CALVARY CHAPEL STAR
HOMESCHOOL RESOURCES

"Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

The CCS Homeschooling Ministry put together a little something to help you get started on your homeschooling journey. When it comes to homeschooling, there is no right or wrong way to homeschool your children. This is a resource guide to help you along the way! You may choose one avenue and then change it again, until it works for your family! Happy Homeschooling!

HOMESCHOOLING METHODS

There are so many ways to homeschool! Below are the most common and used approaches. Use this as a guide and not a rule book. Some families like to mix the styles and approaches. I.e. a common mixed approach is "Classical Charlotte Mason" or " Mostly Eclectic with some Charlotte Mason". Try one, try a few, mix it up and see what works for your family!

Classical Approach

The ***"Classical" homeschool*** approach has existed since the Middle Ages and has produced some of the greatest minds in history. The goal of the classical homeschool technique is to teach people how to learn for themselves. *The five tools of learning,* known as the **Trivium**, are **Reason, Record, Research, Relate** and **Rhetoric.** Younger children begin with the preparing stage, where they learn the three **R's**. The grammar stage is next, which emphasizes compositions and collections, and then the dialectic stage, where serious reading, study, and research take place.

All the tools come together in the **Rhetoric stage** where communication is the primary focus. For help, homeschoolers following the classical homeschool technique will read books about this method, find websites about classical homeschooling, and possibly join a classical homeschooling support group.

Classical homeschoolers have a unique way of creating ***"History Notebooks."*** These notebooks are very popular with Eclectic homeschoolers too. Many Eclectic homeschoolers will borrow this way of teaching history and will add it to their own Eclectic curriculum. The most popular book on the Classical approach is *"The*

Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home" by Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer and also "Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child by Cheryl Swope"

"After comparing homeschool methods, we decided to use the classical approach in our homeschool. I believe that the classical approach is one that gives my child a complete education, one that teaches him/her to think and ask questions. I prefer my child be able to tell me why World War II took place, as opposed to telling me specific facts about World War II. I think this is the biggest difference between classical education and any other method or approach. " – a homeschool mom

Charlotte Mason Approach

Charlotte Mason Homeschooling method has at its core the belief that children are not mere containers waiting to be filled with knowledge, but persons in their own right deserving of respect. According to Charlotte Mason, children should be given time to play, create, and be involved in real-life situations from which they can learn. Students of the Charlotte Mason method take nature walks, visit art museums, and learn geography, history, and literature from "living books." *(Books that make these subjects come alive).*

For help, homeschoolers using the Charlotte Mason homeschool teaching style can gather information from books, web sites and perhaps even create their own Charlotte Mason support group. Students also show what they know, not by taking tests, but via narration and discussion. Popular books on this method include *"A Charlotte Mason Education"* and *"More Charlotte Mason Education,"* both by Katherine Levison. Also check out AMPLEsideonline.org for a free Charlotte mason education to follow from K-12!

Relaxed/Eclectic Approach

"Relaxed" or **"Eclectic**" homeschooling method is used most often by homeschoolers. Basically, eclectic homeschoolers use a little of this and a little of that, using workbooks for math, reading, and spelling, and taking an unschooling approach for the other subjects.

For the family who practices **"relaxed"** or eclectic homeschooling, mornings are often used for more formal, "have to" work, and afternoons are used for hobbies

and other special projects. There are no specific times set up for each subject, but instead, the child is expected to meet certain educational goals.

For help, the eclectic or relaxed homeschooler may rely on regular classroom standards for their child's grade level and for some this may be what is traditional homeschooling *(for example, studying multiplication in the 2nd grade, California missions in the 4th grade, and U.S. history in the 9th grade).* They may also use standardized tests to measure their child's progress.

The advantage of the Eclectic method is that the parent feels that the **"important"** subjects are being covered thoroughly. This method also allows the family to choose textbooks, field trips and classes that fit their needs and interests. A complete list of books, catalogs and online curriculum is available in our Homeschool Resource Guide.

"During our seven years of homeschooling we have used several approaches, including a unit study curriculum. Then we began using some of this and a little of that and doing lots of field trips, having more of an eclectic approach. For a couple years we 'co-op' schooled with my sister-in-law and a close friend. It was a great experience. This year we're trying a few subjects in an online school, while keeping some of the workbook subjects that we've had success in. Our curriculum includes a band for three of the kids at the local school, Civil Air Patrol for our oldest son, Boy Scouts for the middle son, and Girl Scouts for our daughters and myself, as well as active involvement and service with our church. We also include many field trips and activities with our local homeschool support group."

Unit Study Approach

The Unit Study Method of Homeschooling is a somewhat eclectic method of homeschooling that allows students to take a deep dive into topics that interest them or as an organized way to thematically cover assigned grade-level concepts.

Unit studies incorporate the basic subjects into a thematic unit. Any unit can cover reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and fine arts. Lessons are adaptable to different skill levels, various learning styles, and multiple intelligences.

Thematic unit studies start with a primary subject area, such as Literature or History. This primary subject progresses in sequential order from topic to topic. Each chapter ties in other subject areas with practical hands-on activities. The students make meaningful connections between the various subjects.

The daily schedule is streamlined so the parent does not have to juggle separate textbooks for each child. There's not enough time in the school day to cover everything anyway. Each student can explore the topic at their own ability level.

Unschooling Approach

The Unschooling homeschool style is also known as natural, interest-led, and child-led learning. Unschoolers learn from everyday life experiences and do not use school schedules or formal lessons. Instead, unschooled children follow their interests and learn in much the same way as adults do-by pursuing an interest or curiosity. In the same way that children learn to walk and talk, unschooled children, learn their math, science, reading, and history.

Pat Montgomery, homeschooling advisor for over 50 years and founder of Clonlara Private Day School, defined unschooling in a speech she made to parents at a homeschooling conference in August 2001, *titled:* ***Unschooling: Catch the Spirit.***

"I think, first we have to define what unschooling is, because it is different things to different people. For some it is living and learning without any school at all. For others, it means not using any pre-packaged materials. For others, it is letting kids do whatever they want. For me, unschooling is taking responsibility for your own learning and the learning of those around you. It's focusing on the interests of the child. It's focusing on your own interests, your own abilities. It's learning in spurts and it's goofing off – not necessarily in equal doses. And, all of it, for me, spells *freedom.* Freedom to learn. **Freedom is never given. It is taken**." Unschoolers embrace that freedom and believe strongly that learning happens naturally and effortlessly and they trust in their child's ability to direct their own learning. This Ted Talk video by a 13-year-old homeschooler is an excellent example of Unschooling. He calls it "Hackschooling". Notice how he does not use one single curriculum. Notice how his learning is based on his interests. Notice how his homeschooling takes place at home, at Starbucks, and out in the community.
The **advantage** of using the unschooling homeschool method is that unschooled children have the time and research abilities to become experts in their areas of interest.

The **disadvantage** is that because unschoolers do not follow the typical school schedule, they may not do as well on grade level assessments and may have a difficult time if they re-enter the school system.

For help, unschoolers turn to other homeschoolers and to the community. They set up classes and clubs together. They trade private lessons with other homeschoolers. They do not take tests and do not teach to state-mandated standards or schedules. It's important to compare your personal style to find the types of homeschooling methods that work for you!

Waldorf Approach

The Waldorf Homeschooling method is a popular homeschooling technique. Waldorf education is based on the work of Rudolf Steiner and stresses the importance of educating the whole child- body, mind, and spirit. In the early grades, there is an emphasis on arts and crafts, music and movement, and nature. Older children are taught to develop self-awareness and how to reason things out for themselves. Children in a Waldorf homeschool do not use standard textbooks; instead, the children create their own books.

The Waldorf homeschooling method also discourages the use of televisions and computers because they believe that computers are bad for the child's health and creativity. Books about the Waldorf method are available from the Rudolf Steiner Bookstore (916-961-8727). Waldorf curriculum and support is available from Oak Meadow. It's so important to align your homeschool curriculum by learning style.

Deschooling Approach

When it comes time to homeschool, parents of children who've been in school may feel the need to imitate the regular school mindset. I'm here to tell you that exactly the *opposite* of what they've been doing is in order! Deschooling involves pulling away from all of the things we've come to expect from traditional schooling. It involves taking time to, well, deschool and undo all of the learned attitudes and behaviors that result from being in school all day every day.

Deschooling works with the child's natural rhythms of wake and sleep, interests and motivation, and play! Taking the time to deschool can work wonders for a good start to your homeschooling adventure. For more information about the deschooling process we've created two articles, What is Deschooling? and How Can Deschooling Help My Homeschool?

You might find that one, two, or even three of these methods really speak to you. Dig deeper and discover more about how they can **work for you!**

Although every homeschool is unique, certain homeschooling styles and approaches exist to help us teach. Most homeschoolers do not follow one style or method exactly especially since there are so many different types of homeschooling styles. Instead, they select the ideas and suggestions that fit their family and eventually end up with a method all their own.

It may take some time to develop your own routine and you may discover that you start out more structured in the beginning and become more flexible and relaxed as time goes on. *Every family is unique,* so find the type of homeschooling that works best for you and your children. Not sure how to find out your unique homeschooling method? Take this easy homeschool styles quiz to get an idea of what homeschool method works for you. Remember, if you take the quiz a few times and get different answers, you may be an eclectic homeschooler! See the explanation below for more information on eclectic homeschooling!

Books

Teaching from Rest by Sarah Mackenzie

Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child

The Read Aloud Family By Sarah Mackenzie

Better Together: Strengthen your Family, Simplify your Homeschool And Savor the Subjects that Matter
By Pam Barnhill

A Handbook to Morning Time by Cindy Rollins

Call of the Wild and Free: Reclaiming the Wonder in Your Child's Education by Ainsley Arment

A Well Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home by Susan Wise Bauer

The Brave Learner: Finding Magic in Homeschool, learning, and Life

8 Great Smarts: Discover and Nurture Your Child's Intelligences
By Kathy Koch Phd

VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

Idaho has several online schools that can add to your homeschooling experience. These virtual schools give you some of the added support that a public/charter school might offer like (special education support (IEPs), virtual classes for added instruction and understanding, and supplemental learning funds) all while giving you the freedom to choose the homeschooling curriculum you would like to teach at home.

IHLA
Home - Idaho Home Learning Academy

BRAINTREE ACADEMY
Idaho | Braintree Academy

OVERTURE LEARNING
https://www.overturelearning.com

RESOURCES

HOME SCHOOL – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
http://www.sde.idaho.gov>school-choice>homeschool

HOMESCHOOL IDAHO
https://homeschoolidaho.org

IDAHO HOMESCHOOL LAWS
https://hslda.org>legal>idaho

THE HOMESCHOOL MOM
https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com

SELAH OF IDAHO
https://www.selahidaho.com

HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM REVIEWS

CATHY DUFFY HOMESCHOOL REVIEWS
THEHOMESCHOOLMOM.COM

WANDER HOMESCHOOLING – *9 BEST CHRISTIAN CURRICULUMS*

CROSSWALK.COM – *THE BEST CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUMS FOR 2024*

SONLIGHT BLOG – *14 BEST CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS AND CURRICULUMS*

THEMOMRESOURCE.COM – *TOP 5 BEST CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM FOR 2023*

HOMESCHOOL.COM – *BEST HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM REVIEWS*

VERYWELL FAMILY – *BEST ONLINE CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS OF 2024*

HOWDOIHOMESCHOOL.COM – *10 TOP CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM PICS*

HOMESCHOOL CONVENTIONS

GREATHOMESCHOOLCONVENTIONS.COM – *HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION LOCATIONS*

THATHOMESCHOOLFAMILY.COM – *THE ULTIMATE LIST OF HOMESCHOOL CONVENTIONS*

HOMESCHOOL CO-OPS

Treasure Valley Co-ops | SELAH of Idaho | United States

FAQs (Idaho Department of Education)

What is required to start homeschooling?

Parents need to make an informed decision and determine if they have the capacity to provide the instruction and oversight necessary for homeschooling. Access to high quality curriculum; ability to accurately track or assess learning, and time to provide the instruction and oversee the work are just a few of the items to consider when looking at home schooling.

Do parents or guardians need to be certified teachers or meet other qualifications in order to teach their child at home?

No. Idaho has no teacher certification requirement for a parent/guardian who chooses to provide an education for his/her child at home.

Are parents or guardians obligated to report attendance and/or grades to local school district office or to a state agency?

No. It is the sole responsibility of parents or guardians to monitor their child's progress and attendance in a homeschool. It is important to keep schedules and records of the instructional time provided to prevent any issues related to truancy.

If parents decide to homeschool their child, how do they withdraw their child from a public school?

Parents should contact the school office, in person and/or in writing, to let the school know that the child will be instructed at home and is being withdrawn from public school. The school may have a withdrawal form to be completed by the parent or guardian. If a parent does not withdraw the child, the child may remain on the school attendance list and may be considered truant.

Can a homeschooled student receive a high school diploma from the state or a public school?

No. Idaho does not have a state diploma, and school districts issue diplomas for students who have taken their course work in that school system and completed the district's requirements for graduation. Parents or guardians can learn more about the specific school district policies on home instruction by contacting the district in which they reside.

Is here a requirement to conduct homeschool instruction on the exact same days the public schools are open?

No. A parent or guardian has the responsibility of setting hours of instruction per day and deciding what days of the week instruction occurs. Parents should be aware of the instructional time requirements for public schools:

- Kindergarten, four hundred fifty (450) hours per year
- Grades one through three (1-3), eight hundred ten (810) hours per year
- Grades four through eight (4-8), nine hundred (900) hours per year
- Grades nine through twelve (9-12), nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year
- Grades nine through twelve (9-12), sixty (60) hours of total instruction per credit

What subjects must parents/guardians include in their child's education in order to be in compliance?

The State Board of Education's Administrative Rules list of core instructional requirements for public schools are:

- Language Arts and Communication
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

A variety of other subjects such as fine arts, health, and physical education are also listed. To review this rule in its entirety, please view the administrative rule regarding basic curriculum and instructional requirements for public schools.

Where can a parent/guardian get the material/textbooks for homeschooling?

Curriculum material/textbooks are available at school supply stores located throughout the state. There are also online, mail order companies that specialize in homeschool curricula.

Can a home-schooled child participate in public school classes or extracurricular activities?

Yes. According to Idaho Code §33-203 (commonly known as the Dual Enrollment Law), the parent or guardian of a child of school age who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or public charter school shall be allowed to enroll the student in a public school for dual enrollment purposes. Contact the school or district for more information on enrollment and policies.

Can a home-schooled child participate in statewide tests or assessments?

This is a decision of local districts and/or charters schools. Arrangements must be made with the school before the testing period begins. Districts and charters are not required to accommodate homeschool students, but may be willing if space is available and arrangements are made in advance.

Who is responsible for determining the placement (grade level) of a student transferring from homeschool to public school?

It is the responsibility of the school (or district) to place transferred students in an appropriate grade. The Idaho Department of Education does not dictate policy to school districts regarding the placement of students. Examples of what a district may use for determining placement include

testing, review of homeschool coursework and/or records, or provisional placement in an age-level grade.

Will schools and districts accept the work of homeschooled students?

This will depend on district policy. Districts and the school will determine how the coursework completed aligns to their curriculum. At the high school level, they will determine if credit will be awarded for the work. Unless the work is completed through an accredited institution recognized by AdvancED, the districts aren't required to accept the work.

IDAHO HOMESCHOOL DRIVER'S EDUCATION LAW

Any student who is a resident of Idaho from the ages 14 ½-21 years of age can participate in Public Driver Education Programs. Contact a district/charter school to see if their program has the availability/space and learn about their registration process, and fees. When possible and approved, homeschool students can participate in public school programs at any districts/charter schools. Student fees vary upon the driver education program.

Homeschool students also have the option of participating in Private Driver Education Programs. These driver education programs are provided by private driving businesses. The driving businesses are overseen by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses. Student fees vary upon each business.

Homeschool students are required to provide the same documentation to purchase their permit from the DMV with exception to the Verification of Compliance (VOC) form. Students enrolled in a home-education program must be enrolled for at least one school year prior to the verification of attendance request unless documentation can be provided of meeting the attendance requirement for the school year immediately prior to the year in which the student is enrolled in. If the student has been enrolled in a program for less than one year the documentation a homeschool student would need to provide is a workbook or curriculum demonstrating they are enrolled in a current program. Family members sign a liability statement and a statement the student follows the school attendance provisions of Idaho Code.

Students enrolled in a home-education program must be enrolled in the program for at least one school year prior to the verification of attendance request unless documentation can be provided of meeting the attendance requirement for the school year immediately prior to the year in which the student is enrolled in. If the student has been enrolled in a program for less than one year the documentation a homeschool student would need to provide a workbook or curriculum demonstrating they are enrolled in a current program. Family members sign a liability statement and a statement the student follows the school attendance provisions of Idaho Code.

www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/driver-ed

MISCELLANEOUS FAQs (IDAHO)

Is Idaho a homeschool friendly state? (Investopedia.com)

Absolutely yes! Since the revisions made to Idaho's compulsory school law in 2009, homeschoolers now enjoy greater liberties than before. Aside from the greater freedom, Idaho homeschool laws allow home educated students to participate in selected public school courses or programs.

Is unschooling legal in Idaho? (Time4learning.com)

Yes, unschooling is legal in Idaho. Unschooling allows children to learn through exploring their interests at their own pace. Families who choose this homeschooling option can encourage their children to follow their natural curiosity and learn through hands-on experiences.

Are homeschooling expenses tax deductible? (taxaudit.com)

Unfortunately, while homeschooling can get quite expensive, at the current time, there are no tax breaks designated specifically for homeschoolers by the federal government. Tuition costs are a personal expense and therefore not deductible, and this includes things like ballet or piano lessons.

Is it illegal to not send your child to school in Idaho? (sd365.us)

Who must attend school in Idaho? (Idaho Code 33-202) Idaho law requires that all resident children between the ages of 7 and 16 must attend school.

Can unschooled/homeschooled kids go to college? *(homeschool.com)*

Whether your children are schooled, traditionally educated at home or unschooled, college admissions is not a guarantee. Don't fret, though, unschooled children are quite successful at getting into college. Not only are they getting into college but they are doing well once they get there.

When did homeschooling become legal in Idaho? *(homeschoolidaho.org)*

Idaho enjoys some of the greatest homeschool freedom in the world. In 2009, Idaho's legislature expressly allowed home education under the Idaho Code, and separated home education from the attendance requirements of other schools.

What is the success rate of homeschooling? *(thinkimpact.com)*

Homeschooled students perform much better than their counterparts in formal institutional schooling. Peer-reviewed studies indicate that 69% of homeschooled students succeed in college and adulthood.Mar 18, 2024

Is Idaho homeschool friendly? *(iconschool.org)*

In Idaho, transitioning your child from a public school to a homeschool setting is straightforward. Parents can withdraw their children at any time without the need to outline their educational plans.

How do homeschoolers get a diploma in Idaho? *(Time4learning.com)*

Parents determine when their student has fulfilled graduation requirements and can issue their own homeschool diploma; students of private/online schools may receive diplomas from those institutions. Homeschool students are not subject to testing requirements for graduation.

What is the difference between homeschool and unschool? *(westriveracademy.com)*

The fundamental difference between homeschooling and unschooling is that in homeschooling, the school is transferred to the home, with all its

elements. In contrast, unschooling is based on natural learning, and there are no subjects or evaluations but life.

Does homeschooling make it harder to get into college? (asu.edu)

Many colleges and universities recognize that homeschool learners are effective, engaged students, same as those who have a traditional high school experience. As a result, homeschool students are often successful in their application for admission to colleges and universities.

What famous people were homeschooled? (homeschoolacademy.com)

Some of the most famous homeschoolers in our history have been Presidents. U.S. Presidents who were homeschooled include John Adams, John Quincy Adams, James Garfield, William, Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, James Polk, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, and George Washington.

What percentage of kids in Idaho are homeschooled? (idahoednews.org)

It's impossible to fully quantify the number of home-schoolers in Idaho because the state doesn't require families to report students, but the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that about 6% of Idaho students were home-schooled, on average, during the past two school years. May 2024