

A hand holding a yellow pencil is positioned over a spiral notebook. The notebook has several pencil shavings scattered on its lined pages. The background is dark, making the white text and yellow pencil stand out.

# *Exploring* HOMESCHOOLING

ON DEMAND





# **VIDEO 1: WHY HOMESCHOOL?**

Regardless of the education option you choose, here are some great guiding verses from Scripture:

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” || Deuteronomy 6:5-9, NIV**

**“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” || Proverbs 22:6, NIV**

**BOTTOM LINE: Homeschooling is challenging and should not be entered into without a lot of conversation, research, prayer and genuine commitment.**



## **The most common reasons people explore homeschooling:**

**1.**

**to customize or individualize the curriculum and learning environment for each child**

**2.**

**to accomplish more academically than in schools**

**3.**

**to use varying approaches other than those typically used in schools**

**4.**

**to enhance family relationships between children and parents and among siblings**

**5.**

**to provide guided social interactions with peers and adults**

**6.**

**to provide a safer environment for children (because of physical violence, drugs and alcohol, psychological abuse, racism, and improper and unhealthy sexuality associated with some schools)**

**7.**

**to teach and impart a particular set of values, beliefs and worldview to children**

## **The educational benefit:**

- **There are more than 3 million home-educated students in the United States (as of 2023).**
- **The homeschool population is the fastest-growing educational model (at an estimated 2% to 8% per year over the past few years).**
- **The home-educated child typically scores 15 to 30 percentile points above public school students on standardized academic achievement tests. It is important to note that this is regardless of their parents' level of formal education or their family's household income.**
- **Home-educated students typically score above average on the SAT and ACT tests that colleges consider for admissions.**
- **Whether homeschooling parents were ever certified teachers is not related to their children's academic achievement.**
- **The degree of state control and regulation of homeschooling is not related to academic achievement.**

**Regardless of which educational model you pursue, Christians believe that God put **parents** in charge of teaching, training and raising their kids.**

### **YOUR NEXT STEP:**

**Develop a clear vision for why YOU want to homeschool, and make sure that both parents are on board.**

# VIDEO 2: WHAT KIND OF HOMESCHOOL ARE YOU?

## Homeschooling Methods

There are five main methods of homeschooling:

### 1. Traditional

Traditional homeschooling is most likely what you grew up with in the classroom. It usually has separate textbooks and workbooks for the various school subjects. You read the assigned chapter in the textbook and answer the questions about the content. Usually, the workbooks contain fill-in-the-blank and multiple-choice questions.

**TIP: Take the Assessment on pages 14-16 to discover your homeschool style.**

### 2. Classical

Classical homeschooling is based on teaching children in three stages, called the Trivium. The Grammar Stage (ages 6-10) focuses on absorbing information and memorizing the rules of phonics, spelling, grammar, foreign language, history, science, math, etc. The Dialectic Stage (ages 10-12) emphasizes logical discussion, debate, drawing correct conclusions, algebra, thesis writing, and determining the why's behind the information. The Rhetoric Stage (ages 13-18) continues the systematic, rigorous studies and seeks to develop a clear, forceful, and persuasive use of language.

3.

### Charlotte Mason

The Charlotte Mason style of homeschooling uses literature and living books rather than textbooks. This approach will include nature study, art, music appreciation, and handicrafts, as well as the usual academic subjects. It seeks to “spread a feast” before the child and let him digest what is appropriate for him at the time. The goal is to create a lifelong learner with a passion for learning.

4.

### Unschooling

This style can go by many names, but we’ll call it “unschooling” here. Unschooling basically goes with the interests of the child. There is no set curriculum. If a child is interested in butterflies, you research and learn about them until the child is satisfied. If he develops an interest in race cars, you give him information on race cars. Unschooling operates with the faith that children are naturally curious and will follow their interests in their own way. Unschoolers take cues from their passions and learn as needed.

5.

### Unit Studies

Unit studies take a theme or topic and incorporate all the school subjects (language arts, history, science, music, art, etc.) into that topic. For example, when you study Ancient Egypt, you read books about Egypt (history), make a salt dough map of Egypt (geography), determine how to calculate the height of a pyramid (math), explore how Egyptians irrigated their farmland from the Nile (science), read a historical fiction book set in Ancient Egypt (literature), build sugar cube pyramids (art), learn how to spell “pyramid” (language arts), etc.

**One of the greatest blessings of homeschooling is having the freedom to select the style that works best for you and your children - even you if opt to be more eclectic and pull from all of them.**



## Curriculum

**As a homeschooling parent, you are responsible for selecting the curriculum your children will use, which will be influenced by your preferred homeschooling method.**

**Guiding principle: the parent teaching the curriculum needs to **LOVE** it.**

### Other tips:

- Consider attending a local homeschooling convention.
- Visit a local homeschool resource store.
- Look into joining a homeschooling co-op to supplement what you teach at home.
- Check out dual enrollment opportunities at local community colleges.



# **VIDEO 3: ELECTIVES, SPORTS & SOCIALIZATION**

## **Electives**

Electives lie outside of the scope of core classes but focus on topics that your child is interested in (e.g.: art, theatre, chess, second language, guitar, etc.).

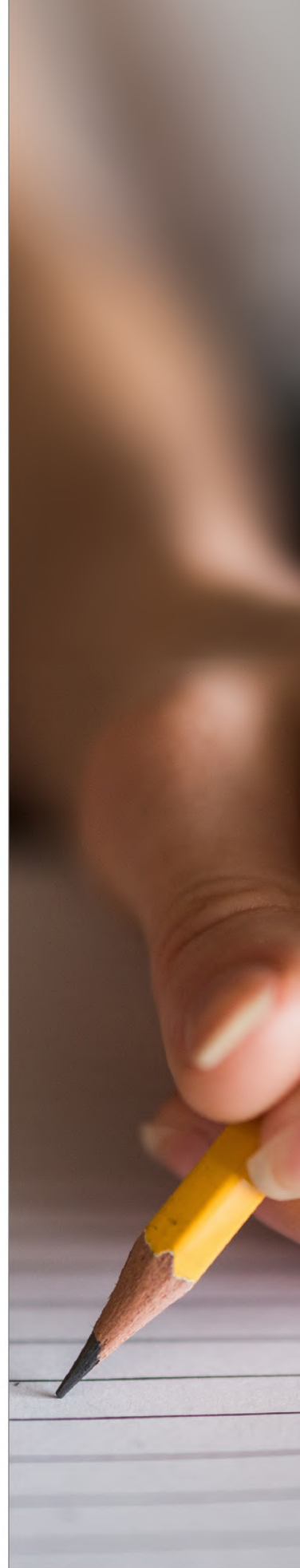
## **Sports**

You can have your child participate in sports via club teams, travel teams, etc., but if playing on a school team is important to them, many public, private, and charter schools will offer open tryouts that your child can attend.

## **Socialization**

As a homeschooling parent, you get to choose who your children socialize with and coach them in the area of friendship.

**Whether your homeschooled child turns out to be socialized or un-socialized is up to YOU as the parent.**



# VIDEO 4:

## SCHEDULES & TESTING

### Schedules

There is no one-size-fits-all schedule. When deciding on your schedule, consider:

- your job and/or your spouse's job
- your current season of life
- whether your spouse will help teach
- what you'll outsource

**Tip: Try to be consistent with your schedule as much as possible.**

Regardless of your schedule, homeschooling will most likely not take all day. Homeschool days end much earlier, on average, than traditional school hours.

### Testing

Find out what annual testing is required by the state you live in.

Tests are informative for where you might need extra focus or practice vs. where your child is ready to move on to something more challenging.

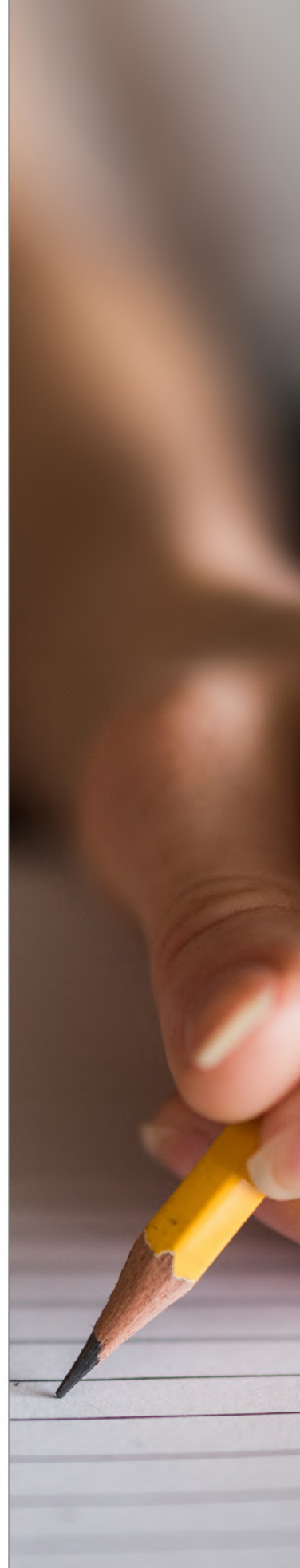
# VIDEO 5: FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

Homeschooling is not free, but it doesn't need to be a huge expense either.

**Headline: plan ahead and budget accordingly.**

Money-saving tips:

- Take advantage of as many free resources as possible. There is a LOT of free stuff online. (Just be sure to factor in the cost of printing and/or photocopying).
- If you have multiple children, laminate as much as possible so you can use it with future children.
- Curriculum swap with other homeschooling families.
- Raid the dollar aisle at Target for great resources (think flashcards, early reader books, school supplies, etc.)
- Purchase used books when possible.
- Buy your school supplies after the traditional school year starts, and STOCK UP when they're marked down.
- Subscribe to strategic mailing lists to get discounts.



# VIDEO 6: GETTING STARTED

## 1. Check state requirements

What's required in North Carolina:

- Register your home school in the year when your child will turn 7 during the school year.
  - Pro tip #1: When you are asked to name your school, do not use your last name or street address in the name of the school. Keep in mind that your school name will appear on your child's high school transcript, so you will want it to sound professional.
  - Pro tip #2: Consider setting up a separate email account for your home school.
- The teaching parent must have a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- You must keep immunization records on hand (or a letter from your doctor if you've opted out of immunizations).
- You must keep attendance records for your child for 9 months of the year.
- Keep a copy of the annual standardized test required.

**Tip: Print/laminate your Homeschool Registration Card, and use it for teacher discounts.**

**2**

**Stay in learning mode.**

As you comb through curriculum, talk with other homeschooling families, etc., continue to put everything through the filter of your unique homeschooling vision.

**3.**

**Evaluate.**

Consistently consider what is working well, what needs to change, what needs to be reworked altogether, etc.

# APPENDIX: WHAT TYPE OF HOMESCHOOL ARE YOU?

**Use the column on the far right to mark the statements that strongly resonate with you. Then, use the scoring key at the end of the quiz to see which education models might best fit your homeschool.**

1	Great books from history and literature should be used in place of textbooks.	
2	Early childhood should emphasize creative play, and formal learning should be avoided before age 7.	
3	Lessons that can be used with multiple ages and grades are best.	
4	Children should spend lots of time outside.	
5	Short lessons with focused attention are better than big chunks of time.	
6	Learning ideas is more important than memorizing facts.	
7	Parents should model a love for learning, a love for work, a curious nature, and read a lot.	
8	Incorporating many different subjects into one study is preferable.	
9	Topical studies help children make connections between subjects.	
10	Children should explore subjects deeply from multiple angles, rather than skim many subjects.	
11	Education should explore multiple learning styles in a single topic.	
12	Problem solving, analysis, and critical thinking are vital to an educated mind.	
13	Field trip and experiences should be a regular part of education.	

14	Early elementary years should focus on exploring the world with no formal lessons	
15	A child's passion for learning should drive their education.	
16	Social responsibility, empathy, creativity, and free thinking are important in my children's education.	
17	The parents' role is to facilitate the child's education and not to teach.	
18	Parents should study and read while the child studies and reads.	
19	Children will learn when they are ready.	
20	Children should learn at their own pace.	
21	Children should have long periods of uninterrupted time for child-led study.	
22	Latin and logic are important subjects.	
23	Avoiding screens for children who are elementary age or younger is important.	
24	The parents' most important job in education is to teach the child how to learn.	
25	Discussions are a major part of learning.	
26	Instruction should be language-based with little use of screens.	
27	I desire my children to have a rigorous education.	
28	Learning to write clearly and use elegant language is important.	
29	Learning how to learn is a priority.	
30	I'd like to teach my child(ren) based on grade level, not in mixed age groups.	

31	I want to use curriculum similar to what is used in public or private schools.	
32	I prefer to purchase grade-level curriculum packages that are planned out for me.	
33	Being able to transition into a public or private school classroom is important.	
34	Learning is best done in larger blocks of time.	
35	Our learning environment should look like a mini-classroom.	

### Scoring Key

**If most of your marks fall in numbers 1 - 7 you may consider looking into the Charlotte Mason approach.**

**If most of your marks fall in numbers 8 - 13 you may consider looking into a Unit Studies approach.**

**If most of your marks fall in numbers 14 - 21 you may consider looking into Unschooling.**

**If most of your marks fall in numbers 22 - 28 you may consider looking into a Classical model.**

**If most of your marks fall in numbers 29 - 35 you may consider a Traditional approach.**

**It is important to note that multiple models can be used in a single homeschool! Often times a Charlotte Mason approach and Unit Studies are found to fit together, while a Classical model can lend itself to a Traditional approach.**



# RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

## Online

### North Carolina State info page

- This contains everything from registering your homeschool to attendance records, to all the laws. This is your one-stop destination.

### nche.com

- North Carolinians for Home Education: This contains helpful resources specifically for NC Homeschoolers.

### Rainbow Resource

- Online supplier of all things homeschool curriculum; great for looking at different types of curriculum and comparing side by side; also offers free services for helping you select curriculum based on your interests/child's learning style.

### Cathy Duffy Reviews

- She isn't pushing a particular program or curriculum she's written, so the reviews are factual and as unbiased as they can be. She points out pros and cons to consider with each. Once you've narrowed your search, this is a great way to go get another perspective.

### hsllda.org

- Keep up to date on the requirements, forms, and websites needed to stay in compliance with your state's specific requirements.

### Core Knowledge

- Core Knowledge at a Glance
- Core Knowledge Sequence

### Ambleside Online

- A curriculum overview of kindergarten thru high school from a Charlotte Mason Approach

### Reading Rockets

## **Blogs by Meck's Senior Pastor James Emery White**

(available at [churchandculture.org](http://churchandculture.org))

- ["The Real Risk of Homeschooling"](#)
- ["Why Homeschool?"](#)
- ["Seven Reasons to Homeschool"](#)

## **Charlotte-Specific Resources:**

### **Local Homeschool Store:**

- The Homeschool Room in Huntersville offers discounted homeschool curriculum, books, games, etc. When you are ready to go get your hands on some books and actually look at them, this is a great place to go. The people who work there have a vast knowledge of various curriculums and are ready to answer questions.

### **Thehomescholgossip.com**

- Your one-stop website for everything that is happening in the area. It's overload, but if you want to see where PE is being offered or a study group for the SAT at the library or a seminar or event - this is where to find it all in one place. This is also where you can find out about special discounts and homeschool days for everything from Discovery Place to the Whitewater Center to the Biltmore and the Aviation Museum

## **Books**

### **General:**

- Everything You Need to Know About Homeschooling (Garfias)
- Going Public: Your Child Can Thrive in Public School (Pritchard)
- The Big What Now of Learning Styles: A Demystifying Approach (Barnier)
- Teaching Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons (Engelmann)
- Teaching from Rest (Mackenzie)
- Read Aloud Revival (Mackenzie)
- The Brave Learner: Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning, and Life (Bogart)
- Homeschool Bravely (Erickson)
- Home Learning Year by Year, Revised and Updated: How to Design a Creative and Comprehensive Homeschool Curriculum (Rupp)
- 8 Great Smarts (Koch)



### **Charlotte Mason-Specific Books:**

- Wild + Free (Arment)
- Modern Miss Mason (Boden)
- Better Together (Barnhill)
- The Charlotte Mason Philosophy Books (Mason)

### **Unit Studies and Traditional-Specific Books:**

- Schoolhouse Curiosities (Mockabee)
- Raising Critical Thinkers (Bogart)

### **Classical-Specific Books**

- The Well-Trained Mind (Wise Bauer)
- The Liberal Arts Tradition: A Philosophy of Christian Classical Education (Third Edition) (Jain)
- Classical Conversations is a very popular model that falls under the Classical Approach and is community based: [classicalconversations.com](http://classicalconversations.com)

### **Unschooling-Specific Books:**

- Unschooled: Raising Curious, Well-Educated Children Outside the Conventional Classroom (McDonald, Gray)
- Learning All the Time (Holt)
- Free to Learn (Gray)
- Unschooling Rules (Aldrich)

