

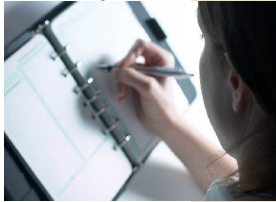
One Day Monthly

August 2010

Topics in this issue:

- Results of Junior VASE
- 2010 End of Year Highlights
- Computer Classes: Elective or Core?

Preparing for a New School Year



Preparation for a new school year includes prayer and planning ahead as you choose the right classes, curriculum, and activities for your family.

Volume 2, Issue 9

As many of you prepare for the new school year, you may feel a combination of anticipation and excitement mixed with fear and trepidation. Your children will be excited about the opportunity to get new books, new supplies, meet new people and have new learning experiences. You are refreshed after a few weeks or months of a relaxed summer hiatus. In fact, if you are an optimist as I am, you are probably eager to resume a regular schedule and the quest for academic excellence. You may be confident that this year, your passionate pursuit of the Lord’s will for your family, your curriculum choices, organization, administration, creativity and godly example will surpass all previous years’ experiences.

Although this scenario may reflect your hope and attitude

toward the coming school year, it is probable that you will encounter concerns and yes, even fears—especially for those new to homeschooling.

After nineteen years of homeschooling my family and assisting others in their academic quest for their children, I desire to encourage those of you who join with me on this noble journey.

In the 1980s and 90s, the homeschool scene was more challenging. In the midst of the early 1990s, the landmark homeschool court case, *Leeper vs. Arlington*, thrust homeschooling to the forefront of public awareness as it contended for acceptance as a viable option in education.

Although some homeschool families met occasionally for a few supplementary classes, co-ops or support, most of the family’s education was con-

ducted quietly and humbly at home, to avoid the public education system’s scrutiny or confrontation.

Today, homeschooling has received wide public acceptance in Texas as a viable educational alternative; consequently there are now unique and extensive academic opportunities available to families. Even universities have determined that many homeschool students who apply for admission are well prepared young adults with intelligence, maturity, and character. It is developments like these that enhance the homeschooling experience for families today.

Support resources abound for every homeschool family. Libraries, the internet, co-ops, weekly classes for homeschoolers in a group setting, clubs, support groups, other

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Coming in September:
 Preparing for Life Beyond High School
 National Merit Parents Speak

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Art Students Succeed at Regional Event

Several One Day Academy art students had a fine showing at the regional Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event in May.

The students competed against middle school students from public and private schools around the central Texas area.

Students met at Chisholm Trail Middle School in Round Rock on May 15.

“This was our first year entering this competition and the students did extremely well,” said ODA art teacher Kelly Gallaher.

“It gives students a great opportunity to be involved in the process [of interviewing with judges and it is] a great learning experience.”

Benjamin Johnson won high-

est honors (the silver seal award) for both of the paintings he brought to the event. The silver seal is given to only a small percentage of the entrants.

Sophia Rumbarger entered two paintings. “Parrotise,” an oil painting, won a silver seal award.

Clare Trent won a silver seal award for one of the two photographs she submitted.

Hudson Gallaher entered a painting done with acrylics and Miranda Zapata submitted a pencil drawing. They, too, ranked well with their submitted works.

The experience was

not just about the competition however, as Miranda’s mother Sandra Zapata said.

“It’s just the idea of participating. There’s so much talent in these young kids.”

-Susan Peisker



Sophia Rumbarger, Miranda Zapata, Clare Trent, and Hudson Gallaher display their JrVASE entries. Photo courtesy of Anja Rumbarger.

Families Gather for Fun and Lasting Memories

Highlights from Year-End Events



Several One Day Academy Events brought families together in May and June.

Graduation had its largest group of participants this year, as 36 students made the rite of passage in front of over 1,000 family and friends at Bannockburn Baptist Church on May 22.

Students and their families turned out for the annual End of Year Party held at Zilker Park on May 8.

ODA played host to the second annual Central Texas Homeschool Resource Fair on June 12 at High Pointe Baptist Church.

Homeschool supplier Mardel sold textbooks and other items at the event,

and speakers from Homeschool Legal Defense Association and Worldview classes were also there. Fair organizer Cinda Lewis said many new homeschoolers came to the fair. "Everyone who came was blessed."

Pictured clockwise from top left: Students gather for a group portrait at the graduation; students toss a football at the party; Mardel offers textbooks for ODA classes at the Resource Fair; ODA teachers and ministry partners answer questions at the fair; students gather for fellowship at the End of Year party. Graduation photo by Emily Peisker. All other photos by Kelsey Johnson.



Faculty Classifieds

ODA ENGLISH TEACHERS ON THE SAME PAGE!

This year all campuses will feature the same high-quality curriculum, focusing on:

- Emphasis on writing structure & style
- Consistent spelling & vocabulary
- Age-appropriate grammar
- Compositions with rubric-based feedback

Register with the teacher first, then pre-order course workbooks through www.pahlowsenglish.com. Workbooks delivered at orientation or on the first class day.

SCIENCE LAB: Remember dissections, microscopes, chemicals and lab reports? If you want your student to have the hands-on learning experience of labs with weekly lecture, sign up for Science labs with Patti Ashley. p.ashley@onedayacademy.com 512-913-1976

Learn how to sew ...fashionably!

Ages 8-12 learn how to sew simple skirts, shorts, pants & tops. Teens learn sewing, fashion sketching, & patternmaking. **Rosanne Hood 512-680-3948** <http://sewfashionyourself.com>

Does your student love to write or need help writing?

Consider taking **English II** or **journalism** with Susan Peisker. Older students may enjoy **yearbook** class—contact Mrs. Peisker for an interview. All classes at RR Capstone. shpeisker@yahoo.com

One Day Academy Dancers! Do you desire to worship using the language of dance? Do you love to bow before your Lord? Come join us and worship and we will dance together. Go to www.danceasworship.com to learn more about dance classes with Sheri Reeves.

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Preparing, from page 1

homeschool families within the neighborhood, church or community to encourage, team teach and share curriculum—all these options and more serve as a strong network undergirding families in this most excellent quest to train up their children in the way they should go. Trust that it was the Lord who planted this desire, hope and mission in your heart to educate your offspring at home. Homeschooling your children gives you the opportunity to produce loving, connected families focusing on the Lord, as you allow Him to guide and provide for you. Homeschooling is not a mission for Mom to undertake with only Dad's acknowledgment or permission. Rather, it is a delightful whole family experience that enables all to grow spiritually, academically and emotionally.

Allow me to offer a few words of encouragement:

Remember that your curriculum is only your tool, not your master. It takes a while to hit your "stride," sifting the best methods, approach and educational experiences for each child.

Each of your children is an individual with unique perspectives, insights, learning approaches and challenges. Ministering well to each child in your family requires understanding and addressing each of these individualities.

Be flexible! People should ALWAYS come before GOALS! Taking time to pray with your child and others, listen to their hearts, as well as serving and ministering to others' needs etc. is more important than being a diligent taskmaster/schoolmarm for much of the year to complete curriculum requirements.

Plan ahead! We divided the whole curriculum for the school year into 120-130 schooldays. That left plenty of room for field trips, events, sick days, ministry or community service days, testing, and a "spring fever day" or two.

Stay connected to other homeschool families who share your vision and values. These families can share ideas, time, children and resources as well as encourage and help you stay accountable.

In the midst of the homeschooling experience, driven by the pursuance of excellence, vision and hope, it's difficult to see "the bigger picture." What a delight it is to look back now, refreshed by hindsight, now that my children are grown. I spent a couple of my early homeschool years shackled by my pursuance of academic excellence. It took a while before I learned to relax enough in this noble quest to add fun, creativity and ministry to our lives.

For the last several years, I've had the blessing of working with homeschool families through teaching various courses in language arts, the sciences, math, drama,

SAT Prep, etc. I've watched these, your children—the products of your love, devotion, investment and training—as they boldly and capably confront the academic and spiritual challenges before them with character. Parents, I stand in awe of the incredible work you've already done with your children. It is such a privilege to have a small part in your children's academic experience. Please persevere; stay the course.

Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Jeremiah 29:11-13: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Seek the Lord with fervency! He will equip you! You are serving the Lord as He fashions tomorrow's leaders.

-Teaching for 19 years, Viv Lynn is Director of Standards of Excellence and One Day Academy Department Head for Academic Development.

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Some Homeschooling Facts That Will Encourage You

- * You join the ranks of 1.6 to 2 million other homeschooling children. (HSLDA website: Brian Ray, *Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling*, Broadman & Holman, 2002, p.7.)
- * On average, homeschool students in grades 1-4 perform one grade level higher than their public and private school counterparts. Lawrence Rudner, *Scholastic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics of Home School Students in 1998*, Education Policy Analysis Archives, <http://epaa.asu.edu/epaa/v7n8/>.
- * By grade 8, the average homeschool student performs four grade levels above the national average. Rudner, Figure 3.
- * The number of families choosing to homeschool grows at an estimated annual rate of seven to 15 percent. Ray, p. 8
- * You have good company. Many of the world's most prominent leaders were homeschooled:

U.S. PRESIDENTS

John Quincy Adams
Wm. Henry Harrison
Abraham Lincoln
James Madison
Franklin D Roosevelt
Theodore Roosevelt
George Washington
Woodrow Wilson
GENERALS
Stonewall Jackson
Robert E. Lee
Douglas MacArthur
George Patton
INDUSTRIALISTS
Andrew Carnegie

INVENTORS

Alexander Graham Bell
Thomas Edison
Cyrus McCormick
Orville Wright
Wilbur Wright
MINISTERS
John Wesley
SCIENTISTS
George Washington
Carver
Pierre Curie
STATESMEN
Winston Churchill
Henry Clay
Benjamin Franklin

Alexander Hamilton

Patrick Henry
William Penn
Daniel Webster
U.S. SUPREME COURT JUDGES
John Marshall
WRITERS
Pearl S. Buck
Agatha Christie
Charles Dickens
C.S. Lewis
A. A. Milne
Beatrix Potter
George Bernard Shaw

-V.L.

One Day Academy

4300 Lost Oasis Hollow
Austin, Texas 78739

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Find us on the Web:

<http://onedayacademy.com>

Announcements

- Mark your calendars for **Bringing His Children Home**, a one day conference dedicated to offering practical help and encouragement to homeschoolers. One Day Academy sponsors the event, held this year on **Saturday, August 14 from 9 to 2:30** at High Pointe Baptist Church in Austin. <http://onedayacademy.com/event-calendar/bringing-his-children-home/>

- **Campus orientations** are scheduled for **August 16-20**. Be sure to visit the website for exact times and days for the campuses where your students will attend. You won't want to miss this opportunity to meet teachers and get important information for the school year. ODA registration will also be available. <http://onedayacademy.com/event-calendar/orientation/>

- **Classes begin the week of August 23**. Check the website for days and locations. <http://onedayacademy.com/academic-calendars/2010-2011/>

- Karen Andrews of Jordan Ashley Photography will be taking **student portraits** at the campuses in **September**. Fliers will be available at orientation. Yearbook portraits are free, and there are affordable packages available if you wish to order prints. Go to <http://onedayacademy.com/event-calendar/pictures/> for contact info and a portrait schedule.

- Save the date! This year's **College Fair** will be on **October 2** from 9:30-11:30 at Shoreline Church in the gymnasium.

Computer Classes: Elective or Core?



Craymon Myers and Walker Welch learn an application in Mrs. Gaiser's computer class at the Georgetown campus. Photo by Kelsey Johnson

As homeschool parents were planning ahead this spring for their students' 2010-11 schedules, I heard something interesting. A couple of parents said to me, "I've got all my child's core classes scheduled; now I'd like to add some computer training." Hmm. Is computer training an elective then, if it's not considered a core class? Well, in 1980, when I took my first programming class in high school (yes, I'm that old!), it certainly was. The students who had done well on their core classes and finished some necessary credits early during their senior year got to choose some off-campus electives at the area vocational center. Who wouldn't choose a chance to leave campus half the day after 12 years of being cooped up in school all day every day? As it turned out, I fell in love with programming and set my career

goal to be a systems analyst. I guess that's the goal of electives: to let students try things other than the mainstream subjects so they can find what they love to do. That being said, it was an elective and its purpose was well-served. What then defines a core class? I would say they are the subjects that give us the basic knowledge in which to learn everything else. "Reading is fundamental." Most of everything we learn is written. Math is essential if you are going to earn money and pay bills. All language arts are critical for quality communication of any kind. Science is important for nothing less than day-to-day safety (Ever mix the wrong cleaning chemicals together?). But wait a minute, don't many of us read from *electronic* sources these days, such as eBooks, emails, and other

online information? And what about math? How do you do your banking? Do you pay your bills online or shop via the internet? And what about writing? Do you think the *One Day Monthly* would have taken this article *handwritten*? Rarely will a college professor take handwritten work these days. Even science has gone high-tech. Have you seen those calculators they use? Really, does the average person go through one day without touching some kind of computer-based technology? My thought was this: if we use a computer to utilize all the "core" skills we learned in those "core" classes, does that make computer skills even more fundamental? It's just a thought. -Sandra Gaiser loves teaching adults, teens and kids how to use computers and design web sites in the Austin area.