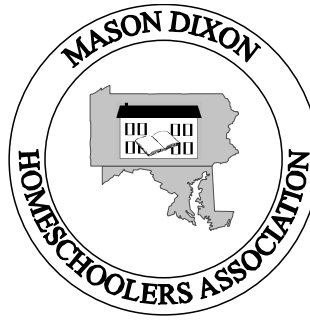


# Prospective Membership Booklet 2011-2012



## Homeschoolers Serving Homeschoolers since 1986

### **What is Homeschooling?**

Parents who elect to provide for the education of their children outside of a classroom setting and at their own expense are considered homeschooling parents. The parents choose the curriculum and the schedule. Pennsylvania does require school districts to make textbooks available to home educating families but families are not required to use them. This differs from traditional classroom education in that the child does not attend a school on a daily basis. Parents provide the funds for the child's materials and do not receive teacher assistance and oversight at state expense. Cyber-charter schools are not homeschooling, and are really "public schools online" even though the child is at home. They are paid for by public money, are taught by public school teachers and use public school curriculum. The parents do not choose the curriculum or the schedule. Please do not refer to them as homeschooling. Families involved in public school online lose flexibility and freedom to control the education of their children.

### **Who Homeschools?**

Many families are discovering the joy of working with their children at home. Single parent families, dual wage earner families, and traditional stay-at-home-mother families are all found among homeschoolers.

### **What are the benefits of homeschooling?**

Homeschooling provides an incredible number of benefits, many not even identified yet! Among these benefits are:

- Enhanced parent-child relationships and sibling friendships
- Individualized academic programs that allow students to progress academically at their own pace. This benefits the eager learner as well as the student who finds academics more challenging.
- More time for fun activities such as field trips and family outings
- Time to participate in community activities such as political campaigns and service opportunities
- More time to enjoy reading and following their own interests
- More time for extra curricular and community involvement
- More time and freedom to develop a love of reading and learning.
- More time to develop life skills
- Peer group reliance is diminished
- Parents are in control of the schedule and curriculum not the school district.
- More time and freedom to share your values with your children

### **Are there any special requirements to homeschool?**

In Pennsylvania, one parent must have a high school diploma or its equivalent (a GED, for example) and no adult living in the home may have been convicted of specified crimes within the five years preceding the beginning of the home education program. (Parents who do not have a diploma may enroll in Charter Schools, however). In Maryland, there is no such requirement, any parent may homeschool.

### **What else is required to homeschool?**

Homeschooling requires parents who love and enjoy their children. Some resources are necessary, of course, but these are minimal and can often be obtained second-hand or free from the Internet. In Pennsylvania, the school district must lend curricula to the homeschooling family, if requested by the family. The library also provides many excellent resources and is widely used by homeschoolers.

### **Do many people homeschool?**

Homeschooling is legal in all 50 states. There are between 1.5 and 2 million homeschooled children nationwide. In Pennsylvania nearly 24,000 children are homeschooled. Since compulsory attendance does not begin in PA until age 8, that figure does not reflect the large number of children younger than 8 who are learning at home!

### **Where do I learn more?**

MDHSA has several publications that will help you get started in Homeschooling. It is important for you to understand the PA law, and the MDHSA booklet *Homeschooling and the Law* is a great place to start. MDHSA also publishes a booklet about how to homeschool which is helpful for beginners and those who have homeschooled for a time—“*An Introduction to the Fine Art of Homeschooling*.” “*Addressing Learning Challenges*” will help those parents whose children do not “fit the norm” when it comes to academics. The MDHSA “*Diploma Guide*” will give direction to high school students who are interested in a high school diploma generated by a third party. See the publications section for more information.

### **Where will I find support?**

Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association, Inc. has been in existence since 1986 and has a group of families who have varying approaches to education. MDHSA serves families in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

MDHSA has worked legislatively and locally as an advocate for homeschoolers in Pennsylvania and has served hundreds of families locally and statewide. MDHSA is a decidedly Christian organization, which exists to provide support for homeschooling families, disseminate legislative information about issues of interest to homeschoolers and educators, and promote excellence in homeschooling. MDHSA is a volunteer organization, and parents volunteer their time and skills to coordinate our programs and activities. MDHSA offers its services to families in PA, MD and surrounding areas.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please read carefully the enclosed information and excerpts from the by-laws and mail in the Membership form and fee.

### **MDHSA currently offers these services to its members, which are supplied wholly or in part by member dues.**

- Membership card to use at businesses such as Borders to receive a homeschooling discount
- Member Booklet which includes local resources
- Member Directory
- Member Small Business directory
- MDHSA part-time office administrator to facilitate the “behind the scenes” running of the MDHSA  
Office and equipment used to run the organization
- A newsletter with articles of interests and events published ten times per year: Aug to Dec; Feb to June
- Member sponsored Field Trips and other Activities
- Graduation Ceremony (Note: there is an additional fee for participation in the graduation ceremony)
- The MDHSA co-ops are the main support for families joining MDHSA. This is where parents get support from other parents and kids meet other kids. Three Co-op Schools meet in Northern (bi-weekly), Southern (weekly), and Western Franklin County (weekly). Co-Ops include parent support/enrichment meetings and class sessions for students with a variety of classes offered for each age group nursery –Jr./Sr. high.  
Co-Op is an opportunity for your child to participate in classes with other homeschooled children. Parents are required to also participate in the capacity of teaching and helping with the various classes. Parents are given the opportunity to decide what classes they want to teach and how they want to teach them. You must be a full member of MDHSA to teach a class (if you are an associate member you can teach a class as long as a full time member helps and is always present in the classroom) and then you get to choose which classes your child attends. Classes are filled on a first come first serve basis. For more information, check out our website at [www.mdhsa-pa.org](http://www.mdhsa-pa.org) under Co-Op tab on the left. You will also find the registration forms as well as class listings when they become available.
- Advocacy locally and statewide
- Discounted HSLDA membership (Home School Legal Defense Association).
- Website conducted by MDHSA [www.mdhsa-pa.org](http://www.mdhsa-pa.org)
- An e-mail chain that provides announcements about MDHSA activities, legislative information, local activities, etc.
- An e-mail discussion group, where you can ask questions and get answers
- Members receive a discount on the graduation ceremony - held the last Saturday of June each year
- Resource library on homeschooling and other issues of interest to homeschool families-free to members. One book

- or tape could pay for the cost of the membership.
- High School formal banquet for 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders as volunteers are available
- Discount on MDHSA activities that are open to the public
- Members receive a 50 cent discount on all MDHSA booklets.
- Workshops are provided free or at a discount to members.
- MDHSA Law Guide free to members (If it must be mailed, members must pay for shipping).

These services can be provided only as we have parent volunteers and resources available. As an MDHSA member, you are invited to participate at the level at which you feel comfortable, but you are asked to participate!

### **MDHSA Publications**

*To order: Make checks payable to MDHSA and mail to MDHSA office detailing which publications you desire. To take advantage of the member pricing, you must have previously mailed or are mailing the membership form with your order.*

#### **"A Walk Down Memory Lane" - A history of MDHSA and Homeschooling in PA**

**CD: \$4.00 mailed, \$3.00 picked up at the office; DVD: \$5.00 mailed, \$4.00 if picked up at the office.**

*This CD is a pictorial narration of the history of MDHSA and homeschooling in PA. It has received many compliments from MDHSA members and others. We hope all new MDHSA members will purchase this and enjoy their heritage with their children. It may be played on Windows 98 or later.*

#### **"Homeschooling and the Law: How to Comply with PA Act 169-1988 Without Losing Your Mind."**

**NON-members: \$6.00; Members: \$1.00 if mailed (\$5.50 for additional copies.) Save \$1.00 on all prices if picked up at the office.**

*This PA home education law guide written and published by MDHSA members (April 2006), will provide you with the answers to almost every question you have about the home education law in PA. It includes a copy of the home education law and various forms. Each new member will receive one complementary copy of the PA Law Guide with paid membership dues. Additional Copies for members are available for \$5 if picked up, \$6 if mailed.*

**"An Introduction to the Fine Art of Homeschooling" Non-members \$8.00 if mailed, Members \$7.50 if mailed. Save \$1.00 off above prices by picking up at the office.**

*More than an Introduction; Why Homeschool?" How to homeschool' Approaches to homeschooling; teaching methods and more; elementary, high school. Includes resources. This booklet will tell you how to get started in homeschooling, where to find curriculum, and methods to teach. This is an important booklet for the new homeschooler and the veteran who has not had any outside support to homeschooling.*

**"Addressing Learning Challenges" Non-members \$ 6.00 if mailed; Members 5.50 if mailed. Save \$1.00 off above prices if picking it up at the office.**

*Dyslexia, visual perceptual difficulties, balance and symmetry, choosing and using professionals; children who have trouble using paper, pencils and books; children who have 20-20 vision but have reading and visual problems that are often misdiagnosed as ADD or ADHD.*

**The Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Diploma Guide: Non-members: \$6 if mailed; Members \$5.50 if mailed. Save \$1.00 by picking it up at the office.**

*MDHSA offers a state recognized high school diploma for homeschooled students who are PA resident. If you have a secondary student (7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades), and are interested in an MDHSA diploma, this will provide you with all the information you need. If your student is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above, you should order the diploma guide now. However, it is never too late to register with our program. Contact the office or diploma@pa.net if you have any questions. According the PA Dept of Education, students who participate in any PA diploma program MUST file an affidavit, be evaluated and submit a portfolio to his local school district to participate. No exception, even if the student is above compulsory school age and even if you school district says that he does not have to file. File anyway!*

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE: Membership in MDHSA is NOT required to participate in the MDHSA diploma program.** In addition, any family participating in the MDHSA Diploma program is not automatically a member of MDHSA, a local support group, and thus is not eligible to receive the MDHSA newsletter or participate in any closed MDHSA activities such as co-op, or the online e-mail loops. Those require membership in the MDHSA support group which requires a membership form and dues mailed to the MDHSA office. Contact the office or diploma@pa.net if you have any questions regarding this.

The MDHSA office is staffed part-time so please allow at least 2 weeks to receive your publication.

## **Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Statement of Purpose and Doctrinal Statement**

**NOTE: The following are excerpts from the By-laws and Articles of Incorporation of Mason-Dixon Homeschoolers. To determine which type of membership you are eligible for, please review both the Statement of Purpose and the Doctrinal & Membership Statement set forth below. If you fully subscribe to both the Statement of Purpose and the Doctrinal Statement excerpted below, then you may join as a Full Member. If you do not fully subscribe, then you may join as an Associate Member.**

### **Statement of Purpose**

(The following is an excerpt from the *Articles of Incorporation of Mason-Dixon Homeschoolers\**.)

- Encourage families who are homeschooling;
- Develop a hunger for academic excellence in children;
- Promote prayer for continued freedom in homeschooling;
- Educate the public about legislation of interest to homeschoolers; and about local activities for homeschoolers;
- Provide positive group activities for homeschooled children; and
- Engage in any and all lawful activities incidental to the foregoing purposes except as restricted herein [the Articles of Incorporation].

### **Doctrinal Statement**

(The following are excerpts from the *Bylaws of Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association*.)

#### **Article I excerpt**

The doctrinal statement of the Corporation is:

- A. The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes completed and final revelation. The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole and in part, including theological concepts as well as geographical and historical details.
- B. God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is God come in human flesh, being fully God and fully man except without sin.
- C. 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 this coming of Jesus Christ was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross--the successful accomplishment of this was attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection.
- D. 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.
- E. Knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Bible is essential to proper spiritual, mental, social, and physical growth.
- F. The Holy Spirit indwells each Christian and is significant in his education by bringing conviction of sin, revealing Christ's glory, and guiding each believer into all truth.
- G. Moral standards and a value system consistent with the Bible best prepare a student for fulfilling his responsibilities as a citizen of our nation.
- H. Man's purpose in life is to render glory to God in all things, for he was created to have dominion over the creation, to care for it, to replenish it, and to subdue it.

### **Membership Statements**

#### **Article II excerpt**

The Corporation shall have two categories of membership: regular members and associate members

1. Regular members. Regular members are those families who fully subscribe to the Corporation's purposes and doctrinal statement, and have paid the annual dues. Each family that is a regular member shall be entitled to one vote on all matters on which members vote, and a representative may serve as an officer or director.
2. Associate members. Associate members are those families who are interested in homeschooling, but who do not fully subscribe to the Corporation's purposes or doctrinal statement. Associate member families may not vote, and representatives may not serve as an officer or director.

\* If you would like a copy of the complete Articles of Incorporation and/by-laws of the Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association, please send a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association 32 West Main Street # 5, Waynesboro, PA 17268

MDHSA does not discriminate against families based on race, color, national or ethnic religion.

## New Membership Information

After mailing your NEW membership form and fee, you will receive a membership packet with a Membership booklet, member card, and all newsletters back to August or if you are a prorated member back to February. Since MDHSA is a part time office, please allow 3-4 weeks. Please read the booklet carefully to learn of your MDHSA benefits, calendar of activities, how to use the Resource center, how to renew your membership next year and more. You will also receive a MDHSA family membership card. This card will prove that you are a homeschooler to businesses such as Borders who give discounts to homeschoolers. Each year that you renew your membership, you will receive a sticker to put on your card to keep it current. If you lose the card, you will be charged \$3 for a replacement.

You will receive a newsletter for the months of Aug-December, and February – June. If you join in the middle of the year and pay the annual fee, you will receive all newsletters back to August. If you join after January 1 and only pay the pro-rated ½ year fee, you will only be entitled to newsletters back to February. Please contact MDHSA if you do not receive your newsletters. If you opt to receive your newsletter and directory by e-mail, you will receive a \$5 discount on the membership fee. You will not receive a discount if you join after January 1. Be sure to check **yes or no** on your member form.

Co-op should be contacted as soon as you decide that you are interested in participating as classes fill up quickly.

**Co-op North: (Shippensburg): Susan Montano [susansito@embarqmail.com](mailto:susansito@embarqmail.com) 717-420-0675**

**Co-op South (Five Forks: Elementary: Tammy Gift [mamakitty916@yahoo.com](mailto:mamakitty916@yahoo.com) 717-794-5043**

**C-op West (Mercersburg area): Denise Rine [dlrine@frontiernet.net](mailto:dlrine@frontiernet.net) 717-294-3610**

**ONLINE YAHOO GROUPS:** AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ONLY. To join you must create a Yahoo e-mail account (free). After joining MDHSA, you will be sent an invitation from MDHSA to the Yahoo group or go to the address and send both members' (husband, wife) names, so that we can confirm membership.

**MDHSA Online Discussion Group.** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MdhsaDiscussionGroup/>

**MDHSA Online Announcement Group.** <http://yahoo.com/group/mdhsaannouncements/>

**MDHSA facebook – “Mason-Dixon Homeschoolers Association” - for members and non-members.**

**“Mason Dixon Homeschool Association Alumni” - for MDHSA Diploma graduates**

### MEMBERSHIP:

Membership runs from July 1 through June 30 each year. All new members pay a one-time new member assessment fee of \$10. However If members allow their membership to lapse for a period of three years, they will be required to fill out a new member form and pay the new member assessment fee along with annual membership dues. The annual membership fee is \$40 in addition to the new member assessment fee. For those joining after January 1 for ½ year, the membership fee is pro-rated to \$20.

One Time Assessment for New members:	\$10.00
Annual Membership dues:	40.00
Pro-rated member Dues after Jan 1, 2010	20.00

You may take a \$5 credit if you check on the membership form that you would like your newsletter by e-mail. There is no discount for pro-rated members if you elect to receive your newsletter by e-mail.

Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association  
32 West Main Street # 5  
Waynesboro, PA 17268  
717-749-5767

[www.mdhsa-pa.org](http://www.mdhsa-pa.org)  
[mdhsaadmin@pa.net](mailto:mdhsaadmin@pa.net)



Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association, Inc  
32 West Main Street # 5 Waynesboro, PA 17268  
*"Homeschoolers Serving Homeschoolers since 1986"*

To:

**Membership Information enclosed!**

# Mason-Dixon Homeschoolers Association

## 2011-2012 NEW Member Form

For Office Use Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Code Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities E-mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Enter in Data Base	<input type="checkbox"/> NL e-mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail Member Card/Sticker/Passwords	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail Ordered Items	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail New Member Packet	
<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail Member List	
After September Newsletter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail previous Newsletters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail Directory	
<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail additional member list	
PA House _____	
PA Senate _____	
U.S. House _____	

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (in CAPS): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Abilities or Talents: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names	Birth Yr	Sex	Children's Names	Birth Yr	Sex	Children's Names	Birth Yr	Sex

MDHSA ASKS THAT YOU READ OVER the excerpts from our Articles of Incorporation and our By-Laws to be sure you understand the purpose and doctrinal stand that we take. If you are in full agreement with what is stated, then you are entitled to full membership. If you cannot fully affirm these statements, you will be granted an Associate Membership with all the rights and privileges thereof. If you have a question about signing this form or are unsure if your religious affiliation is in agreement with the MDHSA doctrinal statement, please contact the MDHSA administrator for confidential assistance. Please check the type of membership which applies to you.

Full                       Associate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Signature

MDHSA membership runs from July 1 through June 30 each year. To maintain membership, this form must be filled out and returned with the appropriate fees to the MDHSA office by June 30. The new membership list will be distributed in September. MDHSA members will not be required to pay the \$10 new member assessment fee if they renew their membership within a period of three years. They should contact the MDHSA office for a Renewal form. If any members allow their membership to lapse for a period of three years, then they will be required to fill out a new member form and pay the new member assessment fee.

### For Further Information

**MDHSA YAHOO ANNOUNCEMENT GROUP RECEIVES NOTICES ABOUT ACTIVITIES, LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AND PRAYER REQUESTS.** To join visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MdhsaAnnouncements/>

**MDHSA ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP:** To join visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MdhsaDiscussionGroup/>

**MDHSA NEWSLETTER:** All MDHSA members will receive the MDHSA newsletter which is published monthly from August - December and February - June. All newsletter submissions must be received by the 25th of each month.

### Newsletter by E-Mail

MDHSA is now offering the option to receive your newsletter and directory by e-mail. If you choose to receive your newsletter by e-mail, you will receive a \$5 discount (no discount for pro-rated members) on your membership. Your newsletter will be sent in PDF format around the 1st of every month and your directory will be sent in September also in PDF format.

**Would you like to receive your newsletter & directory by e-mail?**

Yes                       No

### MDHSA Fees

Annual Membership Dues	\$40.00	\$ _____
Pro-rated Member Dues	\$20.00	\$ _____
<small>after Jan 1, 2012</small>		
New Member Assessment Fee	\$10.00	\$ 10.00
\$5 Credit for E-Mailed Newsletter	-\$5.00	\$ _____
<small>**NO credit for pro-rated Members</small>		
MDHSA Law Guide (Shipping for Members)	\$1.00	\$ _____

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Op you are planning to attend during the 2011-2012 Membership Year:**  North  South  West

### Make Check payable to MDHSA and mail with this form to:

Mason-Dixon Homeschoolers Association, ATTN: Membership, 32 West Main Street #5, Waynesboro, PA 17268

If you would like confirmation that this form and fee have been received, please enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard with the words "MDHSA membership form received" on the back and it will be mailed to you upon receipt.

**MDHSA does not discriminate against families based on race, color, national origin, or ethnic origin.**

MDHSA has many helpful booklets that may be purchased. For a full listing and ordering information, look for the Product Pricing and Ordering Form for "Non-Members" and "New or Existing Members."