



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

A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF HOMESCHOOLING

Tri-State Home School Network, Inc.

Newcomer's Packet

Contact Information:

P.O. Box 7193

Newark, DE 19714-7193

Phone: (302) 456-3545

Website: tristatehomeschoolnetwork.org

Revised 06/08

TRI-STATE HOME SCHOOL NETWORK, INC. NEWCOMER'S PACKET

Tri-State Home School Network, Inc. is a support group whose purpose is to further the cause of homeschooling, especially from the viewpoint of Christian families. This packet has been put together to answer some of the most frequently asked questions regarding homeschooling, and to introduce you to information, resources and services that we hope will assist you in getting your home school started. As you contemplate taking on this responsibility of your child's formal education, we hope that we can help you gain insight into the day-to-day workings of homeschooling. Welcome to the exciting adventure of homeschooling!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tri-State Home School Network: What Is It?	
Introduction, Statement of Faith	4
Benefits of Tri-State Membership	5
Activities at-a-Glance	6
Directory of Activities	7
Membership in Tri-State	
How to Join	11
Delivery of the Newsletter	11
Newsletter Information	12
Discount Membership in HSLDA	12
Membership Assistance	12
How to Obtain a Newcomer's Packet	12
Contact Information	13
The Tri-State By-Laws	13
Tri-State Policies	23
Used Book Sale Rules	28
Rules Regarding Animals	28
Using Tri-State's Library	28
Tri-State's Policy on Cheating	30
Policy Regarding Hiring Instructors	30
Policy on Eligibility for Participating in Tri-State Competitions for High School Students	30
Newsletter Submission Guidelines	31
Newsletter Advertising Rates	32
Other Support Groups	33
Home School Lingo	
Common Acronyms	35
Common Terms	37
Homeschooling and the Law	
Delaware	
Tri-State's Understanding of Delaware State Law	39
Umbrella Schools in Delaware	43
HSLDA's Viewpoint on Delaware Law	50
HSLDA's Legal Summary – Delaware	52

Maryland	
Tri-State's Understanding of Maryland State Law	53
Umbrella Programs in Maryland	53
HSLDA's Viewpoint on Maryland Law	56
Legal Analysis	58
Pennsylvania	
Tri-State's Understanding of Pennsylvania State Law	61
HSLDA's Summary of Pennsylvania Law	61
HSLDA's Legal Analysis – Pennsylvania	63
New Jersey	
Tri-State's Understanding of New Jersey State Law	67
HSLDA's Viewpoint of New Jersey State Law	67
HSLDA's Legal Summary – New Jersey	68
Correspondence Schools	
Contact information	70
Helps for Starting to Home School	
Getting Started	71
Choosing Curriculum	74
Factors to Consider in Choosing Curriculum	74
Curriculum Types	77
What to Look for in a Curriculum	77
Curriculum Sources	80
Recommended Reading List	85
Elements of Successful Schooling	88
Checklist for Starting a School Year	91
Getting the Most Out of Home School Conventions, Conferences, and Book Fairs	93

Enclosures: Tri-State Membership Form
 Tri-State Mentor Form
 HSLDA Brochure & Application

TRI-STATE HOME SCHOOL NETWORK, INC

Tri-State Home School Network, Inc. is an organization that was formed in December, 1986 to promote homeschooling and to provide support to the families that home school. Tri-State was founded by Christians on Christian principles but is not exclusively Christian in membership. Anyone who is currently homeschooling may join Tri-State regardless of faith, as long as the family agrees to abide by Christian guiding principles. (Board members must be Christian and agree with the Statement of Faith included in the by-laws.) All decisions within Tri-State or made by Tri-State leadership are made in accordance with Christian principles. When forming Tri-State, the Tri-State leaders adopted the statements of faith found in *The Teaching Home* magazine under "We Believe." Tri-State's statement of faith is included below.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe

- God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God come in human flesh being fully God and fully man, except without sin.
- All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character, both by nature and act, and are therefore 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.
- The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes His completed and final revelation to man.
- The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole and in part, including theological concepts as well as geographical and historical details.
- 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 sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.

BENEFITS OF TRI-STATE MEMBERSHIP

Tri-State does not fulfill any legal obligations for the homeschooling family and does not serve in any legal capacity as a school or intermediary to the state. Rather, Tri-State is a support group that offers encouragement, training, and extra-curricular activities for homeschooling families. Tri-State is specifically geared to minister to Christian homeschoolers. Tri-State's activities are listed on the next page. Following the list of activities, brief explanations of each activity are given in alphabetical order.

An activity in Tri-State exists if, and only if, someone volunteers to lead it. Consequently, available activities change from year to year. The list on the next page summarizes the typical activities of Tri-State in a typical year. If no one volunteers to head up an activity, that activity will cease to exist. Likewise, this list is not exhaustive. Members are encouraged to think up and coordinate new activities. The volunteer who leads or coordinates the activity is called a PICOS (a Person In Charge Of Something). Activities are advertised in the monthly newsletter.

Activities At-A-Glance

Ongoing / Monthly Activities

- Bowling
- Choir:
 - Elementary, Concert, Chorale, Joy Unspeakable
- Cinematography
- Ice-Skating
- MEK, TEK
- Rhetoric League
- Roller Skating:
 - Morning Skate, Afternoon Skate
- Science Olympiad:
 - Elementary, Junior and Senior High Teams

Annual Tri-State Activities and Events

- Around the World Geography Fair
- Field Day
- Math Olympiad
- National Mythology Exam
- National Geography Bee
- Science and Social Studies Fair
- Spelling Bee

Non -Tri-State Activities, Competitions and Events

- ACSI Competitions
- Blue Rocks Reading Incentive
- Book-It

Tri-State Services and Programs

- Discounted HSLDA membership
- Family Nights
- Mentor Program
- Mom's Meetings
- Monthly Newsletter
- Newcomer's Meetings
- Tri-State Library, located at Delaware City's Library (834-4184)

*** See following pages for a more detailed listing of events.*

Important Notice: Tri-State parents/guardians are responsible for their children's behavior and for all items their children bring to Tri-State events and activities. Tri-State will not be held responsible for the behavior of a Tri-State member's child or for the misuse or loss of any personal belongings of a Tri-State family at a Tri-State event or activity.

DIRECTORY OF TRI-STATE ACTIVITIES

Please note: The following activities exist if, and only if, someone volunteers to lead them.

ALL-SKATE: Two All-Skates are available on a monthly basis, at a location in Newark, Delaware. There is a small fee for all skating events although parents skate free. These all-skates are for the whole family and are one of our most attended activities.

MORNING SKATE: This all-skate is designed especially for those families with young children who need a nap in the afternoon.

OLDER KIDS SKATE: This skate also takes place in Newark, DE, and is for children in the 10 and up age group so they can skate without worrying about the younger kids. There are chaperones available so that Moms with younger children can drop off the older kids and not have to stay. Permission slips with a medical release will be required in order for unaccompanied children to be allowed to skate. Because this skate is geared especially to our teenagers, we play Christian rock and contemporary music at the older-kids skate. For those who are uncomfortable with this type of music, the all-skates remain open to all Tri-Staters.

AROUND THE WORLD DAY: This is a Tri-State Event where families or co-ops study a country and present it at a fair with posters, food, music, costumes, and articles from that country. It is a very fun and creative day. Tri-Staters who do not make a display are invited to come to the fair and take a trip "around the world." Everyone gets a passport to fill out for his or her portfolio. This is a very popular event and is typically held in February.

BAND: The Home School and Community Band is available for children (ages 8 and up) and their parents. There is a participation fee. Instrument rental is available through a local music store. The band performs at least 2 concerts per year.

BOWLING: Home school bowling is available for all ages. There is a small fee for each game. Bumper lanes are also available for specific ages of children. Meets monthly.

CHESS CLUB: Gives your kids a chance to improve their chess skills. Meets monthly.

ELEMENTARY AND CONCERT CHOIRS AND SENIOR CHORALE: Meets weekly in the evenings at a local church. The Elementary Choir is for 3rd-5th grade. Concert Choir is for 6th to 8th grade. Senior Chorale is for 9th-12th grade. There is a participation fee. The chorus performs 2 concerts a year- one around Christmas and one in the spring.

COMPETITIONS: Tri-State has become involved in a number of academic competitions. These include the **Math Olympiads** (grades 4-6), **National Geography Bee** (grades 4-8), **St. Jude's Math-a-Thon** (all ages), **National Spelling Bee** (grades 4-8), **Science Olympiad** (grades 4-12), and the **ACSI Arts Competition**. Every year our teams bring home medals, certificates, and awards from these events.

Rhetoric: For high school students to learn the techniques and principles of logic and debate. Meets monthly.

DIRECTORY: Each year Tri-State Home School Network attempts to put out a directory with the names, addresses, phone numbers, and children's names and ages for the use of the membership. This directory is intended to be used to reach other members only and is not for solicitation purposes. We are, however, allowing businesses to advertise in our directory for a fee. If you wish to or know someone who wishes to advertise his or her business, please contact Tri-State's ad manager. If you do not wish to be included in the directory, please indicate this on your registration form.

DRAMA CLUB: There is one drama group for elementary through middle school and another for high school students. Information is in the newsletter. Each stages performances throughout the year.

FAMILY MEETINGS: Throughout the year we hold some meetings that are geared for the entire family. Some of these meetings feature a speaker; others may be a social/educational event. Everyone is encouraged to attend. There may be a fee involved depending upon the event.

FIELD DAY: In the fall or spring each year, the dads organize a field day for five-year-old kindergartners through grade 9. There are various track and field events. A certificate and ribbon are awarded to each child who participates.

FIELD TRIPS: There are usually field trips advertised in the newsletter for Tri-State members. Some field trips accommodate everyone, and some are geared to specific age groups. Much effort goes into the planning of the field trips, and we ask that everyone be prompt, courteous, and respectful to others. Only official Tri-State field trips may use the Tri-State name. Please remember that everyone on these field trips is a representative of homeschooling in general and Tri-State in particular, and we ask that you make every attempt to leave a good impression.

HERITAGE ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR: This is an opportunity for your family to display crafts it has been learning such as carving, woodworking, needlework, beadwork, or whatever creative endeavors your family enjoys!

LIBRARY: Teaching your children at home can seem quite overwhelming, especially if you are just beginning. Tri-State's library currently has curriculum, reference, and resource books that are useful for homeschoolers of all experience levels. Some titles are: *How to Home School: A Practical Approach* by Gayle Graham, *The Big Book of Home Learning* by Mary Pride, and the *Christian Home Educator's Curriculum Manual: Elementary Grades* by Cathy Duffy. Also available are E.D. Hirsch, Jr.'s *What Your (1st-4th) Grader Needs to Know* and *The Yellow Pages Guide to Educational Field Trips* by Gregg Harris. (These are both EXCELLENT reference books.)

The Tri-State library is on loan to the New Castle County library system and is being housed at the Delaware City Public Library. Every Tri-State member, whether a New Castle County resident or not, has free borrowing privileges. For complete details on how to access the library, look in the handbook at the section on library policy.

MOMS MEETINGS: Our Moms Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the months. See the newsletter for dates and times. These are for homeschooling moms and nursing infants. These meetings are the mainstay of Tri-State as moms share with one another, enjoy fellowship and refreshments, and especially strive to encourage each other in our homeschooling endeavors.

MEK: Mu Sigma Kappa consists of those students who are in 7th or 8th grades. MEK holds 2 meetings a month during the school year; one is a "business" meeting at a church, and the other is a field trip. During the "business" meetings they play games, have snacks, work on the Talent Night presentation (in the fall) and the yearbook (in the winter). Some fun field trips have included canoeing, skiing, Blue Rocks game, Frisbee Golf, swimming, and an Alka-Seltzer Shoot-Out. MEK's purpose is to provide an identity group for homeschoolers during their adolescent years and to help them make friends with other homeschoolers.

MENTOR PROGRAM: Tri-State's mentor program is designed to offer support and encouragement for the first or second year homeschooler. Each person who requests a mentor will be matched with an experienced homeschooling parent. The mentor will encourage the new homeschooler and will be available to answer questions when needed. The mentor will also make an attempt to meet the new homeschooler at a Tri-State function and introduce the new member to others in the group. This program was started in order to give a "personal" flavor to

a large group and to decrease the attrition rate of new homeschoolers who often feel overwhelmed and isolated.

NEWCOMERS MEETINGS: Currently Tri-State provides three Newcomer's meetings a year to prepare those considering homeschooling or simply to remind all of us of things to make our homeschooling and life easier. These meetings take place in June, August, and January.

NEWSLETTER: Tri-State's newsletter is distributed monthly August through May. The newsletter is the main form of communication and contains the calendar of events for Tri-State.

PHYSICAL FITNESS INCENTIVES: Tri-State participates in both the President's Challenge and the President's Physical Fitness programs.

PLAYS: Tri-State has been participating in the Children's Series at the Playhouse Theatre in the Hotel DuPont, Wilmington, DE, and other local theaters. There are usually four to five plays offered each year at a reduced cost for school participation. Plays center on well-known literature, persons, or events and are very well presented.

READING INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: Tri-State is involved in both The Book-It program from Pizza Hut and the Blue Rocks reading incentive program.

SCHOOL PICTURES: A photographer (a Tri-State member) has agreed to photograph our children in the fall. Look for more details in the newsletter.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR: This is a non-competitive event where your children can display projects, unit studies, or subject areas they have studied over the year. It usually takes place in mid to late January. Past entries have included: the history of coins and money, the history of Pennsylvania, Vikings, Horses, water pressure, how sound waves travel, and flags. This event is great to visit and get wonderful ideas for future studies. It may get your own creative juices flowing (which is very helpful in January)!

STANDARDIZED TESTING: Tri-state members who are not served by another school may be permitted to join Old Capitol Trail Academy for standardized testing. There is a fee to cover the cost of the testing service.

TALENT NIGHT: This is our November event where our children get a chance to learn poise and self-confidence in front of a group as they perform a song, skit, recital piece, and poem--whatever.

TEK: Theta Sigma Kappa is our group for teens who are in 9th through 12th grades. TEK will meet once per month for "business" and will also have a monthly field trip. In TEK, the students are encouraged to take on more responsibility for running the group (under the supervision of responsible parents, of course!).

WORKSHOPS: A number of workshops are made available through the year for Tri-State members, some for a small fee. Workshops may include a kindergarten workshop and/or two Scope and Sequence workshops. The kindergarten workshop offers a practical, developmentally sound approach to teaching kindergarten. The Elementary Scope and Sequence gives guidance in planning an academically sound elementary education. The High School Scope and Sequence offers guidelines for completing requirements for a high school diploma as well as preparation for college.

VOLUNTEERS: Without Tri-State's many volunteers we would be unable to provide these programs. First year members should guard against over-committing themselves but are encouraged to volunteer for some of the less stressful positions. We have found that those who volunteer make friends more quickly and feel comfortable in the organization much more quickly than those who do not become involved. Many of the volunteer opportunities also provide an

opportunity for the volunteer's children to become involved with other homeschooling children. Listed below are the positions that we feel are most appropriate for first-year homeschoolers. Most of the following are short-term, project-based positions that allow some socializing with other homeschoolers:

Newsletter distribution: Spend an afternoon assembling, stapling and labeling newsletters in preparation for mailing.

Picnics: Make arrangements for a picnic in your area.

Refreshments: Contribute refreshments for a workshop or Mom's meeting.

Skating: Sign people in and collect money at skating.

Talent Night: Set-up or clean-up.

MEMBERSHIP IN TRI-STATE

HOW TO JOIN

Membership in Tri-State is for one year, from August to August. Dues are currently \$20.00 if you opt for an electronic newsletter, and \$30.00 if you choose to have the newsletter mailed to your home. To receive the newsletter electronically, you must join www.yahogroups.com, then join Tri-StateHomeschoolNetwork groups (exactly as it is spelled). Our Yahoo! Groups PICOS will confirm your membership. The newsletter will then be available under the "Files" section.

To join Tri-State, a family must be currently homeschooling at least one of their children for that school year, or if joining during the summer, planning to home school one of their children for the upcoming school year. Activities are for the homeschooling child(ren) only, unless the activity specifically includes the whole family (such as Family Night).

To join, a family should fill out a membership form (included with this packet), include the appropriate membership fee, and mail the form and fee to: Tri-State Home School Network, Inc., P.O. Box 7193, Newark, DE 19714-7193. There will be no further notification that membership forms have been received, except that receipt of the monthly Tri-State newsletter (usually by the end of the first week of the month) has verified your membership. We do not issue membership cards. In order to receive the next month's Tri-State newsletter after you have joined, your membership forms must be received by Tri-State by the 15th of the previous month. If your membership form arrives after the 15th, you may not receive next month's newsletter until the month after that. If a newsletter was not received but should have been, notify Tri-State's secretary by calling 302-456-3545 (voice box #3) or email her at secretary@tristatehomeschoolnetwork.org. If there are any other problems or concerns about your membership, missing newsletters, change of address, or other incorrect data, please contact Tri-State's secretary as well. Membership privileges will begin as soon as the membership form and dues are received.

DELIVERY OF THE NEWSLETTER

The goal of the Newsletter Editor and Newsletter Distributor is to have the Tri-State newsletter in member homes by the first of the month and certainly no later than the end of the first week of the month. Because newsletters are sometimes mailed using bulk rate, the post office cannot guarantee when the newsletters will be delivered. However, the post office can be fairly prompt with their delivery. If your newsletter arrives after the first week of the month, promptly notify the Tri-State secretary at 302-456-3545 (voice box #3) or you may email her at, and we will try to track down the problem and remedy it.

If you change your mailing address or your email address, you must notify the Tri-State secretary before the 15th of the month in order to receive the next month's newsletter. Because the newsletter is sometimes mailed bulk rate, the post office will not forward the newsletter to the new address and will not notify Tri-State that your newsletter was undeliverable. It is very important the Tri-State secretary receives any address changes promptly so that you can continue to receive your Tri-State newsletter in a timely manner. If by chance you have not received your mailed newsletter because you have moved, please contact the Tri-State secretary.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The opinions expressed in the Tri-State Home School Network Newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily of the Tri-State Organization. We do our best to edit or eliminate questionable material.

The newsletter is published ten months each year, August through May. The deadline for each newsletter is the 15th of the preceding month. Please note that photos submitted to the editor (and at the editor's discretion) will appear in our e-newsletter, which is posted on the Tri-State Home School Network Yahoo Group and only accessible to Tri-State members. Members may

email submissions to: thethseditor@yahoo.com no later than the 15th of the preceding month. All classified notices or questions about advertising in the Tri-State Home School Network Newsletter are to be directed to the Advertising Manager at: tristateadmgr@yahoo.com — email submissions only — no phone calls please. Also, please do not send any classified notices to the editor.

DISCOUNT MEMBERSHIP IN HSLDA AVAILABLE

Membership in the Tri-State Home School Network allows you to join the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) at a discounted price. Some umbrella schools also offer the same discounted HSLDA membership. Tri-State's HSLDA group number is listed in the monthly newsletter in the "Board Members and Information" section.

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Every year, through the generosity of our members, Tri-State is able to assist with the membership fee for some families who are experiencing financial difficulty. The assistance does not come out of the general membership dues but out of the money donated to our membership assistance fund. When families renew their membership, some donate to the membership assistance fund. When the money in the fund is used up for the year, no more membership assistance is given out. The membership assistance fund is for **membership** in Tri-State only. We cannot provide assistance for individual activities or children's participation in any events. The membership assistance fund has a few rules:

1. The family must have been a member previously.
2. There is a limited amount of membership assistance.
3. Membership assistance must be requested in writing. The treasurer needs this documentation.
4. Partial membership assistance is possible.
5. Any person receiving membership assistance will be asked to volunteer for at least one activity that year; they will only receive newsletters electronically.
6. A particular family cannot receive membership assistance for more than 2 years in a row.

HOW TO OBTAIN A NEWCOMER'S PACKET

If you know someone who is just starting out or thinking about homeschooling, please let this person know how he or she can get a Tri-State Newcomer's Packet. The packet is available for \$12.00 (to cover photocopying and postage costs). Send request and check or money order payable to TSHSN, Inc. to this address:

Tri-State Home School Network
P.O. Box 7193
Newark, DE 19714-7193

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TRI-STATE

Located in the monthly Tri-State Home School Network Newsletter under "Board Members and Information" is the most current contact information for the officers of Tri-State.

Tri-State Home School Network
P.O. Box 7193
Newark, DE 19714-7193
Phone: 302-456-3545

Website: www.tristatehomeschoolnetwork.org

BY-LAWS

OF

TRI-STATE HOME SCHOOL NETWORK, INC.

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE AND MISSION

Section 1. Purpose. Tri-State Home School Network, Inc., a Delaware non-stock corporation (the “Corporation”), is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and/or educational purposes as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time (hereinafter referred to as the “Code”), and the Corporation may do and engage in any and all lawful activities that may be incidental or reasonably necessary to any of these purposes, and it shall have and may exercise all other powers and authority now or hereafter conferred upon non-stock corporations in the State of Delaware, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. to distribute funds and make contributions to other organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, literary or scientific purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of Code;

b. to take by bequest, devise, gift, grant, purchase, lease or otherwise and to hold, manage and use for the purposes herein set forth, any property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, or any undivided interest therein; and to convey, sell or otherwise dispose of such property and to invest, reinvest and manage the same, including, but not limited to, the right to vote any stocks so held, in such manner as in the judgment of the Board of Directors of the Corporation will best promote its purposes;

c. to engage in any other charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational activity with the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; and

d. to do and perform all acts and things which are legitimate and are reasonably calculated to promote the interests and carry out the purposes of the Corporation.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-laws, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on: (i) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; or (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) of the Code.

Section 2. Mission. The Corporation was formed on August 12, 1993 to promote home schooling and to provide support to the families that home school. Field trips, monthly meetings, moms' meetings and publishing a newsletter are some of the support services provided. The Corporation was founded by Christians on Christian principles but is not exclusively Christian in membership.

The Corporation believes that the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes His completed and final revelation to man. The Bible, in its original

autograph, is without error in whole and in part, including theological concepts as well as geographical and historical details.

God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God come in human flesh being fully God and fully man, except without sin. All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements, and His holy character both by nature and act, and are therefore 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 sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.

ARTICLE II

OFFICES

Section 1. Principal Office. The location of the principal office of the Corporation shall be in Delaware, or such other place as the Corporation's Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

Section 2. Other Offices. The Corporation may also have offices at such other places, both within and without the State of Delaware, as the Corporation's Board of Directors may from time to time determine. The Board of Directors of the Corporation is hereinafter referred to as the "Board" and its members as "Directors".

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Place of Meeting. All meetings of the Directors for any purpose, including the annual meeting of Directors for the election of Officers, may be held at such time and place, within or without the State of Delaware, as shall be stated in the notice of the meeting or in a duly executed waiver of notice thereof.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of directors shall be held in the month of March, on such day and at such time as the Board shall designate, at which the Directors shall elect the officers and transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

Section 3. Notice of Annual Meeting. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given by mailing, not more than sixty (60) days nor less than ten (10) days prior thereto, a written notice stating the time and place thereof, directed to each Director at his address.

Section 4. Special Meetings. Special Meetings of the Directors, for any purpose or purposes, unless otherwise prescribed by statute or by the Certificate of Incorporation

of the Corporation (the "Certificate of Incorporation"), may be called by the Board, the majority of the Directors or the President. Such request shall state the purpose or purposes of the proposed meeting.

Section 5. Notice of Special Meeting. Written, telegraphic or electronic notice of a special meeting of Directors, state the time, place and object thereof, shall be given to each Director, not more than ten (10) nor less than two (2) days before the date fixed for the meeting.

Section 6. Waiver of Notice. Notice of any meeting, if required, need not be given to any Director who signs a waiver of notice before or after the meeting. The attendance of any director at any meeting without the director protesting prior to the conclusion of such meeting the lack of notice thereto shall constitute a waiver of notice by such director.

Section 7. Business Transacted at a Special Meeting. Business transacted at any special meeting of Directors shall be limited to the purposes stated in the notice.

Section 8. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of any business at all meetings of the Board shall consist of not less than a majority of the current Directors. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws, action by a majority of those present at any duly organized meeting shall constitute lawful action by the Board. If a quorum is lacking, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn any such meeting from time to time until a quorum is acquired. Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of conference telephone or similar equipment through which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation at a meeting in this manner shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. No action of the Board shall be valid unless taken at a meeting which a quorum is present, except that an action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting if, prior or subsequent to such action, a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all Directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof.

Section 9. Action without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board or by a committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if, prior to such action, all of the Board or committee consent in writing to a resolution authorizing the action. Such written consents may be executed in counterparts, and shall be filed with the minutes of the Corporation.

Section 10. Voting Rights. Each Director shall be entitled to one (1) vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number and Election of Directors. The number of Directors which shall constitute the whole Board shall be not less than three (3) nor more than fifteen (15) Directors. The Board, upon adoption of this Section, shall consist of five (5) Directors, and thereafter the number of Directors as shall constitute the whole Board may be increased or decreased by resolution of the Board, but shall in no case be less than three (3) Directors. Directors must be in concurrence with Corporation's Statement of Faith and must be a member in good standing of a local Christian church.

Section 2. Term. The term of office of each Director shall be staggered so that each year approximately one-third of the Directors are appointed. Each Director shall hold office for three years or until his successor is appointed and qualifies.

Section 3. Vacancies. If the office of any director becomes vacant for any reason, such vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Directors remaining in office.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Section 1. Standing Committees. Upon adoption of this section there shall be no standing committee(s) of the board, but the Board may, from time to time, establish such committee(s) as required. The resolution appointing such committees shall designate its purpose, authority, and functions. Each committee shall limit its activities to the accomplishment of the purpose for which it is appointed and, unless otherwise specified, shall have no power to act except to recommend action to the Board.

Section 2. Membership. Unless otherwise provided, a majority vote of the Board shall appoint the members of all committees, and the President shall appoint the chairs thereof. Each member of a committee shall hold office until the term for which he was appointed expires and until his successor is appointed and qualified, unless he shall sooner resign or be removed.

Section 3. Resignation, Removal, Vacancies. Any member of any committee may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or the Secretary of the Corporation. A member of a committee who is a Director, shall automatically cease to serve in such position if he shall cease to be a Director unless the Board approves his continued appointment. Any member of a committee may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Directors without assigning any cause. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of any committee and any membership to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of committee members shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 4. Meeting. All committees shall meet at places, dates, and hours selected by each committee and special meetings may be called by the Board, the President or the chair of the committee when necessary. The chair of each committee

shall preside at meetings thereof, unless otherwise provided, each committee shall appoint a secretary. Minutes of all committee meetings shall be accurately kept by the secretary of the committee so appointed or designated as such by the chair of the committee and shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Corporation. In the absence of the chair, a temporary chair shall be appointed.

Section 5. Notice. Written notice of committee meetings stating the place, date, and hour shall be given to members, under the direction of the committee secretary. Such notice shall be mailed at least five (5) days prior to any meeting. In the alternative, notice may be given by telephone at least three (3) days prior to any meeting. Notice may be waived by a committee meeting in writing or by attendance at the meeting without protesting the lack of notice.

Section 6. Quorum. At a committee meeting, a quorum for the transaction of any business shall be a majority of the members of the committee. Action by a majority of those present shall constitute lawful action of a committee. Committee members may participate in a meeting of the committee by means of a telephone conference or similar equipment through which all persons can hear each other and participation at a meeting in this manner constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. The Corporation's officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and, if desired, one or more Vice Presidents. The officers shall be elected by the Board at its regular meeting following the annual meeting of Directors or at any other meeting of the Board. Officers shall be parents who are educating their own children and shall be members in good standing of the Corporation for at least two (2) years. Each candidate for election to the Corporation must affirm before the Board his or her concurrence with the Corporation's Statement of Faith, must be a member in good standing of a local Christian church and must profess by credible testimony his or her faith in Jesus Christ.

Section 2. Election Term; Removal. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of Directors by the majority vote of the Directors, except as provided in Section 10 of the Article. The officers of the Corporation shall hold office until their successors are chosen and qualify. The Board may remove any officer at any time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors at any meeting of the Board at which there is a quorum, without the necessity of specifying any cause therefore and without any prior notice of such action to the person removed.

Section 3. President. The President shall, subject to the control of the Board, supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Corporation. All other officers shall be subject to the authority and supervision of the President. The President may enter into and execute in the name of the Corporation contracts or other instruments not in the regular course of business which are authorized, either generally or specifically, by

the Board. The President shall sign and execute in the name of the Corporation duly authorized deeds, leases, mortgages, bonds, obligations, contracts and other instruments. The President shall present a written report of the conditions and affairs of the Corporation at the annual meeting of Directors.

Section 4. Vice Presidents. The Board may appoint one or more Vice Presidents, each of whom shall perform such duties and possess such powers as shall be assigned him or her by the Board.

Section 5. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the Corporation, shall keep or cause to be kept regular books of account for the Corporation and shall perform such other duties and possess such other powers as are incident to the office of treasurer of as shall be assigned to the Treasurer by the Board or the President. The Assistant Treasurer, or if there shall be more than one, the Assistant Treasurers, in the order determined by the Board shall, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Treasurer set forth herein and as the Board or the President from time to time may prescribe.

Section 6. Secretary and Assistant Secretary. The Secretary shall cause notices of all meetings to be served as prescribed in these By-laws or by statute, shall keep or cause to be kept the minutes of all meetings of the Board and shall have charge of the corporate records and seal of the Corporation. The Secretary shall perform such other duties and possess such other powers as are incident to the office of the secretary or as are assigned by the Board or the President. The Assistant Secretary, or if there shall be more than one, the Assistant Secretaries, in the order determined by the Board, shall, in the absence or disability of the Secretary, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Secretary set forth herein and as the Board or the President from time to time may prescribe.

Section 7. Subordinate Officers and Agents. The Board may elect or appoint such other officers and agents as the Board shall deem necessary or desirable, who shall hold their offices for such term and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Board.

Section 8. Dual Positions. One person may hold two or more offices except that one person may not hold both the offices of President and Secretary.

Section 9. Resignation. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or the Secretary of the Corporation, and unless otherwise specified therein, such resignation shall be effective immediately and shall not be dependent on acceptance by the Corporation.

Section 10. Vacancies and Absences. Any office which becomes vacant may be filled by the Board at any regular or special meeting of the Board. When the incumbent of an office is unable to perform the duties thereof or when there is no incumbent of an office, the duties of the office shall, unless otherwise provided by the Board, be

performed by the next office in the following sequence: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII

MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership. There shall be only one (1) class of membership. Membership in the corporation shall be available to home schooling parents or guardians who are currently educating their own children. A current membership form along with the yearly membership fee must be submitted in accordance with the membership dues statement or policy as amended from time to time. All powers, obligations and rights of members provided by law shall reside in the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

Section 1. Commercial Paper and Contracts. All checks and notes, drafts and other commercial paper of the Corporation shall be signed by the President or Treasurer of the Corporation or by such other person or persons as the Board may from time to time designate.

Section 2. Other Instruments. All contracts, deeds, mortgages and other instruments shall be executed by the President, any Vice President or any such other person or persons as the Board may from time to time designate, and, if necessary, by the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary.

ARTICLE IX

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be in the calendar year.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT

Section 1. Bylaws. These By-laws or any part thereof, may be altered, amended or repealed, or new by-laws may be adopted by the Board at any regular meeting of the Board or at any special meeting of the Board.

Section 2. Certificate of Incorporation. The Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation may be altered, amended, restated or repealed by the affirmative vote of a

majority of the Board present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposed amendment. Upon adoption, a certificate of amendment shall be filed with the Secretary of State as provided by law.

ARTICLE XI

INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent permitted by law, the Corporation shall indemnify its past or present Directors and officers, and their heirs, executors, and administrators, against any and all expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any actual or threatened action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made a party, by reason of their being or having been a Director or officer of the Corporation, except in relation to matters as to which any such Director or officer shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in the performance of his duty and to such matter as shall be settled by agreement predicated on the existence of such liability. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement or conviction upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person engaged in willful misconduct. The right of the Director or officer to indemnification by the Corporation shall be in addition, and not exclusive of, all other rights to indemnification to which he otherwise may be entitled to.

The Board, by resolution, may indemnify, under comparable terms and limitations, employees and agents of the Corporation with respect to activities within the scope of their services as member of committees, officials, or agents of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XII

DUALITY OF INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Any contract or other transaction which may in unique circumstances be entered into between this Corporation and one or more Directors or officers, or between this Corporation and any other corporation, firm, association or other entity in which one or more of the Directors or officers are directors, Directors, or officers or have a significant financial or influential interest, may be declared void or voidable by the Board unless all of the following conditions are met:

a. The relevant and material facts as to such Director's or officer's interest in such contract or transaction and as to any common directorship, officership, or financial or influential interest were disclosed in good faith in advance by such Director or officer to the Board, and such facts are reflected in the minutes of the Board meeting; and

b. The relevant and material facts, if any, known to such interested Director or officer with respect to such contract or transaction which might reasonably be

construed to be adverse to the Corporation's interest were disclosed in good faith in advance by such Director or officer to the Board, and such facts are reflected in the minutes of the Board meeting; and

c. Such interested Director or officer has, as determined by the judgment of the Board: (1) made the disclosures and fully responded to questions concerning the matters referenced in (a) and (b) above; (2) fully met the burden of proof at the time such contract or transaction is authorized that the contract or transaction is fair and reasonable to this Corporation; and (3) not otherwise significantly influenced the action of the Board with respect to the contract or transaction; and all such determinations by the Board are reflected in the minutes of the Board meeting; and

d. The Board authorized such contract or transaction by a vote of at least a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum was present, and such interested Director or officer was not present at such time as the vote was taken nor counted in determining the presence of a quorum or in determining the majority vote.

The Board may adopt duality of interest policies for the Corporation including, without limitation, requirements and procedures with respect to: (1) regular annual statements and periodic supplements thereto by Directors, officers, committee members, and key employees disclosing any existing and potential dualities of interest; (2) limitations on permitted external positions and interests; and (3) corrective action with respect to transgressions of such policies.

ARTICLE XIII

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the assets of the Corporation shall be distributed as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation.

Section 2. On distribution or final liquidation, the Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the lawful debts and liabilities of the Corporation, distribute all of the assets of the Corporation to one or more of the following categories of recipients as the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall determine: (a) a nonprofit organization or organizations which may have been created to succeed the Corporation, as long as such organization or each of such organizations shall qualify as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; and/or (b) a nonprofit organization or organizations having similar aims and objectives as the Corporation which may be selected as an appropriate recipient of such assets, as long as such organization or each such organization shall qualify as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; and/or (c) any person or entity to whom or which a distribution is treated as a distribution for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; and/or (d) the federal government, or to a state or local government, but only if such assets will be used for a public purpose.

ARTICLE XIV
MISCELLANEOUS IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

Section 1. Term of Incumbency. When any definite term or period of incumbency is specified in these Bylaws for any membership, office, position or employment, it shall be construed to continue in the incumbent therein until a successor is elected or appointed and qualifies, unless sooner removed, or the membership, office, position or employment is sooner discontinued.

TRI-STATE POLICIES

* Tri-State Policies are currently being revised*

Matthew 18
Tri-State Home School Network Accountability Code

A set of steps have been established by the Tri-State Home School Network Board, to assist Tri-State members in resolving issues in a Godly manner. This accountability code extends to all Tri-State events, clubs, and Yahoo! Groups.

"If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector." Matthew 18:15-17

Accountability Goal:

Quick and timely reconciliation for all involved while utilizing God's biblical principles.

Step 1:

If someone has offended you, seek counsel through prayer and speak to that person in private. Speak the truth **IN LOVE**. This matter should be kept private and between the involved parties.

Step 2:

If the issue is not resolved, take one or two other people with you so that others are involved in the process and the truth is seen by all sides. Continue to seek counsel through prayer. Continue keeping the matter private.

Step 3:

If the issue continues to be unresolved, go to the appropriate PICOS leadership with your concern, and it will be examined.

Step 4:

If this issue continues to be unresolved, the PICOS or Tri-State member will contact the Board for further mediation or action. The Board will make the final decision, and a decision will be made based on biblical principles.

It is good to remember when applying the rules that govern Matthew 18, that with any conflict there is some measure of fault on both sides and that, as expressed in Philippians 4:2, it is important to "live in harmony in the Lord."

FIELD TRIPS

1. Tri-State may sponsor field trips during the school year. Different age groups will be targeted on some trips with some trips being open to all ages. Members will be specifically told what age group the field trips are appropriate for and are asked to only bring children in this age group. Members are encouraged to trade baby sitting or chaperoning/car pooling duties so all may participate. Members with only preschool children are asked not to participate in field trips unless specifically designated for them.
2. Unless otherwise stated, each child will be required to wear a name tag to each field trip.
3. On field trips, Tri-State represents itself as a homeschooling support group and homeschoolers in general to the public. Therefore, it is imperative that our children behave appropriately and are gracious to the field trip guides. All adults on the trip are asked to help encourage appropriate behavior by discussing beforehand with their children what is expected, by speaking to children who are misbehaving during a trip, and by leaving the group when your child is having difficulty behaving. If you are unable to attend the field trip but your child is going, please ask one of the chaperones to be responsible for your child and explain this arrangement to your child.

Tri-State will not be held responsible for your child's actions at any Tri-State sponsored event. It is your responsibility to know what your child is doing at all times. We are not responsible for any damage done to anything your child has brought to the event, such as electronic games or toys.

FIELD TRIP RULES:

1. **Only Tri-State members are allowed on Tri-State field trips.**
2. Field trips must be paid for in advance. If money is not received by the deadline, your name will be removed from the list.
3. Money is non-refundable. If you cannot make it to the field trip, you may find a replacement and notify the field trip coordinator of who is taking your place. The field trip coordinator must be notified if you are *not* attending the field trip so that the group is not kept waiting. Whenever possible, 24 hours notice will help the field trip coordinator with her planning.
4. Proper behavior must be followed on all field trips. Parents must monitor their children's behavior and remove them from the group if they are disturbing others around them. **Parents and children must treat the field trip coordinator with respect or they will not be allowed on any more field trips for that school year.**
5. Please arrive at the field trip 15 minutes before time for the field trip to begin. It is inconsiderate of others to keep the group waiting.
6. **Only official Tri-State field trips may use Tri-State's name. If you wish to lead a field trip, it *must* be cleared with the vice president and opened to all Tri-State members.**
7. A permission slip/waiver form must be turned in for each field trip. There is also a medical release form for students taking part in activities such as MEK, TEK, Chorus, & Band.

SKATING RULES:

1. No fast skating allowed.
 2. No gum chewing.
 3. No smoking anywhere in the building.
 4. No food or drink brought into the building.
 5. Keep all food and drinks bought at the snack bar in the snack area. The back room is for meetings or information dissemination only. No food or drinks allowed.
 6. No hats or loose headgear to be worn on skating area.
 7. Put skates back properly: Tuck laces inside skates and put skates back on shelf.
 8. Tri-State or their representatives are not responsible for your child; your child must be supervised at all times.
 9. Everyone is to skate in the same direction.
 10. Keep the rink clean.
 11. Do not sit on the counter in front of the skates or sit/lean on the wall around the rink.
 12. Put your skates on over near the lockers so others can access the skates rental area.
 13. Nobody is to be walking or carrying children on the skating area.
 14. Authorized people only in the sound booth!
 15. If a skater is moving at a pace faster than those around him or her, he/she is traveling too fast and must slow down.
 16. Do not place coats, etc., in aisles or in front of doors as this is a safety hazard.
 17. Tri-State is not responsible for any games, toys, or other objects brought to the skating rink.
- *Note: Music is pre-prepared. No other music may be brought in or played.

BOWLING RULES:

Home School Kids & Parents Only!

1. Bowling is a monthly event.
2. Advanced Reservations are required.
3. You must call to reserve a spot! Those who show up without reserving a spot take a chance of not getting to bowl due to lack of space.
4. If you arrive late, you may have to wait to bowl.
5. You may arrange your own group of 6 friends to bowl together; otherwise kids will be grouped as lanes provide. Wait at the door until all of your group arrives.
6. The cost may be slightly more for bumper bowling than it is for regular bowling. The fee is per game. Shoes are included. Pay for the whole lane when finished.
7. Management requires we be finished by a set time.
8. For safety, parents need to make sure that the child bowling is the only one on the lane.
9. Please do not allow your children to play with the balls between turns so fingers do not get hurt. The balls should be left at the ball return so there will be enough balls for each child's turn. Only two rolls per frame.
10. Please return shoes to desk and ball to rack when finished.
11. Only 10 pound balls (or lighter) are to be used to bumper bowl.
12. Food and drink are allowed only in designated areas.

RULES ABOUT CHILDREN AT MEETINGS:

Children are the entire reason for family meetings, field trips, band, picnics, field day, skating, bowling, MEK, competitions, etc. However, there are two places where we cannot facilitate

children: One is at nighttime moms meetings and the other is at workshops. Nighttime moms meetings and workshops are our "in-service" time. It is important for any "professional" to keep abreast of the "profession" and to expand their knowledge of the field. It is important to have these opportunities. Children at these meetings pose a problem for the following reasons:

1. Noise - Each of us has maternal tune-out when it comes to our own children, but not necessarily when it comes to other children.
2. Insurance - Tri-State must rely on the benevolence of local churches for meeting places. These churches must have insurance, but it does not cover us. It makes those churches very nervous when they drop in at a building to find unsupervised children (or children in the same room with their parents but the parents are not noticing that the children are climbing all over the chairs, etc.). By allowing this, we are breaking good faith with these churches and endangering our ability to use the buildings.
3. Hygiene - Children and babies using the nursery uninvited have been found in the cribs. If the child has a cold or rash, the unchanged sheet may transmit that to a susceptible baby. Tri-State understands that circumstances happen. If an unavoidable circumstance arises, a child may attend with their parent if, and only if, that child is willing and able to sit quietly with their parent, listening or doing a quiet activity such as reading a book or drawing quietly. Rather than jeopardize the privileges that Tri-State currently enjoys with these churches, we will be forced to ask disruptive and/or unattended (not sitting with parent) children to leave moms meetings and workshops with their parents.

4. *Behavior and Personal Items* - **Important Notice:** Tri-State parents/guardians are responsible for their children's behavior and for all items their children bring to Tri-State events and activities. Tri-State will not be held responsible for the behavior of a Tri-State member's child or for the misuse or loss of any personal belongings of a Tri-State family at a Tri-State event or activity.

USED BOOK SALE RULES

Only current members of Tri-State and former members of Tri-State who are no longer homeschooling can sell used books and used homeschooling materials at the used book sale. All items for sale should be related to homeschooling; the used book sale is not a "garage sale" or a "flea market" or a venue for businesses or fund-raisers. Anyone can purchase at the used book sale; buyers do not have to be Tri-State members.

RULES REGARDING ANIMALS:

1. According to Delaware Law, service animals and dogs in training (this does not include puppy raisers) are permitted to attend Tri-State functions. While we cannot legally require it, a call to the event coordinator, as a warning to those with severe allergies, would be courteous and appreciated.
2. Only the above stated animals will be permitted at Tri-State functions.

USING TRI-STATE'S LIBRARY

Through a mutual agreement, Tri-State is leasing its library collection to the Delaware City Public Library for free. Tri-State's library is being housed at the Delaware City Public Library. Because the Delaware City Public Library is part of the New Castle County library system, our books can

be reserved from any county library by any Tri-State member and can be picked up at any county library of the member's choice.

Tri-State's collection will be cataloged and tracked by the public library and will be listed in the library catalog. The items in our collection can be accessed just like any other book or resource in the New Castle County library system. You can go to the Delaware City library to borrow a book, or you can reserve a book in our collection from any county library and designate from which library you will pick it up. Likewise, you can find and reserve items in our collection from your home via the online catalog system (www.lib.de.us and look under New Castle County in the Libraries menu). *If at all possible, we are asking each member to actually visit the Delaware City Library in person at least once or twice in a year. This additional increase in library attendance and usage would result in the Delaware City library's receiving more funding from the county to buy new books. (It is also a nice way to show our thanks for taking over the administration of our library.)*

Our collection will be housed in the Educational Resource Center in the Delaware City Public Library. Some of the collection will be integrated into the normal stacks at the Delaware City Public Library at the discretion of the Delaware City Public Library. Except for specialty items (rules of use detailed in the sub-section "Specialty Items"), all of Tri-State's collection will be available for checkout to any patron of the New Castle County Library system. Likewise, the collection will be available for checkout to any member of Tri-State, even if the Tri-State member does not live in New Castle County, Delaware.

TRI-STATE MEMBERS WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY

The Delaware City Public Library will waive the yearly library usage fee for Tri-State members who are not residents of New Castle County but who can show proof of Tri-State membership. To obtain a free New Castle County library card, the non-resident Tri-State member must bring a Tri-State newsletter with his/her name on the mailing label and some other form of non-Tri-State identification to the Delaware City Public Library. Tri-State members who apply for a library card at any other New Castle County public library will be assessed the non-resident fee. The library card lasts for one year, confers all the benefits of county library membership, and is good at any New Castle County Public Library. It may be renewed by phone before the expiration date listed on the back of the library card. (Phone calls must be made to the Delaware City Public Library.)

SPECIALTY ITEMS IN TRI-STATE'S COLLECTION

A few items in Tri-State's collection will be reserved for use by Tri-State members only, even though the items are housed at the Delaware City Public Library. These specialty items are expensive and fragile and will be specially designated for use by Tri-State members only. (For example, a field microscope is a specialty item.) Tri-State and the Delaware City Public Library will jointly decide which items will be reserved for this special collection. These specialty items will be held behind the counter, at the reference desk, or at some other spot that is not accessible to the public. To check out a specialty item, a Tri-State member must go to the Delaware City Public Library and show a Tri-State newsletter with his or her name on the mailing

label. No specialty items will be transferred to another New Castle County Public Library by any means for check-out. The item must be returned to the Delaware City Public Library and be checked for damage by a librarian before the specialty item is considered returned. If the item is damaged, the Tri-State member will be held accountable for the damages, and the library will notify the Tri-State Library Liaison of the problem. Tri-State will provide the Delaware City Public Library with a checklist or guidelines for how to check for damage. If an item in the specialty collection is damaged, and if this damage was not caused by a specific user or by the library, then Tri-State may choose to pay to repair the item, to retire the item, to pay to replace the item, or to live with the damage; this decision will be at Tri-State's discretion and cost.

TRI-STATE'S POLICY ON CHEATING

As Tri-State continues to grow, we have seen the need to address the issue of cheating. Tri-State has become more involved in activities that include competition in and out of our home school circle. We would like to advise all students in the case of any dishonest act, cheating, etc. that measures will be taken for discipline by the board of Tri-State. An example of discipline might be that the student would not be allowed to participate in any Tri-State activity that included competition for the next year. As we continue with God's blessing in our homeschooling endeavors remember... "The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight." Proverbs 11:1

Adopted May, 2001

POLICY REGARDING PARENTS HIRING INSTRUCTORS

Tri-State parents may hire an instructor for specific activities within the Tri-State organization, such as chorus or band. However, minimally, at least one person needs to serve as a PICOS. The PICOS agrees to the following stipulations:

1. This activity will not be funded by Tri-State dues money.
2. They will provide an annual financial statement to the Tri-State treasurer.
3. They agree to have their books audited annually.
4. In addition, if the instructor is paid over \$400 per year, a tax form needs to be submitted to the Tri-State treasurer. (The treasurer can help with this.)
5. The hired instructor will not have check signing privileges for the organized activity's account.

Adopted May, 2002

POLICY ON ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN TRI-STATE COMPETITIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. Tri-State participates in several competitions all of which have an implied eligibility requirement for students, specifically, that the child is attending school and making satisfactory progress in their education.
2. Because students participating on a Tri-State team or group are representing Tri-State and homeschooling, we feel the need to have a similar eligibility requirement for our high school students and families.
3. We ask that parents sign a form agreeing that basic education is taking place and that if there are concerns, the parent will agree to permit a portfolio review by a competent home school high school teacher who will be recommended by one of our umbrella high schools.
4. This will apply to all competitions and activities in which Tri-State is competing with other schools; however, it will not apply to the activity itself. As an example, in a public or private school a student may participate in chorus and get their high school credit for chorus but be ineligible to participate in state chorale competitions because of low GPA or absenteeism.
5. We have two important reasons for implementing this policy. First, this action is to protect Tri-State's reputation. We do not want to be known as an organization that just uses kids to win awards but does not really educate them. Colleges that graduate star athletes who still cannot read are criticized, and rightly so. Many of our high school students are competitive and excel in these competitions, and Tri-Staters frequently bring home awards. This can add to the resentment many schools already feel toward homeschoolers so we want to be above reproach in this area. Second, every year the number of home schooled high school students increases. As an organization, we want

to ensure that the best interest of the students is our primary concern. It is not in the best interest of the students to allow them to participate in competitions that make them feel good about their education when the necessary schooling toward a diploma is not occurring.

Adopted May, 2002

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any Tri-State member can submit information on classes, instruction and tutoring, as well as babysitting services (50 words or less) for free to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. There is a charge of \$3.00 for each additional 50 words or fraction thereof. Information about field trips, craft camps, formation of playgroups or co-ops, and curriculum for sale (or wanted) are just a few examples of submissions included in the newsletter for free. Other classified advertising is available to Tri-State Members, such as home school-related products or services, for \$3.00 per 50 words. There is no charge for schools to advertise up to a quarter page. For greater space, \$10.00 per quarter page will be charged. Non-members may purchase classified advertising for \$7.00 per 50 words as long as their product or service encourages the development of homeschooling. For display advertising, see details below.

The Newsletter Editor must receive submissions by the 15th of the previous month to be included in the next month. Submissions can be mailed to Tri-State Home School Network, P.O. Box 7193, Newark, DE 19714-7193 or e-mailed to: thethseditor@yahoo.com. E-mail submissions are strongly preferred. Any submissions received after the 15th of the month are not guaranteed to be included in the newsletter. If the editor still has time and room to include the late submission, it can be included at the editor's discretion.

Please note that photos submitted (at the editor's discretion) will appear in our electronic newsletter, which is posted on the Tri-State Home School Network Yahoo Group and only accessible to Tri-State members. All submissions must include the name of the Tri-State member who is submitting the information and a phone number or email address. Submissions should be as concise as possible and checked for spelling or grammatical errors. Please do not send any classified notices to the Newsletter Editor.

The Advertising Manager must receive ad submissions and payments by the 15th of the previous month as well. Advertising submissions can be e-mailed to: TriStateadmgr@yahoo.com. If you are not sure whether your submission is a paid advertisement or free, please contact the Tri-State Ad Manager at the above email address.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Free to members: Classes, instruction and tutoring - 50 words or less, free. \$3.00 for each additional 50 words or fraction thereof. If the submission is for a third party business, the ad can only state the services offered and contact information. Anything more is a business ad and is subject to a fee for listing. This would include detailed ads about fee-based community programs (YMCA, Boys Club, etc.). **Curriculum for Sale** - 50 words or less, free. \$3.00 for each additional 50 words or fraction thereof. **Babysitting** - 50 words or less, free. \$3.00 for each additional 50 words or fraction thereof.

Other classified advertising is available to members at the following rates: Home school related products or services, \$3.00 per 50 words. (\$3.00 minimum). **Schools:** No charge for up to a quarter page. Charge for greater space is \$10.00 per 1/4 page. Non-members and other purchased advertising: Non-members may purchase classified advertising for \$7.00 per 50 words (\$7.00 minimum) as long as their product or service encourages the development of homeschooling.

Display Advertising (i.e., scanned business card or other advertiser-produced copy) - Business card - \$12.00, Copy up to ½ page - \$27.00, ½ to full page - \$55.00. A fifty-word ad is approximately the size of a business card (2.5" x 1.5"). ½ page is approximately 7.5" x 5". Full page is approximately 7.5" x 10". Flyers and advertising literature that meet the approval of the Newsletter Editor and Tri-State Officers may be included in the newsletter mailing at the full page display advertising prices above and as follows:

Flyers must be delivered to the Newsletter Distributor by the 15th of the month.
Flyers must be pre-folded (if necessary) to the size of 8.5" x 5.5".
Flyers must each weigh no more than 0.4 ounce.

For advertising information or to submit your advertisement to the newsletter, please email the Advertising Manager at: TriStateadmgr@yahoo.com. Please do not send any classified notices to the newsletter editor.

Please Note: All member non-display ads will be formatted in Franklin Gothic Book, 10 pt. type.* Font size may be changed due to space constraints in the newsletter. Any member requesting special formatting such as different fonts or font sizes will be charged business rates. Names, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses will not be taken into account for total word count in all member and nonmember ads.

***As shown here.**

OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

Tri-State is not the only support group for homeschoolers in this area. The groups listed below may serve your needs also. This list is for your information and is not an endorsement by Tri-State.

NWHS: North Wilmington Homeschoolers

NWHS sponsors a weekly play group at a park and occasional activities during the year. In the past, these activities have included an art show, science fair, literary magazine, used book sale, and Moms' meetings. The Home School Praise Chorus had its beginnings in NWHS. It is a fairly low-key group, and these activities are only available as volunteers are available/willing to coordinate them. Their most attended activity is play group where the children play together and the moms enjoy visiting.

Request membership by going to: NorthWilmingtonHomeSchoolers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unschoolers and Others:

This alternative homeschooling group welcomes all backgrounds and orientations with no exclusions. It emphasizes wanting the best education for your children. Many but not all members unschool. Roller skating is offered monthly on the third Friday of the month from 1-2:30 at the Christiana Roller Rink.

email: unschoolersandothers@yahoo.com

BVHERO: Brandywine Valley Home Education Resource Organization

This inclusive homeschooling group is open to all, regardless of educational philosophy or religious beliefs. Families live in northern Delaware and southeastern PA.

www.geocities.com/bvhero

To join, e-mail bvheroes@hotmail.com

St. John Bosco Catholic Homeschoolers of Delaware Support Group

Meets each month on First Friday, usually in the Smyrna area.

For more information contact: (302) - 832-8393 New Castle County, 302-659-3388 Sussex/Kent 302-659-3388 (Cheryl Thomas)

SHERD: Support for Home Educators and Resources in Dover

www.geocities.com/sherdweb

to join, e-mail sherdweb@yahoo.com

This is an inclusive support group for the Kent County Area; it is a grass-roots, all-volunteer organization created to provide support, guidance to resources, and to host group activities for homeschoolers.

Chester County Homeschoolers

This large organization includes smaller geographically-based support groups in Chester County, Pennsylvania. It offers events, classes, clubs, sports, field trips, resources, information, and a monthly newsletter. For more information call: Claudia Joye at 610-524-0296, or visit their web site at: www.chestercountyhomeschoolers.com

Delco-Homeschool

This e-mail group is for homeschoolers in Delaware County, PA, to post information about upcoming events, opportunities, and concerns in our area. The group is open to all, regardless of educational philosophy or religious beliefs. All posts relating to homeschooling are welcome with the understanding that each family will take what they like and leave the rest. This is a diverse group, and therefore some posts will reflect the religious or political beliefs of the posters, which may or may not agree with yours. If you are offended by or concerned about a particular post, please either ignore it or discuss it directly with the poster or the list owner.

--Find LOCAL HOME SCHOOL RESOURCES on the web at:

<http://www.geocities.com/hardingpj/homeschoolresources.html>

Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>

DE Classical Home Educators

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DEClassicalHomeEducatorsNetwork/>

An all-inclusive Classical home educators support group for families classically educating their children in the Wilmington-Elkton-Philadelphia area and extending out to N Delaware, NE Maryland, SW New Jersey, and SE Pennsylvania area. This group is for those following the classical homeschooling education model, such as described in *The Well Trained Mind* (Jessie Wise and Susan Bauer) or in *Teaching the Trivium* (Bluedorn's) or similar method. This group is open to families who are actively home educating children in grades K - 12.

COMMON ACRONYMS

CHAP (pronounced "chap"): Christian **Home School Association of Pennsylvania**
CHAP puts on a very large home school convention/curriculum fair every spring (usually on the Friday and Saturday of Mother's Day weekend in May) in Harrisburg, PA. www.chapboard.org

CHEN (pronounced "chen"): Christian **Educators Network of Maryland** is a large support group for those homeschooling in Maryland. Visit their website at www.chenmd.org.

DHEA (called by its letters): **Delaware Home Education Association**. DHEA is a volunteer group from the home school community that keeps abreast of legal and legislative developments that affect homeschooling. DHEA notifies the homeschooling community of legislation that would adversely affect our freedom to home school in Delaware and rallies homeschoolers to voice their opinions to their legislators. DHEA also is working to draft legislation that more clearly defines the status of homeschooling in Delaware. This organization is not as visible as Tri-State, but we owe a lot of our homeschooling freedom in Delaware to the diligence and faithfulness of the moms and dads who serve in DHEA. The board of DHEA consists of home school administrators from around the state. They meet several times a year to keep current with one another on new developments in the home school community. Individual family schools are encouraged to join DHEA as associate members. In the past, DHEA also put on a curriculum fair every other year with workshops, seminars, and vendors. Currently, DHEA is not running any state-wide curriculum fairs.

Web address: <http://www.dheonline.org>

DOE (called by its letters): Department of Education

DPI (called by its letters): Department of Public Instruction

ENOCH (pronounced "ee-knock"): **Education Network of Christian Homeschoolers** of New Jersey is a large support group/clearinghouse for those educating in New Jersey. Visit their website: www.enochnj.org

HSLDA (called by its letters): **The Home School Legal Defense** serves as a guardian of home school rights across the nation. When you join "**HSLDA**," they will represent you legally if your home school is challenged. For more information about this organization, see the brochure in the back of this packet. Some umbrella schools require first year members to join HSLDA. It is an excellent idea. Excerpts from HSLDA on the legal status of homeschooling in nearby states are included in this packet. Visit www.HSLDA.org or phone (540) 338-5600.

OCTAI (pronounced "ock-tie"): This stands for "Old Capitol Trail Academy, Inc.," which everyone calls OCTAI. It is one of several umbrella schools in the area.

ORCHID (pronounced like the flower): **Out Reach to Christian Homeschoolers In Delaware** ORCHID is an organization which holds a home school convention/curriculum fair geared specifically toward Christian homeschoolers. Visit www.orchidde.com.

PICOS (pronounced "pee-koes"): What are PICOS? This phrase was coined by Vicki Tillman and stands for "**Person In Charge Of Something**" (in Tri-State). You will hear this name occasionally when we refer to people who are heading up and coordinating events or activities in Tri-State.

COMMON TERMS

Charlotte Mason Method: This is an educational philosophy based on a British educator, Charlotte Mason. In this method of education, well-written, stimulating, "living" books are used as the basis for teaching literature, history and science, rather than textbooks. Rather than requiring book reports and answering comprehension questions in workbooks, children tell in their own words (or narrate) what they have just read or listened to. Emphasis is placed on observing nature and appreciating art and music. Karen Andreola is a current, popular homeschooling author and proponent of this method.

Classical Education: This educational philosophy divides a child's educational journey into the following three stages: a fact-gathering memorization stage, a learning to reason logically stage, and a learning to evaluate materials and "argue" a point effectively stage. Living books are used throughout the journey; older students read primary sources and classics, especially from the time of ancient Greece and Rome. Latin is learned. Jessie Wise and Susan Bauer are authors of a popular guide (*The Well-Trained Mind*) to this method.

Co-op: A co-op is one of many ways to share the load of educating your child. A co-op is the study of one or more subjects by two or more families who have decided to work together to teach the subject(s) to the children in their families. The teaching load is divided in whatever way is beneficial to the families involved ("I'll teach art; you teach science" or "I'll take the first unit on ancient Egypt, you take the unit on ancient Greece," etc.) The frequency of meetings varies from weekly to monthly, depending on the needs of the co-op. Some co-ops do not concentrate on academic subjects. Instead, they meet for field trips or gym or drama or show-and-tell, etc. A particular co-op of families may stay together for years, last only one academic year, or meet only enough weeks to study a particular topic (such as the physics of Newton's laws).

Living Books: Living books refer to well-written books, both fiction and non-fiction. This type of book captivates the interest of the reader, drawing the reader in to the subject matter.

Principle Approach: This educational philosophy seeks to explicitly reveal God's hand and purpose in American history. It delineates a set of Scriptural principles and examines how America did or did not follow the principles. This approach is also known as a providential approach.

Unit Studies: Unit studies are one of many ways to educate your child. Unit studies typically incorporate many subjects into the study of a particular topic or theme. Topics and themes are usually chosen from history or science. Pre-packaged, pre-planned unit studies are available for sale or the teaching parent/family can develop their own lesson plans. Most unit studies use "real," "living" books rather than textbooks as the main source of information for the students. For instance, a unit study on oceans may incorporate science (density of salt vs. fresh water; marine life; or the study of waves, currents and tides), geography (location of oceans and seas; countries affected by tidal waves; types of landforms; or effects of erosion), history (discoveries; ocean travel and exploration; battles at sea and for the control of the seas; or use of the sea for the development of commerce), language arts (poetry or other literature with the sea as the theme; vocabulary; compositions), art (both works by others and by the student), music (pieces inspired by or mimicking the ocean), the *Bible*, etc. Unit studies can be as comprehensive as desired by the teaching parent. Another advantage of unit studies is that multiple ages of children can be taught the same topic simultaneously. Core resources would be completed or read to/by the whole group. Additional reading or projects would be adapted to the different ages, abilities, and talents of the children.

Umbrella Schools: An umbrella school is a school made up of families who home school. An umbrella school registers with the state as a multi-family private school. It acts as the legal contact with the state for the families in its school. The umbrella school keeps a permanent file

for each child and is responsible for reporting to the state on your behalf. Each umbrella school has its own membership requirements.

Unschooling: Unschooling is a method of educating one's children with as little structure as the teaching parents are comfortable. Typically, the parents provide a broad spectrum of stimulating experiences and information. Topics are pursued to the depth of the child's interest. There is a relaxed trust that the child will eventually "get" all the education that is needed without slavishly adhering to a schedule that is pre-planned by someone else. John Holt is a proponent of this educational philosophy. Dorothy and Raymond Moore also promote a relaxed approach like this in a child's early years.

HOMESCHOOLING AND THE LAW

It is legal to home school in all fifty states, but each state has its own set of laws which govern homeschooling. YOU MUST LEARN THE LAWS WHICH GOVERN HOME- SCHOOLING IN YOUR OWN STATE. Do not rely on someone else's word-of-mouth. Read the law for yourself; check HSLDA's interpretation of the law; check the interpretation provided by the political arm of your state's home school organization (DHEA for Delaware, CHAP for Pennsylvania, ENOCH for New Jersey, CHEN for Maryland). Be alert for changes in the laws governing homeschooling in your state. **The law might well have changed after this manual was printed; you might not be reading the most current version of the law in this manual, so CHECK THE LAWS IN YOUR STATE!** Express your views and opinions to your legislators. Our freedom to home school exists only as long as we are willing to stand up for them in our state legislatures.

The following pages in this packet summarize homeschooling law in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. It is arranged by state. The information within each state is arranged as follows: first, Tri-State's understanding of the law; second, a list of umbrella schools, if applicable; and third, HSLDA's summary of the pertinent laws for Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey both in chart form and in more detail.

Delaware

Tri-State's Understanding

Three options exist for a family to legally home school in Delaware. Delaware considers home schools to be non-public schools.

1. Option 1 is to register as your own single-family home school.

With this option, you declare your family to be its own school. You are personally responsible for filling out all forms required by the state and complying with the state's deadlines and any other regulations. Currently, these forms are not burdensome. You have to fill out and turn in two forms a year in order to meet your legal responsibilities to the state. Delaware treats its homeschoolers in much the same way as it treats private schools. It requires the reporting of enrollment and attendance information. Curriculum choice is up to you. The state does not approve your curriculum choice or require mandatory review of students' work. However, if asked by the state, you must be able to show evidence of regular and thorough instruction.

To declare yourself as your own single-family school, you must register your home school with Delaware's DOE Data Analysis and Reporting Team. Registration with the state is free. There are 3 ways to register. DOE's preferred method is for you to go to their website, download the appropriate form, fill out the form, and mail it in. To access the forms, go to their website: www.doe.state.de.us/Nonpublicwebpages/npindex.htm and click on FORMS. Alternatively, you may request the forms via an email to Vicki Fields at vfjelsted@doe.k12.de.us or call her at 302-739-4583 and ask to be mailed a home school packet. As a single-family home school, you are responsible for meeting all accountability requirements of the state; you report directly to DOE on your own. The state does not provide any mentoring, help, guidance, or support. For that reason we do not recommend this option for new homeschoolers. Homeschooling is difficult, and umbrella schools (see Option 2) provide a safety net of experience and compassion that DOE cannot match. If you do decide to go it alone and report to DOE, we strongly recommend that you join DHEA as an associate member. The cost is approximately \$5.00 a year. As an associate member, you do not have to attend their meetings, but you will get an e-mail when they need to alert the home school community to damaging legislation. (To join DHEA, visit their website at www.dheaonline.org). Also, we strongly recommend that you join HSLDA. If you join HSLDA, you will receive legal assistance from HSLDA if you ever have legal problems with the state about your home school. Members of Tri-State receive a discount for membership in HSLDA.

2. Option 2 is to join an “umbrella school.”

An umbrella school is a multi-family home school (and is considered a non-public school by DOE). It is a school all of whose members are homeschoolers. There are a number of umbrella schools listed in our Newcomer’s Packet. These schools are one of two types. In the first type, the umbrella school acts as the legal intermediary between the homeschooling family and the state, while the parents take on the role of teacher. The umbrella school is responsible for keeping the child’s permanent record and filing reports with DOE. The parents are responsible for choosing the curriculum and for providing a “thorough and consistent” education either by teaching the child themselves or by incorporating outside classes or tutors. Most umbrella schools require the family to fill out an application and have an interview. Once accepted, the umbrella school will want to keep abreast of educational progress two or three times during the year. To assess that “thorough and diligent instruction” is taking place and to document the student’s progress, umbrella schools may want to see any or all of the following: year end evaluation (by the teaching parent), standardized test scores, attendance records, immunization records, portfolio of completed schoolwork, lesson plans, or journals.

The second type of umbrella school functions more like a typical private school. Classes are held once or twice a week. The umbrella school chooses the curriculum, provides instruction on the day of class, and assigns the work that must be completed by the next class meeting. The parents act more as a mentor, assisting the child in understanding and completing the assignments on the days when the child is at home and not in class. Usually, the teachers at the umbrella school correct the work and assign grades. The umbrella school keeps the child’s permanent record and files reports with DOE.

Most homeschoolers are part of umbrella schools because of the advantages they provide. Parents do not have to have any contact with DOE and can keep themselves out of the “system.” Another advantage is that umbrella schools provide the accountability, support, and structure we all need and want without infringing on our rights as homeschoolers.

Umbrella schools vary in what they require of their member families and in what services they provide. All umbrella schools handle the administrative, legal accountability types of things. In addition to this, some umbrella schools also provide field trips and other extra-curricular activities.

To home school under this option, you must enroll in an existing and registered multi-family home school (what is commonly referred to as an umbrella school). You do not need to fill out any forms for DOE. The umbrella school will take care of all paperwork for the state. Umbrella schools for Delaware are listed after this section. Before enrolling in an umbrella school, check with the umbrella school that it is registered with the state as a multi-family home school. (It is possible that an umbrella school could be registered as a private school. Your child can attend a private school.) Inclusion in this manual does not necessarily mean that the umbrella school has complied with the new state regulations.

3. Option 3 is to home school through your local school district.

If you choose this option, your local school superintendent approves your curriculum and has the authority to control the details of your school. You must fill out the appropriate form from DOE specifying that you are choosing to home school in coordination with your local school district, and you must have your local school superintendent (or his official designee) sign the form. You must mail the form in to DOE. You also must report enrollment and attendance at specified times. Very few people choose this homeschooling option. It greatly restricts your freedom to home school in the manner and style which best suits your family.

There are 3 ways to register for this option. DOE's preferred method is for you to go to their website, download the appropriate form, fill out the form, and mail it in.

To access the forms, go to their website: www.doe.state.de.us/Nonpublicwebpages/npindex.htm and click on **FORMS**. Alternatively, you may request the forms via an email to Vicki Fields at vfjelsted@doe.k12.de.us or call her at 302-739-4583 and ask to be mailed a home school packet.

DELAWARE AREA UMBRELLA SCHOOLS

Before enrolling in an umbrella school, check with the umbrella school that it is registered with the state as a multi-family home school. (It is possible that an umbrella school could be registered as a private school. Your child can attend a private school.) Inclusion in this manual does not necessarily mean that the umbrella school has complied with the new state regulations.

New Castle Area--Above Canal

Academy Adonai 408 Victoria Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19804, 302-998-3889
CONTACT PERSON: **Kathryn Stout**, Director
Web address: www.designastudy.com

MISSION STATEMENT: Academy Adonai has been established in order to provide specific educational recommendations to aid in the educational progress of any child.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: A commitment to attend four individual meetings with the consultant and to carry out recommendations.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: Four individual consultations per year with educator Kathryn Stout. Because Kathryn has a master's degree in special education, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, any homeschooling family with a special needs child may consult with her to fulfill the requirements of the Home School Legal Defense Association.

Aquinas Academy 2370 Red lion Rd., Bear, DE 19701
CONTACT PERSON: **John J. Moore**, Principal 302-838-9601

MISSION STATEMENT: Aquinas Academy is a small, co-educational day school and home school program that is operated by Catholic laymen dedicated to promoting academic excellence and the tradition of a Catholic education. Aquinas Academy offers personalized instruction, regarding each child as of infinite value in the sight of God in the Salesian tradition.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: for grades K – 6. Individualized curriculum for each student. Instructional support: grading, testing, course syllabi, daily lesson plans, maintaining school records, and transcripts. Opportunity for homeschoolers to participate in social activities, plays, clubs, art and music classes, recreational activities, and field trips. Satisfying state attendance requirements as an "enrolled" student in a private school. Book/Supply Fee per child.

Christian Heritage Home School 1035 Summit View Drive, Newark, DE 19713
CONTACT PERSON: **Laurie A. Staz-Schelich** 302-738-8918
Email: jlschelich@juno.com

MISSION STATEMENT: Christian Heritage Home School is an umbrella school offering direction to homeschooled children in grades K-8th.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: Assists parents in creation of portfolios, registration with the Department of Education, opportunities for field trips, and support in all areas pertaining to homeschooling.

Cross Roads Christian Academy

1667 Iron Hill Road Newark, DE 19702

CONTACT PERSON: **Dorothy Chambers**, Administrator

443-309-0660

MISSION STATEMENT: Assist parents in successfully educating their children. We are an independent and interdenominational private school registered in Delaware and Maryland.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Parents sign contract and agree to show to school that their children are making progress in education.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: Private school umbrella, central record keeping, curriculum development, standardized testing, record keeping forms, co-op groups and assistance, field trips and newsletter, family fellowship meetings. First year families HSLDA membership required.

COMMENTS: We are designed to help families with children in kindergarten through high school. We will help the latter with transcript development and assistance with college forms and financial aid.

Mt. Sophia Academy P.O. Box 9925, Newark, DE 19714-5025

CONTACT PERSON: **Marilyn Groop**, Principal, 302-292-2007

email: mtsophiahs@yahoo.com www.mountsophiaacademy.org

MISSION STATEMENT: The intent of Mt. Sophia Academy's diploma program is to set a standard and require accountability so that our diploma will mean something to the world outside homeschooling.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Willingness to adhere to Mt. Sophia's accountability standards, attend consultations, keep portfolio and credit hour logs, assign grades, annual testing for high school students, periodic testing for sibling program.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: initial, mid-year, and final consultations, transcripts, diploma, graduation ceremony, honor society, school ring. Sibling program allows all students in family to be covered under the same school.

COMMENTS: Mt. Sophia was designed as a diploma program to assist parents with high school (grades 9-12) to complete an academic education that will have meaning in the outside world of

work or higher education. Allowances are made for children with special needs. Two diploma tracks are offered; one is for college-prep students and one is for non-college-prep students with special needs who need a developmental diploma. Mt. Sophia also offers high school level classes which high school students can take, regardless of school affiliation.

New Bear Christian Academy 304 Silver Run Trail, Bear, DE 19701
CONTACT PERSON: **Kim Ogorek**, Director 302-325-3753
email: newbear99@juno.com

MISSION STATEMENT: Homeschooling is not a picnic but a great adventure. I will be there 200% for your family adventure.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: Psalm 23:1 I always thought this was about death. It is also about everyday living. This psalm reminds us of homeschooling also in that the Lord has gone before us. If it is His will for us to go this path, He will assure us this is the correct path.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: Academic planning, includes Special Ed planning, social gatherings, field trips, quarterly newsletter, art and science classes, DPI reporting, and record keeping.

Old Capitol Trail Academy, Inc.
P.O. Box 7709, Newark, DE 19714-7709 302-998-4559 www.octai.com

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide DE home educators with a legal covering in Delaware; to maintain records for an accountability system for DE homeschoolers; and to promote homeschooling by our example.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Enrollment Period: Families can enroll for the fall semester from June until Aug. 31st, or for the spring semester in December and January. Applications cannot be processed in mid-semester. To get an Application Packet, mail \$5 to "Application Packet" (address above). The \$5.00 is deductible from the enrollment fees.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: See membership agreement in Application Packet.

CONTACT PERSON: Kathy Todd, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT: Towle Institute exists to equip families with the expertise and resources necessary to provide students with a home-based, Christ-centered education. Recognizing the spiritual, academic, and social advantages of home education, Towle desires to make readily available to a broad range of interested families an alternative to traditional home education. The school and faculty provide complementary and supplementary academic assistance through weekly instruction and academic planning, but do not replace parents as primary educators.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: All Junior and Senior High School curriculum, lesson plans, lab equipment, and placement tests; central filing of permanent records, year-end testing and reports, and field trips; as well as a hands-on science and writing curriculum for fourth and fifth grades. For high school students, Towle provides transcripts, PSAT testing, college counseling, a state-recognized diploma, a senior banquet, and a cap and gown graduation ceremony. In addition, Towle students regularly participate in the following: Science Fair, Science Olympiad, National Mythology Exam, Natural History Day Competition, National Geography Bee, and Governor's School. Call for a brochure.

Delaware--Below Canal

Family Learning Academies, Inc.

P.O Box 279, Kenton, DE 19955

302-653-1775

www.familylearningacademy.org

CONTACT PERSON: **Donna Carroll**, Phone Coordinator

MISSION STATEMENT: Member families possess different philosophies and want the best possible education for their children.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Philosophy statement, curriculum plan, faculty meetings, portfolio keeping, report cards, standardized testing for new students grade 4 & up, and August meeting in Dover, DE.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: We are well-organized with committed and experienced leadership; we have parents willing to plan and implement field trips and special activities; and, we are available to answer your questions. We also have a large loaning library. Send \$3.00 for packet of information.

King's Kids Academy, Inc.

P.O. Box 100, Georgetown, DE 19947

CONTACT PERSONS: **Bruce or Debra Fitzgerald** 302-628-3204

e-mail: berger@siteone.net

MISSION STATEMENT: K.K.A., Inc. is a private school of Christian home educators devoted to the spiritual, emotional, physical well-being, and academic growth of their children. The membership is structured to provide information, instruction, and support to each of the families as they strive toward short and long-term goals.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Application, statement of faith (required that parents be born-again believers), letter of commitment, letter from their pastor, and acceptance from the interview committee. New members are accepted prior to Sep. 15. Interested parents can visit special events to see what the school is like. For grades K – 12.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: Enrichment programs, field trips, and support.

St. Joseph Academy

410 Pauline Drive, Clayton, DE 19938

Contact: Sue O'Hanlon, (302)659-3854 e-mail: ohanlons@familink.com

HSLDA's Viewpoint on Delaware Law

Please note that the following chart by HSLDA which summarizes home school law in Delaware lists only two, not three, options for home schooling in Delaware. Three options actually exist; in their chart, HSLDA merged the single family home school option and the multi-family home school option into "Option 1."

Delaware Home School Law At-a-Glance – by HSLDA – reproduced with permission

Compulsory School Age

"between 5 years of age and 16 years of age"; can delay start (if "in best interests of the child") with school authorization

Delaware Legal Home Schooling Options: 1 2		
	Option: 1	Option: 2
Legal Option:	Establish and/or enroll in a home school association or organization	Establish and operate a home school providing "regular and thorough instruction" to the satisfaction of the local superintendent and the state board of education
Attendance:	180 days per year	180 days per year
Subjects:	Same as the public schools	Same as the public schools
Qualifications:	None	None
Notice:	Association or organization must register with the Department of Education; report enrollment, student ages, and attendance to Department of Education on or before July 31 each year; also submit annual statement of enrollment as of last school day in September in form prescribed by Department of Education	Report enrollment, student ages, and attendance to Department of Education on or before July 31 each year; also submit annual statement of enrollment as of last school day in September in form prescribed by Department of Education
Recordkeeping:	None	None
Testing:	None	Administer a written examination as prescribed during the approval process

© 2004, HSLDA

NOTE: This summary is not intended to be, and does not constitute, the giving of legal advice. Many states have unclear compulsory attendance statutes, and the courts of those states vary in their interpretation of the statutes. Therefore, there is no guarantee any state will accept all of the options for compliance listed under each state. This summary is not intended to be a substitute for individual reliance on privately retained legal counsel such as that provided by Home School Legal Defense Association.

For current Delaware laws, please visit:
<http://www.hslda.org/laws/default.asp?State=DE>

Maryland

Tri-State's Understanding

There are three ways to legally home school in Maryland.

Option 1 is used to send a letter of intent to the local school superintendent. The school superintendent has the right to review the student's work up to three times a year (currently twice in Cecil County). The school superintendent can ask for remediation if not enough progress is being made. A portfolio of the student's work must be maintained by the parents for review.

Option 2 is to join an umbrella program which is registered in Maryland. The umbrella program must be run by a recognized church. The umbrella program specifies what is required by the homeschooling family; these requirements vary from program to program.

Option 3 is to join an accredited program which is recognized by the state of Maryland, such as Calvert School. These can include correspondence-type programs (recognized by Maryland) where the students do the work assigned to them and mail the work to the school, with the school grading the work and keeping all the records.

MARYLAND UMBRELLA PROGRAMS

Churchville Christian School P.O. Box 534, Churchville, MD 21028
410-734-9174 www.churchvillechristianscool.org fax: 410-734-9147
CONTACT PERSON: Louise Wallen, Office Manager, or Pastor Philip Wallen

MISSION STATEMENT: Provide families of all faiths with the opportunity to teach their children at home, while at the same time showing them the love of Christ by required Bible study. Our goal is to help families obtain quality learning for their children and be prepared for a brighter future.

COMMENTS: Churchville Christian School, located in Harford County, Maryland, has been in operation for more than a decade, helping families throughout the state of Maryland with their homeschooling needs. CCS has grown steadily over the years and has become one of the largest umbrellas in Maryland. Our quality of service and very low enrollment fees continue to attract families to our school.

Conowingo-Rising Sun Christian Academy
201 Connolly Rd., Rising Sun, MD 21911
www.crcs.org e-mail: homeschool@crcs.org
CONTACT PERSON: **Julia Mullins**, Administrator 410-658-3318

MISSION STATEMENT: As a home school oversight program under the supervision of "The Church of God of Prophecy," the school allows parents the freedom to educate their children in the way God has appointed while also fulfilling the Maryland state requirements under our supervisor.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: The minimal supervisory requirements of the Maryland state law are imposed. Parents are given full control and responsibility for their home school program. Each family chooses, purchases, and implements the materials to be used in the education of their children. The school does not require any particular curriculum or plan of study. The family decides how and when materials are covered. The school does, however, require that each

family keep a portfolio of samples of each student's work to show "regular and thorough instruction" in the required courses.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: peer review of portfolios, transcripts, record keeping, group graduation, high school diploma

Cross Roads Christian Academy 1667 Iron Hill Road Newark, DE 19702
CONTACT PERSON: **Dorothy Chambers**, Administrator 443-309-0660

MISSION STATEMENT: Assist parents in successfully educating their children. We are an independent and interdenominational private school registered in Delaware and Maryland.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Parents sign contract and agree to show to school that their children are making progress in education.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: Private school umbrella, central record keeping, curriculum development, standardized testing, record keeping forms, co-op groups and assistance, field trips and newsletter, family fellowship meetings. First year families HSLDA membership required.
COMMENTS: We are designed to help families with children in kindergarten through high school. We will help the latter with transcript development and assistance with college forms and financial aid.

Mt. Sophia Academy P.O. Box 9925, Newark, DE 19714-5025
CONTACT PERSON: **Marilyn Groop**, Principal 302-292-2007
email: mtsophiahs@yahoo.com <http://www.mountsophiaacademy.org/>

MISSION STATEMENT: The intent of Mt. Sophia Academy's diploma program is to set a standard and require accountability so that our diploma will mean something to the world outside homeschooling.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Willingness to adhere to Mt. Sophia's accountability standards, attend consultations, keep portfolio and credit hour logs, assign grades, annual testing for high school students, periodic testing for sibling program.

SERVICES SCHOOL PROVIDES: initial, mid-year, and final consultations, transcripts, diploma, graduation ceremony, honor society, school ring. Sibling program allows all students in family to be covered under the same school.

COMMENTS: Mt. Sophia was designed as a diploma program to assist parents with high school (grades 9-12) to complete an academic education that will have meaning in the outside world of work or higher education. Allowances are made for children with special needs. Two diploma tracks are offered; one is for college-prep students and one is for non-college-prep students with special needs who need a developmental diploma. Mt. Sophia also offers high school level classes which high school students can take, regardless of school affiliation.

Maryland Home School Law At-a-Glance – by HSLDA – reproduced with permission

Compulsory-School-Age

"5 years old or older and under 16" with one-year exemption available for 5 year-olds

Maryland Legal Home Schooling Options: 1 2		
	Option: 1	Option: 2
Legal Option:	Operate a home school	Provide home instruction under the supervision of a church institution or school that complies with regulations
Attendance:	Must be of "sufficient duration to implement the instructional program"	As prescribed by the supervising program
Subjects:	Must provide "regular, thorough instruction" in the same subjects as the public schools including English, math, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education	As prescribed by the supervising program
Qualifications:	None	None
Notice:	File a one-time notice of intent with the local superintendent at least 15 days before the start of home school. Verify to superintendent annually thereafter whether home school program will continue or not, and notify if status changes.	File a one-time notice of intent with the local superintendent at least 15 days before the start of home school. Verify continuation to supervising program annually and notify of any status change
Recordkeeping:	Maintain a portfolio of "relevant materials," reviewable by the local superintendent up to 3 times per year	As prescribed by the supervising program
Testing:	None	As prescribed by the supervising program

© 2007, HSLDA

NOTE: This summary is not intended to be, and does not constitute, the giving of legal advice. Many states have unclear compulsory attendance statutes, and the courts of those states vary in their interpretation of the statutes. Therefore, there is no guarantee any state will accept all of the options for compliance listed under each state. This summary is not intended to be a substitute for individual reliance on privately retained legal counsel such as that provided by Home School Legal Defense Association.

Write to receive a free copy of HSLDA's newsletter and membership application. HSLDA, P.O. Box 3000 Purcellville, VA 20134 • Phone: (540) 338-5600 • Fax: (540) 338-2733 • Website: www.hsllda.org

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

For current Maryland laws, please visit:
<http://www.hsllda.org/laws/default.asp?State=MD>

Pennsylvania

Tri-State's Understanding

Pennsylvania has many laws and requirements pertaining to homeschooling. It is imperative for homeschoolers in Pennsylvania to learn all the intricacies involved. To do this, we strongly recommend obtaining Keys to Homeschooling in the Keystone State. This document can be downloaded from CHAP via their website (www.chapboard.org) or from a vendor such as Debra Bell (www.debrabell.com). Another support group called the Pennsylvania Homeschoolers also publishes a book called Guide to Pennsylvania Home School Law; it can be purchased at their website: www.pahomeschoolers.com.

A few of Pennsylvania's laws are summarized here. Each school year before you begin homeschooling, you must file a notarized affidavit with the school district in which you live, along with a list of your educational objectives for each subject for each child. During the school year, you must keep a log of the hours or days spent teaching and a portfolio of student work which demonstrates academic progress. Near the end of the school year, an evaluator who has been approved by the state must assess the academic progress made in your home school. Again, these are just a few of the many regulations which govern homeschooling in Pennsylvania. Be sure to learn the complete requirements!

Compulsory School Age

From time the child enters school, "which shall not be later than the age of eight (8) years, until the age of seventeen (17) years"

Pennsylvania Home School Law At-a-Glance – by HSLDA – reproduced with permission

Pennsylvania Legal Home Schooling Options: 1 2 3			
	Option: 1	Option: 2	Option: 3
Legal Option:	Establish and operate a home education program	Use a private tutor who:1) is teaching one or more children who are members of a single family, 2) provides the majority of instruction, and 3) is receiving a fee or other consideration for the instruction	Establish and/or operate a home school as an extension or satellite of a day school operated by a church or other religious body
Attendance:	180 days per year or 900 hours at the elementary level or 990 hours at the secondary level	180 days per year or 900 hours at the elementary level or 990 hours at the secondary level	180 days per year or 900 hours at the elementary level or 990 hours at the secondary level
Subjects:	Elementary level: English spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, U.S. and Pennsylvania history, civics, health and physiology, physical education, music, art, geography, science, safety and fire prevention Secondary level: English language, literature, speech and composition, science, geography, civics, world, U.S., and Pennsylvania history, algebra and geometry, art, music, physical education, health, safety, and fire	Elementary level: English spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, science, geography, U.S. and Pennsylvania history, civics, safety and fire prevention, health and physiology, physical education, music, and art Secondary level: English language, literature, speech and composition, science, biology, chemistry, geography, social studies, civics, economics, world, U.S. and Pennsylvania history, a foreign language,	Elementary level: English spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, science, geography, U.S. and Pennsylvania history, civics, safety and fire prevention, health and physiology, physical education, music, and art Secondary level: English language, literature, speech and composition, science, biology, chemistry, geography, social studies, civics, economics, world, U.S. and Pennsylvania history, a foreign language,

	prevention	general mathematics and statistics, algebra and geometry, art, music, physical education, health and physiology, safety and fire prevention	general mathematics and statistics, algebra and geometry, art, music, physical education, health and physiology, safety and fire prevention
Qualifications:	High school diploma or equivalent	Teacher certification	None
Notice:	File a notarized affidavit with the local superintendent prior to start of home school and annually by August 1st thereafter	File copy of certification and criminal history record with the local superintendent	School principal must file a notarized affidavit with the department of education
Recordkeeping:	Maintain a portfolio of materials used, work done, standardized test results in grades 3, 5, and 8, and a written evaluation completed by June 30 of each year	None	None
Testing:	Administer standardized tests in grades 3, 5, and 8; submit results as part of portfolio	None	None

© 2007, HSLDA

NOTE: This summary is not intended to be, and does not constitute, the giving of legal advice. Many states have unclear compulsory attendance statutes, and the courts of those states vary in their interpretation of the statutes. Therefore, there is no guarantee any state will accept all of the options for compliance listed under each state. This summary is not intended to be a substitute for individual reliance on privately retained legal counsel such as that provided by Home School Legal Defense Association.

For current Pennsylvania laws, please visit:
<http://www.hslda.org/laws/default.asp?State=PA>

New Jersey

Tri-State's Understanding

Families are not required by law to notify the state that they are homeschooling. Curriculum does not need to be approved by the state, but home school instruction does need to be "instructionally equivalent" to that given by public schools.

HSLDA's Viewpoint on New Jersey Law

New Jersey Home School Law At-a-Glance – by HSLDA – reproduced with permission

Compulsory School Age

"between the ages of six and 16 years"

New Jersey Legal Home Schooling Options: 1	
	Option: 1
Legal Option:	Operate a home school
Attendance:	None specified (180 days required for the public schools)
Subjects:	Must provide instruction academically equivalent to that in public schools
Qualifications:	None
Notice:	None
Recordkeeping:	None
Testing:	None

© 2007, HSLDA

NOTE: This summary is not intended to be, and does not constitute, the giving of legal advice. Many states have unclear compulsory attendance statutes, and the courts of those states vary in their interpretation of the statutes. Therefore, there is no guarantee any state will accept all of the options for compliance listed under each state. This summary is not intended to be a substitute for individual reliance on privately retained legal counsel such as that provided by Home School Legal Defense Association.

For current New Jersey laws, please visit: <http://www.hsllda.org/laws/default.asp?State=NJ>

Correspondence Schools

Some families choose to have their child's school work provided by and graded by a correspondence school. Tri-State does not endorse any of the following schools but is providing this list for your information. Check with your particular state as to how enrollment in a correspondence school meets state requirements. There are many other correspondence schools available with information obtained through an Internet search.

Abeka	800-874-3592	www.abeka.com
Alpha Omega Academy	1-800-622-3070 (800)682-7396	www.aop.com http://www.welcometoclass.com
Ariel Christian Academy	321-917-1840	www.arielchristianacademy.com
Calvert School	(888) 487-4652	http://www.calvertschool.org/calvert-school
Christian Liberty Academy School System	847-259-4444 press 1 for customer service 800-348-0899 for free info packet only	www.homeschools.org
Christian Academy of America	972-539-1458	www.chaoa.com
Keystone National High School	800-255-4937	www.keystonehighschool.com
Moore Family Academy		www.moorefoundation.com
Sycamore Academy	949-650-4466	www.sycamoretree.com

GETTING STARTED

Step 1: Read this information packet. Then read, read, read! Learn about the different styles and methods of homeschooling. Think about which way might suit your family's needs best. Ask questions of anyone you know who home schools. Ask if you can visit them while they are homeschooling and be a "fly on the wall" so you can see what homeschooling is like. Ask to see their curriculum. Know that everyone thinks their own style is best, but there really is no one right way to home school. Bathe this whole process in prayer.

Step 2: Attend a Newcomer's Meeting if possible. A Newcomer's Meeting is held June, August, and January each year and is an orientation to homeschooling. A panel of experienced homeschoolers present information about homeschooling and are available to answer your questions.

Step 3: Be aware of your state laws pertaining to homeschooling. Summaries of the state laws from PA, MD, NJ, and DE (compiled by HSLDA and used with their permission) are included with this packet.

Step 4: Join a support group such as Tri-State. Be aware that other support groups do exist.

Step 5: Join the support group's mentor program. Tri-State's mentor program is designed to offer support and encouragement for the first or second year homeschooler. Mentors are experienced homeschoolers who can answer the many questions new homeschoolers often have. The mentor will also make an attempt to meet the new homeschooler at a Tri-State function and introduce the new member to others in the group. We hope this will decrease the numbers of people who quit homeschooling because of a feeling of isolation or lack of support. Because our group is so large, it is difficult to meet all the individual needs at a group level. Mentors can help keep make it more personal.

Step 6: Before you buy any curriculum, read several books about home education. Two books that you might find helpful in choosing curriculum appropriate for you and your child are *The New Big Book of Home Learning* by Mary Pride (Crossway Books) and *The Christian Home Educator's Curriculum Manual* by Cathy Duffy (Home Run Enterprises). Please check to see if they are available in your local library. They are also widely available from sellers of home school materials.

Friends who home educate and your mentor are other sources for information regarding curriculum. There is an impressive variety of basic materials and resources available. The same lessons are presented in scores of different ways. Prices range from low to high. Every "veteran" homeschooler has her own opinion of what is best or (even more intimidating) what is "the only way to go." Therefore, it is important for you to determine your own philosophy of education, the learning style of your child, and your own teaching style. Every family is different and must consider the specific needs of its family. Here are some other things to consider when looking through curricula choices. Calculate the "true cost" by adding the cost of the guidebook plus any extra language arts and math books which are required. Many "complete" guides do require these extra materials to present a complete program. If you are considering a Christian publisher, you may wish to know the doctrinal position of the publisher. Try to determine the amount of preparation time the lessons will need. Do the lessons follow a logical scope and sequence (i.e., will it cover basic concepts in a reasonable order)? Do other students who have already used this material for several years demonstrate character qualities and academic skills which match your goals? (See Choosing Curriculum.)

Step 7: For Delawareans, join a DHEA "school" or become an associate member of DHEA. Refer to the DHEA brochure included in this packet and the information under "Homeschooling and the Law." Because it is simplest and easiest, we recommend joining an umbrella school for at least your first year or two.

Step 8: Join the Home School Legal Defense Association. Information regarding HSLDA and an application form are included in this packet. This is not mandatory for Tri-State membership, but we highly recommend this investment, especially for the new homeschooler. HSLDA offers legal support if your home school is ever challenged. HSLDA is also constantly vigilant to keep homeschooling legal and as simple as possible. HSLDA keeps its members informed regarding legal battles that could endanger

our rights to home school. Membership in Tri-State allows you to join HSLDA at a discounted price. Some umbrella schools also offer the same discounted HSLDA membership. Tri-State's HSLDA group number is listed in the masthead of Tri-State's newsletter.

Step 9: Set goals for your school year. There are several books that address scope and sequence for each academic year. *Teaching Children* by Diane Lopez is one you might consider. *World Book* has short scope and sequences called "Typical Course of Study" available by calling 1-800-937-7720. *What Your First Grader (...Second Grader, etc.) Should Know* by ED Hirsch (Core Knowledge Series) is available from Doubleday. There are six books in this series from first through sixth grade; these books describe what the author thinks each grade should learn. Vicki Tillman and Marilyn Groop (410-398-7116) have also compiled a scope and sequence booklet that is available from them for \$5.00. Tri-State usually offers Scope and Sequence Workshops (taught by Vicki and Marilyn) during the academic year. These will help you set goals for your child's grade level. While these should serve as a guide, adhering to these goals may help your child do well on achievement tests and evaluations. We also recommend setting goals for character qualities that you hope to develop in your child. Keep in mind as you set your goals that they are as important for you the teacher as they are for your student. One method of goal setting is to set long term goals (What do I want my child to achieve during their years under my care?), short term goals (What do I want my child to achieve this academic year?), plans (How will we attain this goal?), and assessment. The assessment should probably be performed at least three times per year so that you have the time for remediation if you feel your goal is not being attained. Sometimes you will feel a need to change your goals--this is your prerogative. One of the joys of homeschooling is our ability to teach each child as an individual.

Step 10: Plan a basic 180 school day calendar. What days do you want to set aside for vacation or breaks from school? When do you want to start and end your school year? Homeschoolers do not have to start the same day as public school children. Some families run their school year from July to April. Others follow the traditional September to June schedule. Still other families school for 6 weeks then take a week off; they follow that cycle year round. Other families do school off and on during the summer so that skills are not forgotten and so that there is more flexibility during the traditional school year to take time off. School can be taught on weekends also. This flexibility allows you to determine the schedule that fits your family best. It allows you to take into account work schedules, vacations during the off-season, birth of babies, and breaks for "spring fever."

Step 11: Purchase school supplies. Allow at least a month for supplies to arrive if ordering in the summer. Ask the supplier how long it will take, or check their website for an estimate of delivery time. During the off-season, allow 2 to 3 weeks delivery time.

Step 12: Make a master plan by breaking your year-long educational goals into monthly or unit-sized goals. To do this, first take into account your scheduled breaks. Then calculate how many of your 180 school days you actually have available for teaching by estimating how many days are needed for field trips and catch-up days. (Yes, even professional teachers schedule in catch-up days!) For example, even though you have 180 school days, you might want to set aside 10 days for field trips and one day a month to play catch-up on incomplete work or to participate in extra-curricular activities. For instance, if you allow 10 days for field trips and 10 days for catch-up, you are left with 160 days to teach. Once you know how many teaching days you have, rough out the time schedule for your units. If you are using a textbook with 10 chapters, rough out what chapter you will be doing over what weeks. (If the chapters are of equal length, you would allot 16 days per chapter.) If you are doing unit studies for history and/or science, how many units will you be covering? How long should you allow for each unit? When will you do each unit?

Be aware that these are your goals. Goals are flexible and not set in stone. If your child is struggling with a math concept, take the additional time needed to learn it. Do not proceed through the book just because your master plan says that you need to move on to the next chapter. If your child is fascinated with a topic, take the time to explore it, even if your schedule says to move on. YOU are in charge of the plan; the plan is not in charge of you. The beauty of homeschooling is that you can tailor the education to your child's and family's needs and interests. Allow yourself that freedom without abusing that freedom.

Step 13: Plan a sample school day (or week or month).

Step 14: Get started!

CHOOSING CURRICULUM

The choices for curriculum are overwhelming. What follows is some general information to help you get started in choosing curriculum for your child or children. There is no one perfect method for teaching. There is no one perfect curriculum. No curriculum is perfect for every need. No curriculum is perfect for every child within a family. We have attempted to give you some guidelines for finding the curriculum that best meets the needs of your family. Because you have never homeschooled before, you may not be able to form an opinion about some of the factors. This is okay. Pray for God's wisdom and leading, get as informed as you are able, and then choose. Your personal interest and your love and concern for your child will solve whatever may be lacking in your final curriculum choice. As the teacher, you can adapt your curriculum to meet your needs. If it turns out to be too boring, then jazz it up with interesting books or hands-on projects or field trips. If it is too difficult, then slow down and incorporate other ways of explaining the material. If it is too easy, then skip problems or sections. (If your child is whizzing through the problems perfectly, there is no law that says he has to do all of them!) If there is too much handwriting, then do some of the work orally. If your choice of curriculum for a particular subject is truly not working for your family, then perhaps you should stop using that part and buy something to replace it. It is okay to switch to something else mid-year. (Just save it to sell at the used book sale in May. Your trash could be someone else's treasure!)

Factors to Consider in Choosing a Curriculum

1. Time that you have to plan your teaching

Do you want detailed, day-by-day prepared lesson plans? Do you want general guidelines from which you will develop daily lesson plans? Do you want all the materials supplied, or will you have time to buy things, make teaching aids, or borrow items from a library?

2. Cost

- How much can you afford? Take into account the cost of extracurricular activities, anticipated field trips, manipulatives, and supplies for projects as well as for school books. A very rough rule of thumb is to allow \$250 to \$500 per child, or approximately \$50 per subject. Many families spend more and many families spend less than this rough estimate.
- Many factors affect the amount you spend on homeschooling. Will you be combining children to teach a certain subject? (Perhaps several children will study the same topic in history. Then less money needs to be budgeted.) Will you be relying on the library for books to read? Are the work texts consumable? Does the publisher give you the right to make photocopies, or do you need to buy one set for each child? Do you have time to seek out resources to save money, or can you pay for someone else (the publisher or curriculum provider) to have done the resource-fetching and planning? Can you purchase what you want through a discount supplier or buy it used? Remember to leave some extra money in your budget to buy materials which you did not realize that you would want or need.

3. Number and ages of children you will be teaching / preschoolers in home

Children who read well can work more independently than those who are poor readers or non-readers. Is the book written for the child to gain understanding, or is it just a summary with the expectation that an adult will read a teacher manual and then teach the concept? Will you be combining children to teach certain subjects? (For instance, each child has his or her own math and spelling program, but everyone will study American history and do nature studies, art, and music together. The closer in age and ability children are, the easier it is to group students together.)

4. Philosophy of education

Do you prefer classical education or unschooling? Do you think living books or original, primary sources or textbooks are the best way to learn? Should all learning take place through the lens of a Christian publisher, or will you be comfortable with secular publishers? Do all work texts

need to explicitly use Scripture or have a Christian worldview, or will you deal with views that are contrary to your beliefs? Should children learn independently or be teacher-directed?

5. Learning styles

Every child has his preferred method of learning. The more that you can adapt your teaching and the type of materials you use to the child's learning style, the easier it will be for the child to learn and the fewer struggles you will encounter. Generally speaking, most young elementary age children prefer hands-on learning experiences. Typically by third or fourth grade, one style will predominate. Usually, your curriculum will be slanted heavily toward one style, with a little of every style thrown in. When teaching subjects that your child struggles with, seriously consider using your child's learning style. Consider the following things to help you assess your child's learning style:

- prefers to work independently or needs constant supervision/companionship
- hands-on learner or loves worksheets
- visual learner – learns best by seeing or reading
- auditory learner – learns best by hearing (either hears others speak in person or on pre-recorded media, or hears himself)
- needs structure or prefers to explore freely
- needs to move and do lots of different activities
- prefers to learn in the company of others (either other kids or with Mom)
- needs to talk to you or others to process what is being learned or to enjoy the learning process
- hates to waste time and wants "just the facts, ma'am" and detests projects
- loves the idea of projects
- needs quiet background to concentrate and hear, or can concentrate best with quiet background music
- picks up on and notices the global picture or theme and tends to ignore details OR absorbs and remembers details but misses the "big picture" or theme

For more information about learning styles, read a book by Cynthia Tobias such as *The Way They Learn: How to Discover and Teach to Your Child's Strengths* or *Discover Your Child's Learning Style* by Mariaemma Willis and Victoria Hodson or listen to Debra Bell's tape "Determining Your Child's Learning Style"(available at DebraBell.com).

6. Your teaching style

How do you like to convey information? Often, but not always, your teaching style matches your learning style. Do you learn best by hands-on, project-oriented, discovery methods, by reading and seeing, or by hearing? How do you want to be involved with your kids? Are you longing to explore things with the kids? Do you love to dive into projects and do not mind messes? Do you want quiet, peaceful days reading and discussing books, studying and exploring nature or art? Do you want the kids to do as much as they can on their own, using you as a resource or mentor?

7. How confident you feel in your ability to teach your child

It can be a good idea, for some families, to buy a full curriculum of textbooks from a single source for the first year of homeschooling. This is not always the case, as you may have specific reasons for homeschooling that preclude this (i.e., you know that your child does better with hands-on-activities than a workbook style, or you want to spark your child's interest in learning by making learning more interesting and captivating). Perhaps you are insecure in your understanding of math, so you want to follow a curriculum for math, but you are very confident in your ability to teach science, so you choose the topics and a variety of appropriate resources for teaching science. Knowing your personal strengths and your teaching style, as well as your child's learning style, will be the most help in choosing a curriculum.

8. Relationship to Traditional Schooling

Are you planning to put your child into a traditional school setting within the next year or two? If so, do you need to use the curriculum of that school so that your child can become accustomed to it? What topics will be covered in that school? For what do you need to prepare your child? To avoid boredom, you probably do not want to cover the same topics this year if your child will get the same topics next year in a traditional school setting. What topics does the school expect your child to already have taken or mastered (this is especially important for math)? Consult the school to answer these questions.

If you are removing a child from a traditional school setting, what topics were covered in the past year in history and science? To avoid boredom, you probably do not want to cover those same topics again this year. Where is your child in math or language arts skills? Do you need to cover any gaps in understanding? What level are they really ready for? (Expectations do vary some from publisher to publisher.) Consult with their teachers and/or their textbooks to determine what was learned and what areas need to be worked on.

Curriculum Types

Video Courses Correspondence Schools
Unit Studies Unschooling
Computer classes – either CD-Rom or on-line
Complete curriculum from a single publisher (textbooks)
Picking and choosing between several publishers and/or methods

What to Look for in a Curriculum

Style of Textbook: independent work
 teacher input-- in lesson preparation & actual teaching time.

Keeping in mind your child's motivation level and academic prowess:

Is there a lot of white space on the page or are there lots of interesting sidebars and tidbits?

Is it colorful and eye-appealing, too distracting, or too dull?

Are there frequent review exercises?

Is there too much / not enough content?

Does the material contain a lot of rote memory vs. learning of concepts?

Does the material move fast enough, or is it too slow to sustain your child's interest?

Can your child keep pace with the introduction of new concepts? Is it too fast or too slow?

Living Books: These generally require more teachers planning time, but several grades can be taught simultaneously in subjects such as science and social studies (and to some extent language arts) so overall preparation time and teaching may balance out.

Unit Studies: While unit studies require more teacher preparation (although there are many ready-to-use units) than a traditional textbook approach, unit studies offer the advantage of being able to teach several students simultaneously and usually include hands-on activities that help reinforce the information that is being learned. Unit studies work well for science and social studies activities and can include creative writing. Grammar, spelling, and math are more difficult to teach using the unit study method. Although some of these concepts can be included, these subjects require precept upon precept teaching that is best covered using textbooks for each grade level.

CURRICULUM SOURCES

Local Stores

Tri-State does not necessarily endorse these stores or centers, although their resources are very helpful to teachers and parents alike. Many of these stores offer teacher discounts. Be sure to ask! You may be asked to display a "teacher" card. These are available through your "umbrella" school. Because Tri-State is not a school, we do not issue "teacher" cards. Single family schools can issue themselves their own teacher identification cards.

Double-check that these teacher resource centers are still located at the addresses listed and that they are available to home educators. Their location, hours, and availability change frequently.

Borders, 101 Geoffrey Dr., Newark, DE, 302-366-8144 or 4221 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 302-477-0361

Family Christian Stores, 1103 Churchmans Rd., Newark, DE, 302-368-7002 or Peoples Plaza, Glasgow, DE 302-834-1013

The Learning Station, 121 East Main Street, Newark, DE 302-737-4117

The Map Store, 3301 Lancaster Ave., Wilmington, DE 302-576-8900

Teacher's Bookbag, 900 Peoples Plaza, Glasgow, DE 302-836-4000

The Claymont Community Center, 3301 Green Street, Claymont, 302-761-7494.

The Delaware Teacher Center and Family Resource Center, Baltz School, Elsmere, 302-892-3282, has laminating machines, cutters and magazines available. MWTh 5-8PM

Teacher Center, Middletown H.S., Mon.-Thurs., 3-6PM, 378-2757

Delaware Teacher Centers: These centers offer laminating, camcorders, vcr's, tape duplication, and curriculum and resources.

Claymont - 792-3858

Newark - 454-2431

Dover - 739-5569

Harrington - 398-4272

Lewes 645-6250

Seaford - 629-5711

Millsboro - 934-7416

These centers offer free classes throughout the year. For information call Delaware Teacher Center Department of Public Instruction (ask for course listing).

New Castle and Sussex Counties (800) 282-8770

Kent County 736-6723

Delaware Learning Resource Centers: The state collection consists of over 25,000 books, cassettes, filmstrips, records, videos, manipulatives, and games. Located in Willard Hall on Main Street in Newark is a lending library filled with manipulatives, textbooks, tapes, videos, filmstrips, science kits, games, puzzles, globes, and books. Typewriters and paper cutters are available for use there, and laminating is available for a fee per linear foot. It is open to all parents and teachers in Delaware. Call for hours. Checkout time is 2 weeks.

012 Willard Hall	Kent County LRC	Sussex County LRC
U of D	Central Middle School	Del Tech Community College Newark, DE
19716	Delaware Ave. Southern Campus	
451-2084	Dover, DE 19901	Georgetown, DE 19947
831-2335	736-5558	856-5429

NASA Goddard Research Center---Teacher Center Greenbelt, MD, 20771
Lots of free teaching materials that have to do with science.

The basement of the Air & Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., houses a great selection of free curriculum for teachers. Make sure to take along blank video tapes and computer disks on which to have information copied. This is our tax dollars at work!

*Do not forget your **public libraries** and **museums!** Consider purchasing a family membership to a museum. Besides allowing repeat visits for free, one family membership often gets you into quite a few different area museums. Family membership also gives you a discount at the museum store.

Curriculum Sources

Listed below are companies which sell homeschooling curriculum and supplies. An asterisk (*) after the company's phone number indicates that a paper catalog can be requested.

- A Beka** <http://www.abeka.com> (877) 223-5226 *
- Bible-based textbook curriculum
- an affiliate of Pensacola Christian College. They are dedicated to providing quality education from a Christian perspective. Their skilled researchers and writers do not paraphrase progressive education textbooks and add Biblical principles; they do primary research in every subject and look at the subject from God's point of view.(description taken from web site)
- Alpha Omega Publications** <http://www.AOP.com> (800)622-3070
- Six Options: **Switched-on Schoolhouse**- a CD-ROM curriculum. **Lifepac** - A work text program (for both the previous programs you can do all the subjects or pick and choose, Core subjects as well as electives). **Horizons** - basic math and language instruction. **Weaver** - Scriptural lessons, based on the books of the Old Testament. A hands-on unit study including Language Arts, History, Geography, Bible, Science, and Art.
- Amazon Online** <http://www.amazon.com/>
- books, videos, etc. galore
- Answers in Genesis** <http://www.answersingenesis.org> *
- Creation Resources
- Apologia Educational Ministries, Inc.** <http://www.apologia.com> 888-524-4724 *
- Junior high and high school level science curriculum written specifically for homeschoolers. Includes labs.
- Barb Shelton** <http://www.homeschooloasis.com> no phone calls
- Jumpstart Navigator for Younger Children, Senior High: A Home Designed Form*U*La, Make Your Own Phonics Book, Booklet Building Book and many other home school helps.
- Beautiful Feet Books** <http://www.bfbooks.com/> (800) 889-1978
- Literature based history and geography
- Bob Jones University Press** <http://www.bjup.com/> (800) 845-5731 *
- Bible-based textbook curriculum
- Bright Ideas Press** <http://www.BrightIdeasPress.com> 877-492-8081 *

Practical, fun and affordable guides for studying geography, history and science, plus maps

Budgettext	http://www.budgettext.com	(888) 888-2272 orders only	
Good source of textbooks, AP titles, and teacher's editions at good prices. They have most major publishers, including Bob Jones, ABEKA, Saxon, Globe Fearon, Houghton-Mifflin, and others.			
Builder Books	http://www.bbhomeschoolcatalog.com	(800) 260-5461	
Chinaberry	http://www.chinaberry.com	(800) 776-2242	*
Christian Book Distributors (CBD)	http://www.christianbook.com	(800) 247-4784	*
A wide variety and large volume of resources at discount prices			
Christian Life	http://www.crossroads.com		
Classes2You	http://www.classes2you.com	(800)622-3070	
Based on Alpha-Omega's Switched -on Schoolhouse curriculum, and 100% Internet-based.			
Cobblestone Publishing	http://www.cobblestonepub.com	(800) 821-0115	
Historically themed magazine full of photos, sidebars and articles			
Debra Bell's Home School Resource Center	http://www.debrabell.com	(717) 838-5273	*
Wide variety, lots of resources			
Diana Waring	http://www.dianawaring.com/	(605) 642-7583	
Digging Deeper Study Guides for History, great tapes of History tales and other History helps			
Doorposts	http://www.doorposts.net/	(503) 357-4749	
Great resources for character building for yourself and your children.			
Eagles Wings	http://www.eagleswingsed.com/	(580) 252-1551	*
Hands-on combined with workbook approach. Phonics, science and Bible history programs			
Elijah Company	http://www.elijahco.com	(888) 2-ELIJAH	*
Besides its curriculum, the catalog itself offers a wonderful, concise explanation of the different styles of homeschooling, with pros, cons and typical curriculum for each style listed.			
Ellen McHenry's Basement Workshop	http://www.thebasementworkshop.com		*

Small number of resources, but all creative and well-done teaching guides and games for science, some history and language arts. Mainly for grades 3 & up (into high school)

- Farm Country General Store** (800) 551-FARM *
- Curriculum, Books, Puzzles, Arts/Crafts, Historic Paper Dolls, Open Pollinated Seeds, Games, Health & Nutrition, Felts, Rubber Stamps, Videos, Music, Software... and Much More
- Five In A Row** <http://www.fiveinarow.com/> (816) 246-9252
- Literature based unit study curriculum for preschool through 9th
- Follett Books** <http://www.follett.com>
- Good source for discounted text books
- Fun Books** <http://www.fun-books.com> (888) 368-7020
- Aimed at unschoolers, but has a nice set of interesting educational materials for any home schooling philosophy. Also sells back issues of the out-of-print "Growing Without Schooling" magazine by John Holt
- Geography Matters** <http://www.geomatters.com/> (606) 636-4697
- Committed to helping you find fun & effective ways to teach Geography, History and Science.
- God's World Book Club** <http://www.gwbc.com/godsworld/> (800) 951-2665 *
- Greenleaf Press** <http://www.greenleafpress.com/> (800) 311-1508 *
- Famous Men Study Guides and many great History resources
- Hands On and Beyond** <http://www.handsonandbeyond.com/> (888) 275-7309 *
- Unique resources not found elsewhere
- Hands On Equations** <Http://www.borenson.com/> (800) 993-6284
- a visual and kinesthetic teaching system for introducing algebraic concepts to students in grades 3 to 8.
- Heart of Wisdom** <http://www.heartofwisdom.com/> no phone, only email from website *
- Homeschooling Used Curriculum Sites** <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8259/used.html>
- A site with links to many Used Curriculum sites. A great resource for Used Curriculum if you want to buy or sell.
- Jason Project** <http://www.jasonproject.org>

Bob Ballard's yearly expedition and science exploration curriculum.

Keepers of the Faith	http://www.keepersofthefait.com/	(906) 663-6881	
Contenders of the Faith and Keepers at Home - a Christian based "club" like Girl and Boy Scouts that has handbooks for each of the above groups, one for boys and one for girls. You can do the "club" as a family or involve other families. It has spiritual requirements as well as nature, craft, and "school" type requirements that you fulfill and earn badges that you then order from the company. The badges go on a sash or banner; older girls can also get a charm bracelet.			
Lacelle Family Ministry	http://www.lacellefamily.com/	(315) 245-4019	
Lamplighter Publishing Great Literature	http://www.agospel.com/	(888) 246-7735	*
Learning Products and Services by Joyce Herzog	http://joyceherzog.com/	(800) 745-8212	
Scaredy Cat Reading System, other products geared to children with learning disabilities			
Lifetime Books and Gifts – Always Incomplete Catalog	http://www.lifetimeonline.com/	(800) 377-0390	*
wide variety and large volume of resources			
Logos Catalog	http://www.logoschool.com	1-866-562-2174	*
Classical and Christian education materials			
Mantle Ministries	http://www.mantlemin.com/	(830) 438-3777	
Web site of Richard "Little Bear" Wheeler, historical storyteller in costume, great videos and books			
Math You See	http://www.mathusee.com/	(888) 854-6284	
Hands on Math curriculum. All Grades.			
Media Angels	http://www.noahzark.com/		
Makers of Creation Science Unit Study Guides			
Peace Hill Press	http://peacehillpress.com/	877-322- 3445	
High quality books for Classical education			
Power Glide Foreign Languages	http://www.power-glide.com/	(801) 373-3973	
Professor B Math	Http://www.profb.com	(770) 814-8888	
Mathematics Power Learning for Children			
Queen Home School Supplies	http://www.homeschool.com	888-695-2777	*

The "Charlotte Mason store" – full of living books

- Rainbow Resource** <http://www.rainbowresource.com> (888) 841-3456
Mega-resource catalog. Has most of the curriculum listed on this page at discount prices.
- Redwood Games** <http://www.redwoodgames.com>
also worksheets to go with What your Nth Grader Needs to Know by E.D. Hirsch
- Rock Solid** <http://www.rocksolidinc.com/> (800) 705-3452
Limited resources but discount prices
- Sonlight** <http://www.sonlight-curriculum.com/> (303) 795-8668 *
Preplanned curriculum combining history and literature using living books. Can buy all subjects or pick and choose.
- Timberdoodle** <http://www.timberdoodle.com/> (360) 426-0672 *
Offers many products not found elsewhere.
- Tobin's Lab** <http://www.tobinslab.com> (800) 522-4776 *
Specializes in great science resources
- Veritas Press** <http://www.VeritasPress.com> 1-800-922-5082 *
A large resource for classical education. Also a great source for living books.
- Visual Manna Online** <http://www.visualmanna.com> (888) 275-7309 *
art curriculum
- Wallbuilders** <http://www.wallbuilders.com/> (864) 968-0391 *
Organization dedicated to the restoration of the moral and religious foundation on which America was built—a foundation which, in recent years, has been seriously attacked and undermined. We develop materials to educate the public concerning the periods in our country's history when its laws and policies were firmly rooted in Biblical principles. (description taken from web site)

READING LIST

*Tri-State does not necessarily endorse the books found on this list. The purpose of this list is to assist the new homeschooler in finding resources that may help, encourage, or bring practical advice to the realm of home education. Books marked with an * can be found in the New Castle Public Library System. Do a search and read them (or at least check them out) before you buy them. Others can be purchased from the web sites listed above! If you do not have a background with homeschooling and you are looking for a very first book to read about homeschooling, Tri-State recommends The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling by Debra Bell.*

Title	Author
<u>Philosophies of Education</u>	
*The How and Why of Homeschooling	Ray E. Ballmann
*For the Children's Sake [an introduction to Charlotte Mason]	Susan Schaeffer Macaulay
*Better Late Than Early	Raymond Moore
*Home Grown Kids	Raymond Moore
Home Style Teaching	Raymond Moore
*The Successful Home School Family Handbook	R. & Dorothy Moore
*Schoolproof	Mary Pride
<u>Curriculum Guides</u>	
*Christian Home Educator's Curriculum Manual (Elementary and Secondary)	Cathy Duffy
*What Your 1st (2nd, 3rd,....6th) Grader Needs to Know	E. D. Hirsch
*Teaching Children: a Curriculum Guide to What Children Need to Know At Each Level	Diane Lopez
What Your Child Need to Know When (...Checklist for Gr.K-8)	Robin Scarlata
<u>Homeschooling References</u>	
*The Home School Manual	Ted Wade
Teaching Kindergartners/*Primaries/Juniors (3 separate bks.)	Ruth Beechick
*Teaching Preschoolers	Ruth Beechick
*The 3 R's Series :	
Home Start in Reading	Ruth Beechick
Easy Start in Arithmetic	
Strong Start in Language	
*Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling	Debra Bell
Honey for a Child's Heart	Gladys Hunt
*The Big Book of Home Learning (vol. 1 – 4)	Mary Pride
*The Complete Home Learning Sourcebook	Rebecca Rupp
*Getting Started on Home Learning	Rebecca Rupp
Books Children Love	Elizabeth Wilson

General Resources

The Charlotte Mason Companion
*You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully
*Hard Times in Paradise
*Homeschooling the Teen Years
*Homeschooling for Excellence
*Homeschooling the Early Years
 Successful Homeschooling
 Motivating Your Kids from Crayons to Career
*How to Home School
*Homeschooling the Middle Years
*Unofficial Guide to Homeschooling in Delaware
*How Children Fail
*How Children Learn
*Learning All the Time
 The Relaxed Home School
 Wisdom's Way of Learning
*Homeschooling From Scratch
*The Right Choice: Homeschooling
*Homeschooling: A Patchwork of Days
*A Charlotte Mason Education
*More Charlotte Mason Education
 A Survivor's Guide to Homeschooling
 Senior High: A Home-Designed Form+U+La
*The Key to Your Child's Heart
 Teach Me Lord That I May Teach
 How to Keep Your Kids on Your Team
 You and Your Child
*Every Child Can Succeed
*The Way They Learn
 Things We Wish We'd Known...
 Beyond Survival: A Guide to Abundant-Life Homeschooling
*The Well-Trained Mind

Especially for Fathers

*The Homeschooling Father
 What Kids Need Most in a Dad
 How to be a Hero to Your Kids

Record Keeping/Organization

The Revised Home Education Copy Book

Child/Character Training

*The Book of Virtues
Developing Character
The Child's Book of Character Building
*Dare to Discipline
Searching For Treasure
A Mother's Heart
Polished Cornerstones / Plants Grow Up
What the Bible Says About Child Training
Patch the Pirate Tapes and CD's
Wisdom and the Millers, Storytime with the Millers,
 Missionary Stories with the Millers, Prudence and the
 Millers, School Days with the Millers
Home Built Discipline
Peacemaker/ Young Peacemaker

Karen Andreola
Ruth Beechick
David & Micki Colfax
Cafi Cohen
David & Micki Colfax
Linda Dobson
Richard Fugate
Cheri Fuller
Gayle Graham
 Shari Henry
M. Hogan, & J.Baker
 John Holt
 John Holt
John Holt
 Mary Hood
 Marilyn Howshall
Mary Potter Kenyon
Chris Klicka
 Nancy Lande
Catherine Levinson
 Catherine Levinson
Shackelford and White
Barbara Shelton
Gary Smalley
 B. & D. Smith
Charles Stanley
 Chuck Swindoll
 Cynthia Tobias
Cynthia Tobias
 Diana Waring
Diana Waring
J. Wise and S. Bauer

Michael Farris
Tim Hansel
Josh McDowell

Katherine von Duke

 William Bennett
Caruso, Marks & Peterson
 Ron & R. Coriell
 James Dobson
Marty Elwell
 Jean Fleming
Pam Forster
 Richard Fugate
Ron Hamilton/Majesty Music
Mildred A. Martin

Raymond, Dorothy Moore
 Ken Sande/ Corlette Sande

What Would Jesus Do?/In His Hands
Separate (for ages 2-4)
Growing Up God's Way

Charles M. Sheldon
classic retold by M. Thomas
John A. Stormer

Combined or

Household Organization

*Clutter's Last Stand
*Make Your House Do the Housework
Dinner's in the Freezer
cents and abilities
*Clutter Control
My First 300 Babies
*401 Ways to Get Your Kids to Work at Home

Don Aslett
Don Aslett
Jill Bond
Kathy Bradford
Jeff Campbell
Gladys Hendrick
McCullough and Monson

Magazines for Kids

Your Big Backyard/Ranger Rick NWF, PO Box 777, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0777
Chickadee/Owl 800-387-4379 (science)
God's World Papers 800-951-2665
Kids Discover 800-284-8276
Ladybug/Spider/Cricket 800-827-0227
Nature Friend
Weekly Reader 800-446-3355
National Geographic World
Zoo Books
Highlights, Puzzlemania, Top Secret Adventures

Cobblestone Publishing Company, publishers of *COBBLESTONE* Magazine - each full-color, 52-page themed issue of *COBBLESTONE* is packed with lively and compelling articles and sidebars. Historic photographs, original illustrations, primary documents, maps, activities, and contests complement the text and appeal to young readers. To ensure historical accuracy and interesting reading, *COBBLESTONE* works closely with historians, leading children's writers, and museum personnel. Also publishes *BABYBUG*, *LADYBUG*, *SPIDER*, *CRICKET* and other kids magazines. Many of these magazines are in the New Castle County Libraries, but you may want a subscription for your child. Back issues are available. They also have a limited amount of other resources online.

Magazines for Families

<i>Family Fun</i>	800-365-4438	www.familyfun.com
<i>Home Education Magazine</i>	800-236-3278	www.home-ed-magazine.com
<i>Homeschooling Today</i>	281-492-6050	www.homeschoolingtoday.com
<i>The Old Schoolhouse</i>	530-823-0447	www.thehomeschoolmagazine.com
<i>Practical Homeschooling</i>	800-346-6322	www.home-school.com
<i>The Teaching Home</i>	503-253-9633	www.teachinghome.com
<i>Growing Without Schooling</i>	no longer published; back issues can be ordered at www.fun-books.com	

If you know someone who is dubious about the effectiveness of homeschooling, consider arming yourself with the results of professional, academic research by Dr. Brian Ray. Dr. Ray has written several books on this topic based upon his research findings, and he referees an academic research journal about home-based education. Check his website for information and to purchase books: www.nheri.org.

20 Elements of Success in Christian Home Education

Periodically evaluating how your family includes and balances these basic elements will keep you on track for success.

- 1. Bible Knowledge** Develop your children's Bible knowledge and Bible study skills by ordering grade level Bible curriculum from a Christian publisher, choosing an upgraded family Bible study guide, or reading through the Bible together, stopping to explore meanings and applications. Memorize Bible passages together by drilling verse cards, reading or reciting aloud, or writing and rewriting them.
- 2. Scriptural Perspective** Curriculum materials from Christian publishers avoid atheistic slants and portray a biblical view. When you use other materials (e.g., library books and encyclopedias), guide your children's understanding in light of Scripture. You can do Bible studies based on school topics as well.
- 3. World View** Knowledge of Bible doctrine and principles provides a vantage point for an accurate, discerning, yet compassionate world view.
- 4. Character Training** Qualities such as diligence, responsibility, and consideration can be studied in the Bible and other literature, charted to show personal progress, made the theme of a unit study, or developed through chores and projects.
- 5. Spiritual Growth** Christian homeschoolers seek to promote their children's spiritual growth, including personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and loving dedication to Him.
- 6. Useful Habits** Regular habits that minimize stress, save time, and provide other benefits include grooming and health habits, courteous behavior and speech, concentration on studies, and initiative and thoroughness in chores.
- 7. Family Teamwork** Each member of the family can make a contribution to the success of the whole. Toddlers can pick up toys, young children can do simple chores, older ones can take on larger responsibilities, teenagers and some preteens can help with teaching, and parents can encourage, support, and help each other.

- 8. Organization** Organization of time and space contributes to an effective home-school environment. Schedules and lesson plans, however flexible, give direction to daily activities. An orderly household with a planned time and place for everything facilitates education and allows more enrichment activities.
- 9. Atmosphere** A positive atmosphere of mutual love and respect makes teaching and learning more effective. Parents' understanding attitudes foster parent-child interaction.
- 10. Involvement** Children learn best from parents who are closely involved with them in work, play, conversation, study, and all of life.
- 11. Example** It is important for parents to model dedication to God, good character traits, disciplined habits, and enthusiasm for learning. Parents also need to supervise and limit children's exposure to poor examples in TV programs, books, or the behavior of friends.
- 12. Experiences** Varied experiences, such as shopping, errands, home repairs, nursing home visits, trips to local museums and work places, and out-of-town excursions build the background knowledge for academic learning.
- 13. Understanding** Parents who are sensitive to their child can recognize and accommodate his readiness to learn new concepts, his abilities or difficulties in various areas, his personal interests, and his tendencies to learn best by either sight, sound, touch, or movement.
- 14. Motivation** Parents can use a child's curiosity, needs, and interests to motivate learning. They can stimulate new interests through reading, conversation, questions, and family activities. The ultimate motivation for both parent and child is to serve our Lord and others.
- 15. Discipline** The goal of raising self-disciplined children can be reached only after they learn to willingly accept parental discipline. Parents must consistently require children to behave according to established standards. Affirmation should follow obedience and cooperation; negative consequences are appropriate when a child disobeys or rebels.
- 16. Thinking Skills** Parents need to ensure children are developing the skills of thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving. Children also need to learn how to study and learn on their own. Besides curriculum materials that contribute to these aims, parents can design questions and projects to stimulate such growth.
- 17. Mastery** In developing the foundational skills of reading, language, and math, children need to thoroughly master some concepts before others. (This does not apply as much to subjects such as history, literature, and science in which topics can be studied in any order.) Children must review frequently in all subjects to be sure learning is retained. True mastery is demonstrated by generalizing from facts and applying principles.
- 18. Connected Knowledge** It is valuable to make connections between facts. A master time line or categorized fact file can help you find and call attention to historical events, geographical locations, scientific developments or facts, literature, and art that relate to your present study. These relationships between facts, concepts, and previously acquired knowledge help children to understand and remember what they are taught.
- 19. Resources** Educational resources that can be used repeatedly include reference books (encyclopedia, dictionaries, thesauruses, Bible concordances, atlases, nature guides, etc.) and higher-level textbooks. Also collect aids such as time lines, maps, globes, pictures, charts, videos, and tapes; manipulatives for math or other subjects; educational games and software; and various tools.
- 20. Life Skills** Life skills include budgeting; cooking; shopping; driving; repairs; maintaining a house, yard, and car; banking; voting; and finding information by phone, letter, or Internet. (Supervise

Internet use closely.) Children receive training and practice in these skills as they work with parents. When able, children may take responsibility for entire areas, thus rehearsing for adult life.

Copyright 2001 by *The Teaching Home*, Box 20219, Portland OR 97294, tth@TeachingHome.com, www.TeachingHome.com. Used with permission.

Checklist for Starting a School Year

by Cindy Short and Sue Welch, editors

- Prayer.** Pray for wisdom, guidance, and strength (Prov. 3:5-6). Make a daily quiet time with God top priority.
- Communication.** Maintain good communication with your spouse at each step in the process. One parent may do most of the research, planning, or teaching, but the other should be informed and involved in decision-making, especially setting goals.
- Goals.** Write out, or review, your long-range goals and philosophy (fundamental convictions) for your children's education and training. Include Bible verses and plan for both academic subjects and nonacademic areas such as character and life skills. Make changes or additions as you gain insight and experience.
- Inventory.** Take inventory of each child's knowledge, skills, and character. You may use standardized tests, publishers' diagnostics, or homemade oral or written tests in addition to your everyday observations.
- Objectives.** Set objectives for each child that will move him toward your long range goals. (Several children can share similar objectives in subjects like history or science. They would usually be at different levels in math and have different needs in character development.) You may find a publisher's scope and sequence or a list of concepts usually taught at each level helpful for ideas or a guide in choosing materials to fit your objectives. Discuss these objectives with each child privately, and explain how they fit into the big picture of his future.
- Methods.** Consider various teaching methods, curriculum, and other available resources. Basic differences involve the degree of structure or flexibility you wish to use at each stage of your child's development. If possible, visit a curriculum fair.
- Budget.** Rework your budget, allocating funds for educational materials. You may be able to spend less on "school" clothes or transportation and emphasize learning tools, books, and games for gifts. Less expensive foods that require more preparation cut costs and also provide life skills education.
- Reference Library.** Add to your family's library of reference books, quality literature, and educational audio-visual and software aids that will help meet your objectives.
- Libraries.** Learn how to use your local library system and how to reserve books or order them through interlibrary loans. Explore the reference section. Also browse through your church library.
- Materials.** Choose and list the methods and materials that you will use to meet your objectives for each child this year. Then, ideally, order or collect materials early! Textbooks or workbooks can be supplemented with unit studies, games, projects, etc., to cover all objectives. You may select only parts of some books if the other material will be (or was) covered at another time. Decide which of your children could be taught some material together for most efficient use of time and effort. For example, you could read a Christian history text at an intermediate-level to all your children, assigning age-appropriate projects such as oral discussion or a play for young children, extra reading or research for older children.
- Legal Arrangements.** To comply with your state laws as fully as possible, contact your state organization and consider joining Home School Legal Defense Association.
- Household Organization.** Do a thorough cleaning of your house. Get rid of unused items and store little-used ones out of the way. Designate a place for everything, including space for books and school supplies.
- Family Schedule.** Reorganize your family's schedule and chore assignments to fit your educational activities. Train children to do household tasks and establish regular meal and bed times.

- Discipline.** Deal consistently with behavior or attitude problems.
- Commitment.** Be prepared to handle opposition or lack of immediate success through prayer, adjustment, and perseverance.
- Head Start.** Establish nonacademic (e.g., Bible, life skills) portions of your program several weeks before other studies begin.
- Teacher Review.** Study basics of math, phonics, and spelling to prepare for presenting them to your children. Look through an English handbook that you will use for reference. You can learn or review other material with your children as they study it.
- Calendar.** Plan your year's calendar, marking school days, test days, vacations, and special events.
- Preparation.** Familiarize yourself with your curriculum, noting unit divisions, and collect any needed supplementary materials.
- Planning.** Decide and list which topics, units, or subjects you will cover during which weeks or months to make an overall year's plan. For example, you could plan a certain number of pages per day in math and language, a chapter every two weeks in history and science, or a history chapter each week in the first semester and a science chapter each week in the second. Units can also be shifted to coincide with related events or seasons.
- School Schedule.** Use your plan to develop your daily and weekly schedule of studies.
- Record Keeping.** Decide how you will record planned and actual activities.
- Supplies.** Gather record-keeping and filing supplies, general school supplies, and special project supplies.
- First Week.** Plan your first week or unit, referring to your overall plan.
- Celebrations.** Plan special celebrations for the first day of school and for the completion of the first week or unit of study as well as for the mastery of significant skills.
- Explanations.** Carefully explain your expectations and procedures to your children.
- Beginning.** Get started and keep going. Make adjustments as needed. Enjoy this privilege of investing your life moment-by-moment in the lives of your children!

Copyright 2001 by *The Teaching Home*, Box 20219, Portland OR 97294, tth@TeachingHome.com, www.TeachingHome.com. Used with permission.

"Getting the Most Out of Home-School Conventions, Conferences, and Book Fairs" (copyright free from *The Teaching Home* magazine)

Benefits of Attending

Unique benefits await you at your local, regional, or state home-school convention, conference, or book fair!

The opportunities brought together in this once-a-year event can renew and expand your vision for teaching and training your children.

To Yourself. Be encouraged, rejuvenated, inspired, motivated, and better equipped to teach and train your children.

Speakers. Be exposed to new ideas, methods, materials, approaches, and broaden your horizons.

Workshops. Practical teacher training on specific topics to use in your home to be more efficient.

Exhibit Hall. Examine, compare, and purchase a great variety of the latest and best of home education materials, technologies, and products from hundreds of selections in one place. Discuss products and speak to authors or knowledgeable representatives and have your questions answered.

Usually save on shipping.

Networking with other homeschoolers.

Extras

Check to see if any of these are offered at your convention.

- Used curriculum sale
- Teens' or children's programs
- Tapes of general sessions and workshops
- Luncheon or meeting for support group leaders
- Graduation ceremony
- Boxed lunch or snack bar
- Special hotel room rates

Who Should Go with You

Spouse. It is ideal for a husband and wife to go together in order to share perspectives and to keep focused on your goals and budget.

Friend. If it is not possible for your spouse to attend, a friend can help you in much the same way.

Hotel Room. If you need to travel far, you may want to take a room for overnight, to stow purchases, and take a brief rest.

Nursing Babies, of course, stay with Mom.

Young Children. Children may not be allowed and will be a distraction; either you will not be able to get all you can out of the convention, or you will not be able to give adequate care to your children.

Teens and Older Children. If your convention offers special programs for teens and older children you may want to consider this option.

Registration

Check out these options when you register.

Early Registration. This can save you money that you < CAN SPEND ON BUYING MATERIALS.

Volunteer. A few hours or more can be a real help to the organization sponsoring the event, and you may be rewarded by a reduced entrance fee and/or other benefits. You will also get to know some great homeschoolers while working with them.

Join Organization. By joining, you help support home-school efforts in your area, plus you may receive discounts on your convention fee and on membership in Home School Legal Defense Association.

Special Rates for couples, Grandparents, teens, children, pastors, and other full-time ministers.

Preparation

The vast array of workshops and exhibit booths, combined with a limited time to take it all in, can be overwhelming when you walk into a convention unprepared. On the other hand, if you go with a plan and focus on your purpose and priorities, you can spend your time more wisely and get the most out of the convention.

This is an ideal opportunity to discuss with your husband your overall and yearly home-school goals and plans.

Pray with Your Spouse. First of all accept our gracious Lord's offer of wisdom and direction. Pray about who should attend and what your purposes are in attending.

Obtain a convention schedule, list of exhibitors and/or exhibit hall floor plan.

Select speakers' sessions and workshops you want to attend. Prioritize and mark as "must attend" or "would like to attend if possible," and the tapes of which sessions you would like to buy.

Compare your agenda with that of your husband or friend attending with you and see if you can

cover several different sessions and share their content with each other.

___ **Research.** Check out publishers' and suppliers' catalogs (print or online) to plan what you would like to examine and consider. The more you know beforehand, the more you will profit from the opportunity of hands-on comparison shopping. You can link to 124 home-school suppliers at <http://www.teachinghome.com/resources/index.cfm>

___ **Shopping List.** You probably would not go to the grocery store without a list. Make a list of specific materials or the types of materials you will be looking for to meet the instructional needs of each of your children according to the goals you and your husband have discussed.

___ **Identify** four or five "must see" exhibitors, then prioritize the rest. Mark your program or exhibit hall floor plan, or make a list.

___ **Questions.** Make a list of questions to ask exhibitors, speakers, and/or other attendees.

___ **Budget.** Determine your budget with your husband. Along with your shopping list and goals, this will help you MAKE PURCHASING DECISIONS.

The Day Before

Make these last minute preparations after all your planning is done.

___ **Family Needs.** Spend some special time with your children and husband. Prepare meals and make provision to meet other needs while you are at convention. Confirm child care arrangements.

___ **Directions.** Make sure you know exactly how to get to the convention facility and what parking is available so that you do not lose valuable time and emotional energy just getting there.

___ **Schedule.** Plan to leave in time to be early or on time. Otherwise, at the end of the day, you will wish you had another hour or two.

___ **Pack** items you will take with you (see below).

___ **Get** a good night's sleep and a good breakfast.

What To Take with You

You do not want to be laden down with too much stuff, but here are a few essentials.

___ Directions and/or map.

___ Highlighter to mark your program.

___ Canvas tote(s) for handouts and purchases.

___ Steno pad and pens to take lots of notes.

___ Mailing labels to use in filling out forms.

___ Watch to keep track of time so you won't miss sessions.

___ Comfortable walking shoes.

___ Water, snack, and lunch, unless you have other plans.

Convention Manners

Observe these guidelines to show consideration to everyone involved at the convention.

___ **Rules.** Follow the rules set out for the convention regarding: food and beverage in exhibit hall (check if bottled water is OK), children, strollers, etc.

___ **Exhibitors.** Support the ones who help you. Do not take up a lot of an exhibitor's time in counseling and explaining his products and then go buy from someone else or a discount supplier. Exhibitors help make the convention possible.

___ **Babies and Children.** Immediately remove a crying or disrupting child from a workshop or meeting. Ask your child to give his chair to an adult if there is not enough seating.

At the Convention

Once at the convention, follow your plan, but make allowance for the unexpected opportunity.

___ **Schedule.** If you have not already obtained and marked a schedule and exhibit hall floor plan, do this first.

___ **Breaks.** Take breaks to rest your feet, reassess your progress, and write notes while your impressions are fresh.

___ **Speakers.** Don't expect to agree with everything a speaker says. Compare everything to God's Word; accept and use what you can and let the rest go.

___ **The Unexpected.** Allow some free time to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity.

Exhibit Hall

___ **Work Your Plan.** Use your prioritized plan of booth visits and your shopping list to do your "must see" visits first, then go through the exhibit hall finding and learning more new things.

___ **Talk to vendors** about their products' methods, goals, and philosophy, and how to use it. Use your list of questions.

___ **Purchases.** Use the parcel check if available, or take your purchases to your room or car to save wear and tear on yourself.

___ **Busy.** If the sales representatives are busy at a "must see" booth, go on and return later, or ask to be included in the discussion by saying, "I'm interested in this product too. May I listen in?"

___ **Also visit** nonprofit and service organizations' booths to find out what they can offer you, especially your state organization, Home School Legal Defense Association, and National Home Education Research Institute.

___ **Give Feedback.** When appropriate, tell a vendor about your needs, opinions, and experiences so that your input can help them produce products and services that better meet the needs of homeschoolers. Try to give a brief, succinct, one or two sentence statement that it is clear, focused, and does not take up too much of his time.

Networking

___ **Meet and talk to** other attendees; greet old friends and make new ones.

___ **Ask advice.** Get feedback on ideas and products and share opinions and experiences. You may get your most valuable information and encouragement from another home-school mom.

___ **Offer to help someone.** Hold a baby and give a mother's arms a rest; find a new homeschooler (it will be obvious) and give a word or more of encouragement; find someone alone and listen to them for a while; offer to help a speaker or exhibitor. Smile at everyone.

Follow-Up

___ **Debriefing.** Have a debriefing discussion with your husband or friend. Talking over the ideas and products you encountered at the convention will help you sort through things, keeping some and discarding others, focusing on how to get the most out of your experience.

___ **Just Do It.** Return home with at least one new idea to put into practice that will make a difference in your home school. Look over all your notes while they are fresh, and narrow down all the wonderful lists of things you would like to do to no more than six. Then prioritize your list and start on the first one the following week.

___ **Be Accountable.** Ask your husband or a friend to pray for you and keep you accountable to work on your goal. It is good to have ongoing accountability to share ideas and objectives and require updates from each other on a regular basis. The results may surprise and encourage you.

___ **Share the information** you have gathered with your support group or someone who was not able to attend. Let them know if you would recommend that they plan to attend next year.

___ **Clean Up.** Sort literature you received into four categories to: 1) take action 2) save for future reference or reading, 3) pass on to someone else, 4) toss.

___ **Thank You's!** Write a thank you note to those who put so much effort into planning and putting on

the convention, a speaker that ministered to you, or an exhibitor that took time to help you.

Copyright-Free Notice

This article, "Getting the Most Out of Home-School Conventions, Conferences, and Book Fairs" is offered for you to use free of copyright. You may adapt it to your particular event and print it or post it on your website.

All other material published by *The Teaching Home* is copyright and is available to reprint by permission only or by a copyright-free notice such as this one.