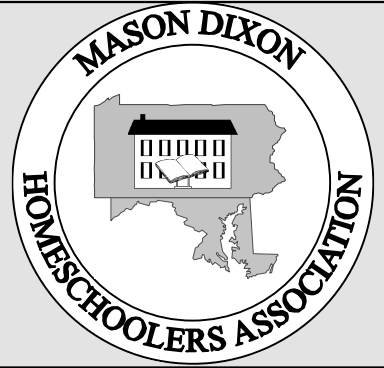


HOMESCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Homeschoolers Serving Homeschoolers since 1986

August 2011



Member Info

Reminder—please send any business information to the newsletter editor by August 25th to be included in the business directory in September!

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Welcome

Welcome to another year of homeschooling. Just a few notes to the "newcomers" among us and reminders for the veterans.

If you miss getting a newsletter:

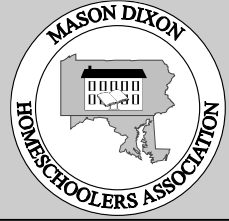
If you have Internet access, you can just get it off the website in the members only section instead of having a volunteer e-mail or snail mail it to you. Only if you do not have internet access, call the office and have your hard copy of the one you missed mailed to you. If you go to the website and cannot find the current newsletter, call the MDHSA office and leave a message or email the office at mdhsaadmin@pa.net.

If you do not get a newsletter by the 7th of the month:

You can get that newsletter off the website, but do not wait until you have missed several newsletters to contact us. As soon as you miss one, contact Valerie Eby at dewval_07@comcast or only if you do not have email, call the MDHSA office and leave a message and it will be given to Valerie. Please speak clearly and slowly! Give your email address or postal mail address even if you know we have it, so we can check our database and email accounts to see if we have it correctly so that you get the newsletter the following month. There is no newsletter in July or January.

Continued on next page

INFORMATION



Continued from front page

If you change your contact information, need a membership card, or a sticker/password page: Contact the MDHSA Secretary,

Valerie Eby at dewval_07@comcast.net or only if you do not have email, call the MDHSA office and leave a message. Please speak clearly and slowly.

Soap Making

Soap making classes scheduled for your students are available. Learn to make laundry soap (liquid and powder), bar soap, liquid soap, and cream soap. Classes to learn how to make lotions and other bath products are also available.

Mary Hudzinski

blufroghollow@pa.net 717-762-3357

ACT Test Dates 2011-2012

September 10, 2011, October 22, 2011, December 10, 2011, February 11, 2012, April 14, 2012, June 9, 2012

Please go to www.actstudent.org to register and to view deadlines for registration.

For Sale

I have 4th, 5th and 6th grade Sonlight curriculums for sale. They include the instructor's guides/schedules for Bible, history, science and language arts. Most core books are available for each year's curriculum. These are older curriculums, not 2011. 4th grade includes: 20 history core books, 5 science core books plus 5 extra books on the solar system and a grammar book. 5th grade includes: 19 history books, and 7 science books. 6th grade includes: 6 core history books and 5 core science books. *Contact Melissa Brazil at 301- 824-2844 or mkbrazil@verizon.net for more information.*

Greetings from Great Wolf Lodge-Pocono Mountains!

I'm excited to announce our Special September 2011 Homeschool Days at Great Wolf Lodge - Pocono Mountains. Thank you and have a Great Wolf day! Elaine

Elaine Leies/ Sales Manager

Great Wolf Lodge - Poconos

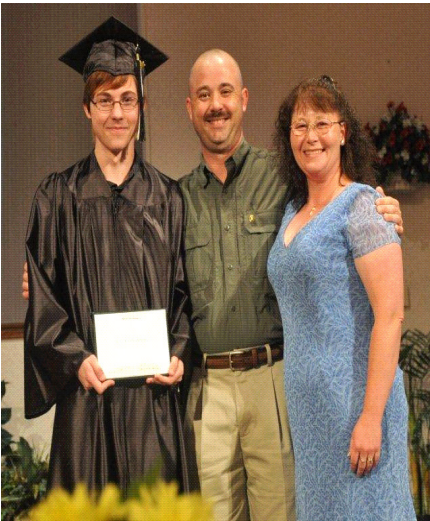
1 Great Wolf Drive/ Scotrun, PA 18355

Office: 570-213-6013/ Fax: 570-213-6015

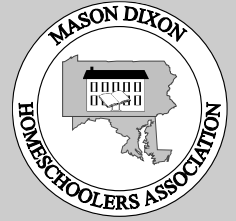
GRADUATION 2011



The MDHSA graduation ceremony was held on June 25, 2011 at the Open Door Church in Chambersburg. Maryalice Newborn was the commencement speaker. Music talent provided by the graduates included a violinist, a guitarist, a pianist and a harpist. Parents presented the students with their diplomas. The recessional was a little different this year. Parents lit a candle and handed it to their graduate while the song, "Light your Candle" was played. It was a very moving service. Feel free to view a few of the pictures in this newsletter.



GRADUATION



MDHSA SCIENCE FAIR



Compliments for the MDHSA Diploma Program

MDHSA,

Thank you! You have provided such a valuable resource for homeschoolers. Thank you for your thorough process, your efficiency, and the ease in which you give to parents desiring your diploma-even "last minute" like us!"

S.B 6/23/11

Dear Barbara,

I would like to take this time and thank you plus your staff. You have been very encouraging both with your time and talent. I know from experience it is not easy to provide the support you all do to homeschooling families. You have always been patient and kind with your explanations of procedures. I have never felt "put off" or hurried, when I called. Thank you again for your support.

Blessings,

M. R.

MDHSA Science Fair

needs you!



Is your child interested in science?

Have a student that would love to enter a science fair?

We are looking for 2-4 volunteers from areas serviced by Co-ops North, South and West to serve on a committee to help organize this event. We are looking for involvement from members of each co-op and those who do not attend co-ops, so we can truly represent all MDHSA. All planning "meetings" will be done by email, to keep the commitment light. If you are interested in joining this planning group, contact the activities director, *Virginia Baker*, ginnamom77@yahoo.com or *Rachael Hudson* call 717-263-6986 or email HUDSONS@INNERNET.NET.

HELPFUL HINTS



Some Homeschooling Timesaving Tips

1. Combine all content subjects for teaching all kids. Content subjects are like history, health, science, art or anything that is not a "skill building subject." So if you are teaching American history to one child, just teach it or read it to all at once. The younger ones will take what they will from it. Do not worry if they miss something, they will pick it up again later—Much of it is taught 100 times anyway! You will have to teach some reading, math, penmanship separately and maybe English, but some English can be combined as they get older. English is also taught many times over and over, so don't worry about missing a few things...they will all get it eventually.

2. Any reading they do any time of the day is "school". So count it all for school, whether it is bedtime reading or not.

3. Use "found time" - that is--- let someone read to you while you wash dishes, listen to classical music while they sweep the floor; it doesn't all have to be totally dedicated to "school".

4. Use narration: the child reads or you read a section to the child or the whole chapter and instead of spending lots of time filling out a workbook page for "reading comprehension" questions, ask the child to tell you what he or you read to him or her in his own words. This is not a test, just an enjoyable time of telling the story. For instance after you are done reading, say, Emily, tell us a story about what we just read. Or at supper: "tell Dad what happened today in Carry On Mr. Bowditch--how Nathaniel learned to read French". Then the child eagerly tells dad what happened. And you are done! Skip taking hours filling out workbooks and asking questions on history, reading, and other content subjects. It helps kids who have trouble learning, kids who are easy learners, and it helps develop good vocabulary, reading comprehension and composition skills. I have had EXTREME success with it in my own homeschool and in helping all kinds of homeschool students. Later, after the child has gotten good at oral narration (take a lot of time with this, because it is not as easy as it looks--try it once), you can have him WRITE his narrations. At the end of a small section of history, have him write a summary of what he read. If you have more than one child listening or reading the story, have the younger one tell you or dad what he read first and then the older one can fill in. Or have the younger one stop at a certain point and have the older one take over from there. Narration should be a fun enjoyable way to learn. You can use it with ANY curriculum. Just don't do narration AND all the other work they want you to do--choose one or the other that day, not both--you'll wear yourself and your child out. You can learn more about narration by reading *For the Children's Sake* by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay, and *When Children Love to Learn* by Elaine Cooper and many other books about the Charlotte Mason approach to homeschooling.

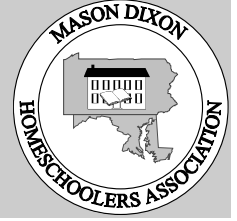
5 Stagger courses--Instead of doing every subject every day (do different content subjects different days, so one day can be history day, another science, etc. OR spend several weeks or months teaching history and then switch of finish the course and then do science the remaining time of the year.

6. Read aloud to all and let each child take what he will, whether you are using a read aloud or a history or science.

Continued on next page



HELPFUL HINTS



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7. Allow fidgety children to move about or draw or color while you are reading. They may NEED to move to learn. Some children cannot learn if they are not moving. Seriously. They are called kinesthetic learners. Just ask them to be quiet. You will be surprised when you ask them to narrate when you are done how much they know.

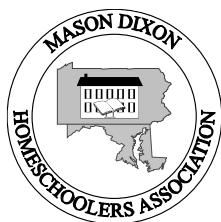
8. Combine some subjects: For example you can say: If you write your spelling words very neatly, then you don't have to do penmanship today. If you do a written narration today for history, you don't have to extra composition writing in your English book. Then use the history composition the next day---correct the errors and teach the grammar from it.

9. Have an older child do some reading (not all-they still like mom or dad to read to them) to the younger children.

10. You will want to read lots of books to your children but audio books can help you do some of the reading. You can download of lot of quality books from the Internet for free and put them on CDs to listen to in the car

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Co-op Treasurers Report Due to office and MDHSA treasurer for the month of August
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Watch for bi-annual business meeting in October. The date will be in the next newsletter.



Mason Dixon Homeschoolers Association

Newsletter Editor—Wanda Johnson

32 West Main St. #5

Waynesboro, PA 17268

MDHSA Administrative Office

Hours of phone/office availability are flexible daytime hours Mon.-Fri. Administrator is usually in the office on Mon. and/or Thurs this is subject to change without notice—call ahead) The office is staffed part-time by the administrator and volunteers .

MDHSA Office: 32 West Main St., #5,
Waynesboro, PA 17268 (717) 749- 5767

Website: www.mdhpa.org

Diploma program: diploma@pa.net

Administrator & MDHSA Office: MDHSAadmin@pa.net

Checked by the administrator **and** volunteers.

barbs.mdhpa.org

For Member Use Only, Confidential E-mail for Barb Snider

Chairman

Steven Appenzellar srappenzel@pa.net (717) 261 - 1771

Development Chairperson

Kim Travis ktravis476@aol.com (717) 375 - 2662

Secretary

Valerie Eby dewval_07@comcast.net (717) 593- 9650

Treasurer

Anita Powell wheelcappedanita@yahoo.com (207) 850-1134

Administrator

Barbara Snider mdhsaadmin@pa.net (717) 749-5767

Activities Coordinator

Virginia Baker ginnamom77@cyahoo.com (717) 530-1446

Five Forks BIC Facilities Coordinator

Jana Hege jhege@usa.com (717) 749-0474

MDHSA Co-Op Committees

Co-Op North Committee

Aimee Dunlap aimingarrows@embarqmail.com (717) 532-7536

Susan Montano susansito@embarqmail.com (717) 532-7142

Cheryl Martin rcmartin8@embarqmail.com (717) 530-9643

Treasurer

Julie Wirth natkaynate@yahoo.com (717) 267-1833

Co-Op South Committee

Vicki Eshe (717)655-5351

Merri Tabor hillhaven@pa.net (717) 765-8041

Kim Travis KTravis476@aol.com (717) 375-2662

Tammy Gift mommakitty916@yahoo.com (717) 794-5043

Melinda Hollingshead purplepoodle@comcast.net
(717) 762-4333

Treasurer

Barb Ward ralph.ward@myactv.net (301) 824-3512

Co-Op West

Robin Appenzellar srappenzel@pa.net (717) 261-1771

Teresa Sollenberger tsollenberger5638@comcast.net
(717) 369-2574

Treasurer

Denise Rine dlrine@frontiernet.net (717) 377-8841

Office Building Coordinator

Pam Heavner soapchicks@gmail.com (717) 387-5612

To join the MDHSA Announcement Group visit:

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

To join the MDHSA Discussion Group visit:

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