

One Day Monthly

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Although curriculum can be a critical factor in your homeschooling achievement, you need to do your homework before boldly going where others have gone before.

Volume 2, Issue 5

Topics in this issue:

- What Curriculum is best for you?
- Choosing classes at One Day Academy
- Spelling Bee results

What You Need to Know Before Ordering Homeschool Curriculum

Editor's Note:
The following is Part One in a series by One Day Academy teacher Viv Lynn.

Do you remember when you made that vital decision to homeschool? Most likely, you were filled with a curious mixture of emotions: optimism yet doubt. Questions rifled through your mind. "Will this be the year that everything really comes together? Will this be the year that our children boldly proclaim their fervent love of learning?"

Many parents feel that a huge component of their success in homeschooling hinges upon the curriculum they select for their family. Although curriculum can be a critical factor in your homeschooling achievement, you need to do

your homework before boldly going where others have gone before. There are steps to take before you fill out the order form.

Vision Statement

Consider asking yourself, "What is success?" The answer needs to lead you to a process that builds clarity. It's not enough to say "College Prep" is your goal as if this statement is the ideal or is sufficient. Your vision will need to be expanded with a few details in order to be useful, measureable and meaningful. A vision statement helps to motivate us and discipline us as we take further steps toward achieving our goals.

Example: *We undertake homeschooling as a means to*

train and educate our children in a way that brings glory to God, prepares them as servants to the body of Christ, and helps them to be examples to the world of God's grace and rule throughout the earth.

Notice that this vision statement allows for education and training, but does not forecast college or a particular field of work. It emphasizes Christian training, missions, and worldview. Your vision statement will vary depending upon your views and priorities.

Your worldview and the heritage you wish to impart to your children are at the heart of your decisions. God's plan and provision don't only guide your life, but influence your goals and aspirations. This is

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Coming in March:
Academic Fair Results
One Day Academy's Vision

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ODA Spelling Bee: Kayley Ryan Headed to Scripps Regional Event

One Day Academy's Kayley Ryan is headed for the regional level of the acclaimed Scripps National Spelling Bee competition after her outstanding performance at the One Day Academy 2010 Spelling Bee on January 9.

Seventeen participants ages seven to 13 competed in the ODA event at Crestview Baptist Church in Austin. Kayley will advance to the regional competition for Travis, Williamson, and Hayes counties at Canyon Vista Middle School on February 23.

The winner of the regional event will advance to the

Houston PBS Spelling Bee in late March of this year. The winner of the Houston Bee secures a position in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee held in May in Washington, D.C., according to the Scripps National Spelling Bee website.

Daniel Benoit was this year's runner-up. The runner-up is also eligible to compete in the regional event, should the winner not be able to participate. Other ODA award winners included Mariah Bayne, who won the Sportsmanship award and Benjamin Levinson, who won the Enunciation award.

One young contender, Sophia Hootman, just seven years old, made it through five rounds before being eliminated. Judges rewarded Sophia for her demeanor with the Poise award.

ODA English teacher Debra Pahlow, who was a judge at the Bee, said of the competition, "I am greatly encouraged by the caliber of students who came out today. It's only going to get bigger and better from here."

-Cassidy Woodall of the Monthly staff and Emily Peisker of the ODA Yearbook collaborated on this article.

Homeschool Handyman's Corner: Teaching Your Children Basic Homeowner Skills

This month: Utility Shut-Offs

Our unusually cold winter has reminded me that frozen pipes can be a problem even here in Central Texas. The issue is that water expands as it freezes, so in a water pipe there could be enough outward force to burst the pipe, resulting in a big homeowner headache.

Discuss with your kids how water pipes in unheated and

unprotected areas might be affected in freezing weather. Normally the only exposed pipes in a home are the outdoor faucets, so it is important to insulate them in extended freezing weather.

This discussion of burst water pipes also reminds me of an essential homeowner skill which you should know and share with your children.

Every adult and teen in the family should know how to shut off three potentially hazardous utilities: natural gas, electricity and water. These are the three utilities which can contribute to injury or damage, so in an urgent situation, you should be prepared to shut them off.

The gas valve is always on the pipe coming up from the



The gas valve is always on the pipe coming up from the ground to the meter on the side of the house. Photo by Emily Peisker

“Every adult and teen in the family should know how to shut off three potentially hazardous utilities...”

ground to the meter on the side of the house. The valve operator is a rectangular bar that is turned to line up with the pipe (parallel) to supply gas and rotated sideways (perpendicular) to close the valve.

Keep a tool handy for emergency shutoff; a large adjustable wrench works, and there

are special emergency shutoff wrenches available as well. Shut off gas only in an emergency such as when you have a large gas leak inside the house (which you can smell).

For power disconnect there will be a box on the side of the house next to the electric meter. Getting inside may take a bit of effort; there is usually a

metal latch that needs to move to release the cover, which normally moves with a combination of sliding and hinging.

There may be a main circuit breaker inside with a larger handle, marked 100A or 200A; moving the handle to the OFF position will shut off all power to the house. If there are six or fewer circuit breaker handles

in this outdoor box, there may not be a main breaker, so shutting off all power to the house requires all handles to be flipped OFF.

In central Texas most water supply valves are in the ground at the property line with the utility water meter. After locating the meter box, lift the cover to reveal the meter and supply valve. There may be another valve with a handle after the meter but these often become corroded and inoperable, so it is best to use the utility valve before the meter.

Like the gas valve, this has a rectangular bar which lines up with the pipe for flow and is turned perpendicular to the pipe to shut water off. Here

again a large wrench or pliers will work, but the valve is often placed so close to the side of the box that it is difficult to get a tool onto the handle. A special “curb key” wrench is handy to have just for this purpose, and they are not very expensive.

Helpful photos and more information on utility shutoff can be found at my website, www.handyhomeowner.us.

I also welcome suggestions for future newsletter topics.

-Jim Peisker

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www.handyhomeowner.us

Jim is a homeschool dad who has worked 28 years as an electrical engineer; he has been fixing stuff all of his life.



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Understanding God's plan and provision for your family is a key element in the process of selecting a curriculum.

Before Choosing Curriculum, from page 1

a key element in the process of selecting a curriculum. A vision statement and written goals are actually excellent tools. They will help you eliminate things that don't belong, and witness the progress you are making towards a successful academic program.

Career/missions guidance, whether formal or informal, is an honest exploration of the talents God has given your child. My daughter stated at an early age that she wanted to be a marine

biologist. This lasted until her exploration of bugs, worms, and frogs led her to proclaim that "this was too yucky."

If completed early, and with the freedom to change as needed, career guidance is actually fun and enlightening.

Career/missions guidance also helps during daily activities in answering the recurring question: "Mommy, why do I have to learn all of this stuff?" It is simpler for children to see how science and math relate to marine biology than to hear Mommy say, "Because it's in the lesson plan."

Additionally, if children see a beginning and an end to the math exercises, their anticipation for the bugs and frogs are motivation, not bribery. Career/missions guidance is like exploring the New World and searching for a place you want to call home.

The Unique Parent-Child Relationship (God's Design)

Since it is likely that you already decided to undertake the homeschooling experience, you may have already seen the importance of the **Parent as the Au-**

thority. You may not realize that you have to either build and maintain this authority by brute strength and will, or submit to someone who already has it. Your submission to Christ Jesus will go a long way to helping you navigate the myriad of decisions you have before you. Remembering that you have submitted yourself to the original authority will help you to be bold and strong in the face of so many concerns.

As a homeschooling parent, you are also helped by Texas Law: what you decide is "proper and important" is not questioned; it isn't even reviewable. One caveat pertaining to this philosophy is that if your student wants a par-

ticular college or degree program, you need to keep in mind their requirements for acceptance.

[Editor's note: please see our September issue for more information on college preparation.]

Remember, you are the expert when it comes to your children. You can best recognize their needs and envision the outcome of homeschooling them. Even if you think you've done a "less than perfect" job up until now, your insight, passion and ability to adapt to the unique needs of your child place you ahead of any other schooling philosophy in the world. Don't give up; keep up the good work; learn, adapt and grow.

Don't be afraid to try a method,

abandon it and head off in a new direction. Also, your entire schooling process doesn't have to be in one method and exclude all others. My daughter loved Unit Studies for a season, but when the prep became tiresome and results less than expected; she appealed for "other schooling" options.

End of Part One. Look for Part Two in our March issue.

-Teaching for 18 years, **Viv Lynn** is Director of Standards of Excellence, and the One Day Academy Department Head for Academic Development.

"Remember, you are the expert when it comes to your children. You can best recognize their needs and envision the outcome of homeschooling them."

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you need to plan your classes according to location, subjects, and days available. The chart to the right offers specific help for choosing classes.

After evaluating your student's educational needs, One Day Academy can be a place where your family can plug in to meet their educational goals and expand your student's accountability to selected teachers. Parents repeatedly express to me how blessed the students are by having Christian teachers who inspires their children to excellence.

- *Patti Ashley is the One Day Academy Administrator, Admissions Counselor, and a science teacher. She taught her three now-grown children for 20 years.*

Guidelines for Choosing Classes at One Day Academy

Step 1... DECIDE PRIORITIES

Every successful enterprise has a vision, and your home school is no exception. After you take time to reflect on progress made, then practically plan for the future. Ask yourself:

- What is my family's monthly budget for classes?
- Is one of my children a higher priority than others this year?
- Is one subject a higher priority than others this year?
- How will One Day Academy classes blend with my family's other commitments?

Step 2... GATHER INFORMATION

Once you outline your goals for the coming school year, consider how One Day Academy may support you in achieving them. Start by reviewing our:

- Courses offered
- Campus locations
- Campus schedules
- Teachers' credentials and evaluations
- Monthly tuition and other costs

Step 3... ASK QUESTIONS

One Day Academy offers you the freedom to select your child's teachers in all subjects. Evaluate our course descriptions or contact our faculty directly regarding:

- Course objectives and methods
- Required materials
- Pre-requisites
- Class availability

Step 4... SELECT CLASSES & REGISTER

The classes are just what you need, and the teachers sound wonderful. All that's left to do is:

- Determine a schedule for each student
- Register with One Day Academy
- Register with each teacher in whose program your children will be
- Secure all necessary materials
- Mark your campus's orientation dates on your calendar

One Day Academy

We offer a high quality, preparatory education, with degreed professional instructors, in a Christian setting, with the convenience of one day per week classes, for a fraction of the cost of private school. It can be done.



Find us on the Web:

<http://onedayacademy.com>

Announcements

- Guys! **The Christian Homeschool Formal** needs more young men to sign up for the event held this year on April 23. More young men means that more young ladies are able to go. Not only is the formal a great time for the guys and the gals, but the dance lessons are fun, too. Go to: <http://www.christianhomeschoolformal.com/>

- The deadline for registering for **academic testing** is March 6. Testing will be available at the Round Rock and South Austin campuses April 27-29. Contact Kay Crislip: 512-759-1344.

- **Registration** for 2010-2011 begins March 1 for current ODA families. Be sure to visit the campus **Open Houses** March 24 - April 2. Go to <http://onedayacademy.com> for exact dates and times.

- Seniors! Sign up now for the **2010 One Day Academy graduation** to be held May 22 at Bannockburn Baptist Church. Contact Cinda Lewis at c.lewis@onedayacademy.com for more information.

- **Math tutors** are now available:

Monday, SW Capstone: 11-2; Tuesday, Lakeline: 9-12*

Wednesday, Georgetown: 10-12; Bastrop: 9:30-11:30

Thursday, RR Capstone: 11:30-1:30; Friday, South Austin: 10-1*

*Please note the recent change in hours.

Home Education: Many Options, One Aim Choosing Classes at One Day Academy



The place to start choosing your children's One Day Academy classes is with prayer and planning. Photo by Laura Peisker

As a One Day Academy Admissions Counselor, I have the privilege of speaking with many parents who are searching for the best possible educational options for their children.

Every age and stage is represented in home education, from kindergarten through high school, so navigating the changing needs of our children, families, and educational targets are in constant evaluation.

The place to start is with prayer and planning by seeking the Lord's direction for our families as a whole and then for the specifics of activities, both educational and extra-curricular. Developing a plan based on the direction the Lord shows parents involves faith and follow-through to your children.

The decision to educate your children is an immense

undertaking and there will be both challenges and joys to embrace. I encourage parents to define a vision and form a flexible plan. No matter what the age of the student, all students cooperate more effectively if there is a loving, flexible framework to inspire them to self-discipline.

After developing the plan, evaluate your student's interests, strengths, and areas that need improvement. In the elementary years, be sure to focus on reading, math, writing, and science and include healthy doses of interest-directed learning experiences. These are the years for family field trips.

Study, go, and experience are vital parts of the educational plan for the early years. Teaching our children that learning is fun and delightful is the aim.

In the middle and high school years, develop your plan to increase responsibility and scholarship by adding challenging courses to stretch your student beyond their comfort zone. Remember to enjoy the process as part of the learning curve. These are the years that students acquire their tools for higher learning and service.

Encourage them to reach for the harder road of academics and to look for opportunities to serve others. Well-chosen extra-curricular activities can add to the educational plan and balance as well as bless students as they learn valuable time management skills.

When selecting classes at One Day Academy, go to our website, <http://onedayacademy.com>, to gather all the information **Many Options, One Aim**