D.

Dr. Vautravers received her M.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, where she also completed her pediatric residency. She was in private pediatric practice in Lincoln, Neb., for 31 years before retiring in 2006. While practicing, she enjoyed addressing the physical, emotional, and intellectual aspects of "her kids". Her areas of expertise were allergies and learning disabilities. For more than 20 years, she witnessed the success of multi-sensory Orton-Gillingham instruction by tutors in the Nebraska Branch of IDA for patients she referred who struggled with reading. In 2008 she became a board member of the Nebraska Branch of IDA and in 2012 she became President of the Nebraska Dyslexia Association.



Brian Young

Brian, an internationally known speaker and author, was a teacher and principal for 10 years before becoming director of Creation Instruction Association. He has spoken on creation and biblical authority for 22 years, doing debates at universities, going into prisons, and sharing at churches, schools and camps around the world. He uses the Bible as the foundation for science and education.



10–11 a.m.

Leadership Education: The Seven Keys of Great Teaching Andrew Pudewa – Auditorium

Exploring the practical elements of the Thomas Jefferson education model, Andrew will explain the seven keys as well as the five learning environments as developed by DeMille and his colleagues. (There's even an unofficial "eighth key.") With humorous stories from his own family's experience, Andrew will delight homeschooling moms looking for tips on how to escape the "conveyor belt" approach to doing "school" at home.

11:15 a.m.–Noon

EXHIBITOR WORKSHOPS

Enjoy some great Exhibitor Workshops during this session!

Navigating the Exhibit Hall

Tina Gould – 1404

New conference attendees can join us for a fun orientation session about conference vendors and speakers. Discover great tools for getting the most out of the conference.

1–2 p.m.

Homeschooling and Parental Rights – Freedom Under Fire

J. Michael Smith – Auditorium

Parental rights and religious freedom have been the two foundations to establish a constitutional right for parents to teach their children at home. The U.S. Supreme Court some years back weakened the free exercise of religion claim as a foundation for homeschooling so that in order for homeschoolers to claim a fundamental right to homeschool, they must be able to combine the free exercise right with the parental rights claim. In other words, both rights have to co-exist. Currently, this is not a problem, but because of the fragile nature of freedom, moral decay, complacency and apathy, homeschooling freedoms are in jeopardy. An additional threat that is brewing but not well known, is the opposition to homeschooling from the intellectual elites, e.g., law and college professors. This opposition is based on a belief that the state, through public schools, should have access to all children to teach tolerance for others, which leads to collectivism. Homeschoolers are in their cross-hairs. We are clearly at risk.

Dyslexia is Real! Imagine That!

Gwelda Carlson – Chapel

THINK Dyslexic! Learn the facts about dyslexia. If trying to teach students with dyslexia/S.L.D. is fresh for most teachers, consider what it must be like from the student point of view. Engage in tasks that simulate the difficulty student with learning disabilities might have when asked to perform typical classwork. You'll look at your role a little differently.

Art at Home and Across Nebraska

Gretchen Garrison – 1422-23

To teach art, do you have to be proficient at drawing? Or painting? Or sculpture? What if you have barely moved past the stick figure stage? Well, the teacher of this workshop can relate. In fact, her former classroom students used to giggle at her drawing attempts. Yet she still considers herself to be teacher of art. Too often we focus so much on the production of art that we miss the appreciation and criticism aspects. Plus any study of history will always be enriched with the addition of art, not to mention all of the great books featuring artists. This workshop will be build on the "Art Across Nebraska" workshop from last year and will again feature some field trip suggestions.

Math RX

Donna Krahn – 1112

Is your math program ailing? Does it need a bit of TLC or maybe you and your children feel it would be best to bury the math book? Whether your child is slowly sinking in the mire of math facts or they are fast tracking through the lessons as you scramble to keep up, join us in this workshop before you abandon your current program for another. We will discuss practical ways to stay the course, ways to know if switching curriculum is beneficial in your situation and the simple tools necessary for a successful transition.

Building on a Sure Foundation: Staying the Course Through High School

Dianne Kummer – 2430

As your child grows older, you may be considering high school at home — but you've got your doubts! Why is homeschooling high school a crucial decision for your teen? How is it possible? What help is available? We'll answer your questions; but more importantly, we'll encourage and challenge you to explore the steps you should take as you weigh the possibility of teaching high school at home.

2:30–3:30 p.m.

Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day

Andrew Pudewa – Auditorium

Children like to do what they can do, they want to do what they think they can do, and they hate to do what they think they cannot do. If you want excited and enthusiastic children who learn well, you must understand these key laws of motivation, and focus on the essential requirement of relevancy. If it matters, children will learn it, and if it doesn't, they won't. This session will enlighten you with specific ways to find and create relevancy for children, even when they have no apparent interest.

Help! I can't seem to get anything done!

Carol Kelsey – Chapel

Help! I can't seem to get anything done! Have you ever asked yourself how those families on the covers of homeschool magazines and catalogs actually get schooling or anything else done? Do you always feel frazzled and behind? How can you teach your older kids when you have busy preschoolers and toddlers interrupting all day long? This workshop provides ideas to engage, educate, integrate and when needed, occupy young ones. Learn how to create a family learning lifestyle that meets the needs of everyone in your home.

Graduate Recognition Attention Seniors!

Join us for the Graduate
Recognition
during the NCHEA Conference
and Curriculum Fair on April 1
in Lincoln.

Register by March 1 for this
wonderful evening at
www.NCHEA.org.

Autism Spectrum Disorder:101

Mary Flory – 1422-23

In this overview of ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), participants will learn about the prevalence and characteristics including cognitive ability, social/emotional development, communication, fine and gross motor skills, and sensory processing, together with simple strategies for supporting individuals on the spectrum.

Why Should We Avoid Common Core?

Henry Burke – 1101-1102

Common Core impact home education? This presentation will describe how the Common Core Standards were adopted by the states and provide six reasons to avoid Common Core. In this workshop, the attendees will learn to differentiate between exemplary Type #1 education and poor Type #2 Common Core education.

Ready, Set, GO!

Danna Swartz – 1112

How to start, where to find curriculum, when to school, and what a typical day looks like are some of the areas discussed. Get an understanding of Rule 12 and 13 and gain valuable information for your homeschool journey. This workshop is a MUST for new homeschoolers.

Developing a Plan for High school: Sample Four-Year Plans

Dianne Kummer – 2430

How do you plan a program for your high school homeschooler? What subjects do you teach and when? Do you follow a basic high school plan, a general college prep plan, or a rigorous college prep plan? How do you evaluate credits? Determine grades for a course? What about the need for a transcript and diploma? If you are just beginning to think about homeschooling during the high school years, this seminar will help you organize your thoughts and begin laying the groundwork for a viable four—year plan.

4–5 p.m.

Teaching and Evaluating Writing

Andrew Pudewa – Auditorium

Evaluating a student's writing can be very difficult for anyone, but especially for the parent who may feel less than perfectly confident in her own English or grammar skills. Learn how to provide specific models and stylistic goals for each composition, giving specific assignments to your students for both fiction and nonfiction. Solve the "How long does it have to be?" problem. Never again hear yourself say, "Don't you want to add a little more detail?" With confidence and precision, you can design and communicate to your students goal- and model-based writing assignments, and can have a concrete tool to objectively evaluate their efforts.

Dinosaurs Ice Age & the Pre-Flood World

Brian Young – Chapel

Dinosaurs Ice Age & the Pre-Flood World. Come hear answers to some of the most confusing questions people have about creation and the Bible. How did people live to be 900 years old before the Flood? Was ancient man really primitive? What caused the Ice-age and when was it? Where did Cain get his wife? What happened to the dinosaurs, when did they live and are they in the Bible? These and many more questions will be answered during this session.

Vision and Learning: It's Much More than 20/20

Dr. Rachel Smith – 1422-23

20/20 eyesite is one of many visual components that contributes to the ability to take in visual information for learning. It's thought that up to 80% of learning relies on the visual system through components of eye tracking, focusing, teaming, and processing of visual information. This presentation is to raise awareness of the impact visual deficiencies can have on learning, signs that may indicate your child has an underlying vision disorder impacting their ability to learn, and treatment options for these visual deficiencies.

Encouragement, Refreshment, and Renewed Hope for Homeschooling

Carol Kelsey – 1101-1102

Are you tired, drained, and feeling like you want to throw in the towel? Homeschooling is a priceless endeavor that can be both invigorating and exhausting. At times it can be hard to see the fruit of your labors when you're in the midst of planting the seeds. Join Carol for a time of encouragement as she shares what God has taught her through nineteen years of homeschooling her five children, each with radically different gifts and abilities.

Reading ABCs

Donna Krahn – 1112

Teaching reading is as easy as A-B-C...or is it? Join us as we examine the popular approaches of teaching children to read, current research on reading success and provide an overview of the wide range of available curriculum. Pre-reading exercises and tips designed to develop reading fluency and comprehension will be shared to equip your emergent reader.

Essential Skills for Successful Teens: Study and Time Management

Dianne Kummer – 2430

The high school years are a prime opportunity to equip your teens with skills they will need for future success. If your teen is headed to college, the workforce, or the military, they will benefit from study and time management skills. This session provides parents with ideas to incorporate these skills into high school coursework and lists resources to help teens cultivate these essential skills.

7–8:30 p.m.

Remembering the Reason: Renewing the Vision — J. Michael Smith, HSLDA

Revisit the challenges, burdens and benefits of home schooling with a veteran homeschool father and leader. Addressing the potential, new, and veteran homeschooler and all homeschoolers in between, Michael Smith outlines the success of homeschooling in academics and socialization, describes legal and legislative advances, and concludes that homeschoolers have earned the right to be left alone. For homeschoolers who are losing the vision, he reminds them of the benefits of homeschooling and offers some practical suggestions for relieving the pressure on the homeschooling family, especially Mom. "Thank you for confirming the experience of my public education," writes one parent, "and for convicting us even more of our commitment to bettering the lives of our children."

followed by Graduate Recognition

Join us in celebrating the hard work of graduates and their families after the Keynote Address. This Keynote Address is free and open to the public.

Saturday, April 2

9–10 a.m.

Spelling and the Brain

Andrew Pudewa – Auditorium

Many children (and some adults) have difficulty learning to spell, but the difficulty may not be with the student so much as with the method of presentation. Find out in this workshop how spelling information is most efficiently stored in the brain, and why. With a greater insight into the nature of spelling and neurological function presented in this workshop, parents and teachers will be well-equipped to meet the needs of all their children, not just the naturally good spellers

Ready, Set, GO!

Danna Swartz – Chapel

How to start, where to find curriculum, when to school, and what a typical day looks like are some of the areas discussed. Get an understanding of Rule 12 and 13 and gain valuable information for your homeschool journey. This workshop is a MUST for new homeschoolers.

Early Childhood Preschool Development, Part I

Shelli Cook – 1422-1423

Do you ever wonder if your child's development is on track? Four areas of development are essential for your child: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and speech-language. Research-based activities and intervention as for optimal brain development will be presented in the first of this two-part workshop.

The Internet: Is Your Family Safe?

Kirk Massey – 1101-1102

Does everyone else know more than you do? Learn from honest discussions about pornography, predators, cyber-bullying, and cheating on school work. Is your home internet secure? Do you have cybersecurity for email, social media, phone, YouTube? How can I protect my identity?

High School Transcript Clinic: Practical Help and Tips

Diane Kummer – 2430

Creating a high school transcript is easy yet a vital part of your child's records. In this interactive, practical seminar you'll create a transcript that can be used as a pattern when designing your own. We'll guide you through transcript essentials, evaluation of credit, grading guidelines and scales, and calculation of grade point averages (GPA's). In addition, you'll receive sample transcripts depicting other formats for you to consider.

**10:15–10:45 a.m.
Exhibitor Workshops**

Enjoy some great Exhibitor Workshops during this session!

11 a.m.–Noon

The Four Language Arts

Andrew Pudewa – Auditorium

When asked, "What are the language arts?" people may respond by listing numerous subjects: spelling, phonics, grammar, penmanship, copying, dictation, narration, and composition. But actually it's much simpler! For those adhering to the classical model, those ascribing to a Charlotte Mason approach, or those who just want a common-sense curriculum, there are really only four core language arts: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and the attending well to the first two makes teaching the latter two so much easier. Come prepared to have your educational paradigm adjusted, your load lightened, and your commitment to excellence renewed as you focus on the most important things in the limited time you have.

What Can Dads do to Make Mom Successful in Homeschooling?

J. Michael Smith – Chapel

Almost every father has heard that he is to lead his family spiritually, physically, and in every other way. However, many fathers will tell you that no one has ever told them how to effectively lead their children, especially in the area of spiritual development. Michael Smith presents encouraging and practical tips to fathers for becoming a helpful participant in the home education program and a

leader in the home. He provides insight on the mental and emotional benefits to mothers and children fathers can provide through specific activities, and offers suggestions to men on being more effective as husbands. Mike candidly shares his many failures and a few successes. The session concludes with a list of the six things homeschooling mothers have identified as the primary ways their husbands can be more effective in the family's homeschool program. In one father's words, "Inspiring and convicting—thanks for the straight talk!"

Early Childhood Preschool Development, Part II

Shelli Cook – 1422-1423

In part two of this work shop we will continue to look determine if your child's development is on track. Four areas of development are essential for your child: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and speech-language. Research-based activities and intervention as for optimal brain development will be presented in the second part of this two-part workshop.

Why Should We Avoid Common Core?

Henry Burke – 1101-1102

Common Core impact home education? This presentation will describe how the Common Core Standards were adopted by the states and provide six reasons to avoid Common Core. In this workshop, the attendees will learn to differentiate between exemplary Type #1 education and poor Type #2 Common Core education.

Is College a Good Investment or a Waste of Time and Money?

John Baylor – 1112

Hear from an expert who has helped prepare families for college for over 20 years. This discussion will also give you the tools to motivate your child to see the value of a college education.

Important Pit Stops During High School

Diane Kummer – 2430

For preventative maintenance during the high school years, learn what important "to—dos" and deadlines to keep in mind. Major pit stops will include information about various tests, benefits and sources of outside classes, college search and application tips, alternatives to traditional college, and career and post high school paths.

Noon–1 p.m.

SUPPORT GROUP LEADER LUNCH

Support group leaders meet in Room 1101-1102 for lunch and fellowship. ***REGISTRATION is required.***

1–2 p.m.

Nurturing Competent Communicators

Andrew Pudewa – Auditorium

Many parents think that good readers will naturally become good writers. Others think that writing talent is just that—a natural ability—some have it; others don't. Both are myths. History and modern research show very clearly how good writers have developed. What are the two most critical things you can do as a parent to develop a high level of aptitude, from a young age and into high school? With humor and insight, Andrew will share the two easy but unbelievably powerful things you can do to build language patterns and nurture competent communicators in your family.

Absolutely Amazing and Incredible Animals

Brian Young – Chapel

Which car was inspired by a fish? What animal has made better dentures? Can evolution explain the design in animals? Come see God's fingerprints in the design of animals and how it reveals that we are not just a highly evolved mammal but unique and special in God's eyes. Because of this fantastic design in nature your children can now go into a new field of science called biomimicry. You will learn of God's design in animals and how it reveals man to be unique, especially loved and cared for while God is glorified in the details of His creation.

How Can Living History Help Educate Your Child?

Kay Cynova – 1422-1423

Living History sites are a door to the past and can involve one or many structures, time periods or cultures. By using resources at a Living History site, you can tailor educational experiences. In this workshop, explore the possibilities available through Living History sites and learn now to tap into their resources locally and online.

How to Get into the Best College at the Lowest Cost

John Baylor – 1112

Come learn what to do when in middle school and high school so your child attends an excellent college within your budget. John will give you the game plan: important activities, testing strategies, etc. Be pro-active and see your child and your budget reap the benefits.

Preparing Your Teen for Life

Diane Kummer – 2430

The high school years present an opportune time to develop skills young adults will utilize the rest of their lives. Learn about the importance of teaching finance, health care, car ownership, job preparation, spiritual principles, and more. All of these areas will benefit your teens when they take that giant step into independence and adulthood. A list of suggested resources will be provided.

3–4 p.m KEYNOTE ADDRESS

How Do We Measure Success in Homeschooling?

J. Michael Smith – Auditorium

Why aren't your Christian neighbors homeschooling? What is the number one reason that parents do not homeschool? Their lack of confidence to believe that they can actually do the job, or, put another way—fear of failure. Many homeschoolers in the midst of homeschooling are wondering how they will be able to determine whether they are successful or not with their children. Mike will explain in very clear and decisive terms how you can know whether or not you have been successful when you get to the end of your homeschool experience where it says “The End.” One way to answer the question is whether or not our work homeschooling with our children has been in vain. The Bible gives clear and decisive direction in this area which should be very encouraging to all of us, and hopefully give us encouragement in even the most difficult situations.

*Note: All workshops and times are subject to change.

All Year Long

All year long the Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association, a not-for-profit organization formed in 1986, provides information, support, and training to home educators throughout the state. We encourage you to join hundreds of homeschooling families across Nebraska who share in the benefits of NCHEA membership. Your membership is important in strengthening the impact of the NCHEA with elected officials.

NCHEA Membership Benefits:

- Newsletter
- Discounted Conference Registration
- \$20 HSLDA Membership Discount
- Legislative Alerts
- Legislative Day

**Register Online at
www.NCHEA.org**

NCHEA Kids Conference

APRIL 1-2, 2016



WESTWARD

Setting out to find who I am in Christ

Hold your horses and put on your boots, because we're excited to head to the wild west! This year finds us joining a daring group on a wagon train. We will follow them as they head to their new homes out west.

What awaits them?

Trouble, excitement, adventure and more!

Small groups will be full of memorizing scripture, fun activities and learning about our identity in Christ.

Happy trails, folks!



MUSIC



DRAMA



TEACHING



FRIENDSHIPS

NCHEA Kids Conference is excited to present **WESTWARD!** Youth (ages 5-12) are invited to enroll in this two-day program as we engage in captivating drama, songs, Scripture memory, object lessons, hands-on projects and games.

This program should not be viewed as merely childcare. It is intended to deliver a Bible-based character message in a memorable and fun way. Since a portion of this program will involve age-integrated small groups, families may request that siblings stay together.



REGISTER TODAY!

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." - 2 Corinthians 5:21

Parents/Guardians must:

- ✓ Pre-register and attend the Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association. (NCHEA) Conference.
- ✓ Pre-register/pre-pay for each child by mailing in the registration below OR register online at www.nchea.org
- ✓ Submit a signed hard copy of the Medical Release/Permission form prior to registration deadline.
- ✓ Provide a sack lunch(es) -- no refrigeration
- ✓ Submit a signed hard copy of the Indemnification Agreement if registering by mail



WESTWARD
Setting out to find who I am in Christ

Parents are welcome to check on their children at any time. Only a parent or authorized individual may remove a child from the care of the Kids Conference staff. Please remember - children may NOT accompany parents returning to the daytime NCHEA Conference. Your prompt adherence to the time schedule below is appreciated!

Friday

8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Check-in

4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Dismissal

Saturday

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Check-in

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Dismissal

(NOTE: building **MUST** be cleared by
4:30 p.m.)

REGISTRATION***Early Bird Registration (Postmarked by March 1st)**

\$30 for the first child and \$20 for each additional sibling. (Tax included)

***Late Registration (Postmarked between March 1st-7th)**

\$40 for the first child and \$30 for each additional sibling. (Tax included)

Please direct your mailed-in registration or questions to:

Addie Ridge, Registration Coordinator

516 Logan St, Holdrege, NE 68949 (308) 830-3945 nchea4kids@nchea.org**REGISTER TODAY!**

Child: _____ Age: _____ M/F

Child: _____ Age: _____ M/F

Child: _____ Age: _____ M/F

Child: _____ Age: _____ M/F

Child: _____ Age: _____ M/F

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____



Yes, please place my children in the same small group
if possible.

- Check Payable to: NCHEA

- Pre-registration/Pre-payment required! Register online at www.nchea.org. Admission cost is the same whether child attends one or two days. **SPACE IS LIMITED!** See website for current registration status and refund policy. Onsite registrations are NOT permitted.

- Please print an email address below to receive confirmation of registration.

Email: _____

See www.nchea.org for more details.

*This event is not sponsored by
Capital City Christian Church.*

No calls should be directed to the church facility.

Teen Conference

Ready to Give an Answer

Do you have evidences for Christianity to share?
Are you ready to give an answer?

Teen Track 2016 will cover evidences from the book, "Ready to Give an Answer", that can be used to convince others that God, the Bible, and Christianity are true, and that our faith is reasonable, logical, and credible.

This course seeks to strengthen the personal faith of teens and teach them to be *"ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you."* (1 Peter 3:15)



This apologetics course is taught by Pastor Timothy Schmidt and Deb Badeer.

Register online at www.NCHEA.org

Conference is at Indian Hills Community Church, 1000 84th St., Lincoln

Cost

\$30 per Teen for the conference and \$20 for each additional sibling.
\$12 for lunch: Pizza – Friday; Sandwiches – Saturday (or bring your own, no frig)

Schedule

Friday: Registration 8:30 a.m., Conference 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: Registration 8 a.m., Conference 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Parents should meet their teens in the south lobby of the church.

Parents/Guardians must:

- Preregister for the parent C&CF.
- Preregister and prepay for each teen online or with enclosed form.
- Send a signed copy of the online Medical Release Form and Indemnification Agreement prior to March 1, 2016, to Jean Bennett, 2408 S. 18th St., Lincoln, NE 68502.
- Questions – contact bennett@nchea.org

Teen Conference Registration Form

Return this form or register online BEFORE MARCH 1 at www.NCHEA.org

Teen 1 _____

Teen 2 _____

Teen 3 _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____ E-mail _____

LUNCH

___ Yes, I am purchasing lunch Friday and Saturday. \$12/teen \$ _____

REGISTRATION

___ Yes, I am registering ___ teen/s.

\$30/first	\$ _____
\$20/additional	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Fill out the Medical Release and Indemnification forms found online at www.NCHEA.org.

Before your registration is complete, these forms must be returned to:

Jean Bennett, Teen Conference Registrar, 2408 S. 18th St., Lincoln, NE 68502

Questions? Contact after 6 p.m.: Jean Bennett, (402) 435-5717, Bennett@NCHEA.org

NCHEA C&CF Registration Form

Send in this form or register online BEFORE MARCH 1 at www.NCHEA.org

Husband (first) _____ (last) _____
Wife (first) _____ (last) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____ E-mail _____

Conference and Membership Pricing for 2016

\$45 for individual/couple registration (\$55 at the door) and includes C&CF Registration and NCHEA membership. If a current member, your membership will be extended for 12 months. If you do not want NCHEA membership, contact NCHEA@NCHEA.org to have your name removed from the membership roster.

\$45/couple \$ _____
\$ FREE

Grandparent — Not home educating may attend free with a paid family member.

Grandparent Name _____

Additional Activities and Opportunities

- ☐ Yes, I am a Support Group leader, and I will be attending the huddle on Saturday.
☐ Yes, I would like to preorder a sack lunch for the Support Group Huddle Saturday.
☐ Yes, I would like an extra Syllabus for \$10 each.
☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer: ☐ Fri a.m. ☐ Fri p.m. ☐ Sat a.m. ☐ Sat p.m.

Special Feature
\$6/lunch \$ _____
\$10/syllabus \$ _____

Conference MP3s

☐ Yes, I want to pre-purchase the C&CF MP3 set and get a \$15 early-bird discount.. \$85/full set \$ _____

Donations

☐ Yes, I am donating to NCHEA. NCHEA is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit. Gifts are not tax deductible. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Newsletter Yes, I would like to receive the *NCHEA News* via ☐ E-mail ☐ U.S. Mail

Support Group

☐ Yes, I am a member of a local support group. Support group name _____
☐ Yes, I am a support group leader. Leadership Position _____

Help Us Serve You Better

How many years have you homeschooled? ☐ 0 ☐ 1-3 ☐ 4-6 ☐ 7-9 ☐ 10-12 ☐ 13+

The best thing about the NCHEA is _____?

What topics/speakers would you like at the C&CF? _____

Kids Conference

☐ Yes, my children are attending the conference, and I have mailed Kids Conference Registration, signed Medical Release and Indemnification forms, and fees to:

Addie Ridge, Registration Coordinator, 516 Logan St., Holdrege, NE 68949, (308)830-3945, ncea4kids@ncea.org

Teen Conference

☐ Yes, my teen is attending the Teen Conference and I have mailed the Teen Conference Registration, signed Medical Release and Indemnification forms, and fees to:

Jean Bennett, Teen Conference Registrar, 2408 S. 18th, Lincoln, NE 68502.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE — MARCH 1, 2016

Mail this form (postmarked by March 1) and your check made payable to NCHEA to

Jeff Bennett, C&CF Registrar, 2408 S. 18th, Lincoln, NE 68502

Credit card payment can be made by registering online at www.NCHEA.org. When you pre-register and pay **online**, you will receive an email confirmation. Your canceled check will be your confirmation. Checks postmarked after March 1 will not be processed and can be picked up at the C&CF.

[High School]

by Diane Kummer, HSLDA

Can My Teen Earn High School Credit Prior to 9th Grade?

It is possible for students to earn high school credit prior to the 9th grade. However, certain items need to be taken into consideration.

Check your state's legal analysis to find out if your state requires a specific number of credits be taken during the 9th–12th grade years. A couple of states are very specific about the years during which credits must be accrued. Most states, however, do not specify when credits must be earned.

If you are a member of HSLDA, call or email your legal assistant if you have questions regarding any such requirements in your particular state relating to earning high school credit prior to 9th grade and how that impacts your high school plans.

If your teen completes a high school course prior to 9th grade:

- All course material used should be high school level or above. Many times publishers of the material indicate the grade level of the material. If you are unsure about the level of materials, you may contact the publisher of the material, search out a homeschool catalog that may provide this information, or possibly read a review by Cathy Duffy, a well-respected reviewer of curriculum.
- Keep good documentation of any high school course that you show on the transcript such as materials used, titles of books, authors, and publishers. Document all concepts covered in the course (known as the scope and sequence). If you are using a high school level textbook, simply making a copy of the table of contents will suffice. Or you may use a description of the course material from a homeschool catalog or homeschool review. Determine a method of evaluation prior to beginning the course. In other words, how will you come up with a grade? Will you give tests or quizzes, will you assign papers and projects, or will you use some other method of evaluation? Record the percentages that each portion will contribute to the final grade (e.g., Tests 80%, Daily work 20%). Finally, I would suggest keeping a sample of the course work from the beginning, middle, and end of the year to show progress. No one may ever ask you for this information,

but if they did you would have back up for all courses listed on the transcript.

- Most colleges are familiar with students taking several high school courses prior to the 9th grade year such as Algebra 1. In many cases, students who are beginning to take high school courses prior to 9th grade will keep taking courses throughout the high school years at more advanced levels, so that even if a particular college does not accept credits earned prior to the 9th grade, the student will likely have more than enough credits in each subject area. You may want to check a college's website, or call an admissions officer at a particular college that your teen may be interested in applying to in order to ask about a particular college's policy towards early high school credits.

Here are some other helpful links:

- **Record keeping** www.hslda.org/highschool/HTHSRecords.pdf and www.hslda.org/highschool/academics.asp#recordkeeping.
- **Grading guidelines** www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/GradingGuidelines.asp
- **Evaluation of credit** www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/EvaluatingCredits.asp

In my opinion, I would limit the high school credit taken prior to 9th grade and shown on a transcript to a maximum of three core academic courses. I would tend not to show electives taken prior to the 9th grade year. As a parent, you will make the final decision on courses you show on the transcript, so please see these remarks as suggestions and food for thought. ☩

Meet Diane at the C&CF!

As an HSLDA High School Consultant, Diane enjoys sharing her experiences and her imperfect (but real) homeschooling days with HSLDA members. She gives advice on high school planning, suggests curriculum options, lends a listening ear, and reassures parents they are on the right track as they head into the high school years.





Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association

P.O. Box 57041
Lincoln, NE 68505-7041
www.NCHEA.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORFOLK, NE
PERMIT NO. 86

Please note the expiration date on the address label.

High School Essay Intensive

A One-Day Seminar for High School Students & Parents

Thursday, March 31 • Indian Hills Church, Lincoln • \$50 per student; \$25 for attending parent

Presented by IEW's humorous and engaging director and master teacher Andrew Pudewa, the High School Essay Intensive class provides immediate experience and inside tips toward high school essay writing, including ...

Text Analysis—Students will learn to employ strategies required in many college entrance exams or in response-to-literature prompts, including how to thoughtfully read the provided text:

- evaluate the ideas presented
- select facts or examples to support an author's claims
- identify stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, which
- add power to the ideas

The College Application Personal Essay—

Students will choose the question, create the outline, and polish a final version. Participants will leave with:

- a clear concept of the task
- their own outline for an actual personal essay
- several new tricks and techniques to add to their repertoire

Open to all high school students, this seminar also offers tools and tips for general composition skills. Come prepared to write a great deal during this six-hour class. Parents are welcome to attend at a reduced cost.

Watch for registration details from IEW in your email box and on the NCHEA web and Facebook page.

Struggling Learner?

Dyslexia Testing April 1-2

Capitol City Christian Church, Lincoln

The Nebraska Dyslexia Association will be doing dyslexia testing for children of all ages. The screening takes 90 minutes and the fee is \$30. Appointment times are 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. both days and 3:30 p.m. on Friday.

To schedule a screening, contact Carolyn Brandle at cbrandle@windstream.net or (402)488-7920 with your first and second choice of screening times.

Mail checks to: Nebraska Dyslexia Association, PO Box 6302, Lincoln, NE 68506

2016 Conference Extras