

# Recovering Our Vision

## The 25th Annual Greater Pittsburgh Homeschooling Workshop

### 2010 Workshop Descriptions



#### Keynote Address 8:50 am to 9:50 am

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##### **Recovering Our Vision, Why Homeschooling Makes Sense Now More Than Ever**

*Debra Bell*

Do you ever lose sight of the reasons home educating sounded like a good idea in the beginning? Never forget the grand scope of God's plan of grace in our lives! Hear examples of why this lifestyle has shown itself to be richly rewarding for Christian families and how God is using those who have gone out into the world from this base. Learn some keys to insure that we do not miss the big picture and lose heart.

#### First Workshop Session 10:00 am to 10:50 am

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##### **Teaching the Reluctant Writer**

*Denise Kelley*

This workshop will answer the basic question, why most children do not like to write. Learn a successful method of separating the complex process of writing into the smallest possible steps, making it possible for even the most reluctant writer to produce short but complete compositions. Help your child learn how to write, using source texts, key word outlines, and "dress-up" checklists. Results guaranteed!

##### **AP Classes vs CLEP—What Suits You Best\***

*Susan Richman*

Investigate two possible routes to earning college credit while still in high school. Compare these options and make an informed decision. Hand-outs and website resources for gaining further information will be offered as well as success stories with both options—and some cautions to consider.

##### **The Seed of A Nation**

*Darrel Fields*

Pennsylvania history comes alive with purpose; William Penn planted the seeds for a new nation. His constitution provided the framework for the United States government, and established freedom for all people. Speaker is the co-author of *The Seed of A Nation*.

##### **Ten Don'ts of Homeschooling**

*Patty Fish*

Gain practical advice from a 15 year veteran of homeschooling and mother of four. Learn what to avoid so that you don't crash and burn.

#### Second Workshop Session 11:00 am to 11:50 am

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##### **Developing Motivation and Interest in Children of All Ages**

*Debra Bell*

This seminar covers the importance of intrinsic motivation and interest in learning. Research shows motivation to be an inherent characteristic of young children. Studies indicate that most students in a traditional setting show a steady loss in academic motivation the longer they are in school; however, homeschooling is an antidote to this decline. Learn practical ways to help your children and teens develop and retain motivation and enjoyment in academic pursuits.

##### **Special Needs—A Roundtable Discussion**

*Melissa Rooney, Jane Maruca & Diane Goliwas*

Topics to be discussed include: the Homeschool law as it pertains to special needs curriculum, incorporating therapies into your homeschool program, networking and social opportunities, coping with special needs challenges, motivation and scheduling strategies.

##### **Homeschooling for Beginners**

*Sue Means*

Homeschooling veteran of 24 years shares the benefits of homeschooling and how to begin. Talk geared toward elementary school and includes a brief discussion of PA's Homeschooling law.

##### **High School at Home\***

*Howard Richman*

Editor of the PA Homeschooling newsletter, board member of the PA Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency and veteran homeschooling dad will discuss how to take advantage of the many options available to develop a balanced program meeting the academic and social needs of high school students.

##### **Developing Creative Problem-Solving Skills through Odyssey of the Mind**

*Linda Winegar*

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving program for kindergarten through college level. Students learn to think "outside the box" (but within constructive parameters) and express their creativity by working on teams to solve a complex, creative & challenging "problem." Odyssey of the Mind strives to develop and nurture the creativity that lies within every individual.

##### **Intensive Care Prayer Time**

Prayer counselors are available at lunch time and throughout the day.

##### **How to Become a Homeschool Evaluator**

*Howard Richman*

Executive director of the PA Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency will describe the varied roles of a homeschool evaluator. Emphasis will be placed on writing high school evaluations that can be used as letters of recommendation for colleges and scholarships.

## **Third Workshop Session 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM**

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### **Twenty-First Century Homeschooling**

*Debra Bell*

Welcome to the digital age. What does the future of education look like, and how can the homeschool community take advantage of this? Here's a look at free tools and online content sites that can make your homeschool more efficient, more economical and more powerful. Harness the educational advantage of online learning and give your kids a jumpstart on their future. Look at how Web 2.0 applications are changing the definition of education - blogs, wikis, Google applications, Skype, VoiceThreads, open courseware, YouTube, Facebook and even Twitter, which when used appropriately can really help kids learn.

### **Hands on Tools for the Kinesthetic Learner**

*Judy Kinnee*

The Kinesthetic (hands-on) learner can be the most challenging to teach. Does your child need to "do it" to "get it"? Come learn the benefits of the Learning Palette system geared for math and reading.

### **Teaching Classic Literature—How and Why**

*Denise Kelley*

It is important to teach children to love classical literature. Stop struggling with the run-of-the-mill literature guide books and learn the secret for turning passive book reading into an exciting literature experience.

### **Creative Adventures in Art**

*Susan Richman*

Get a look at what a creative visual arts program might look like at home. A PowerPoint presentation will let you see a wide range of genuine homeschool student artwork (K-12), as well as ideas on how to include children's artwork effectively as part of your year-end homeschool portfolio, and how to use art activities across the curriculum. Presentation will include samples of work created by students in this year AP Studio Art: Drawing online class.

## **Fourth Workshop Session 2:00 PM to 2:50 PM**

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### **Frugal Living and Time Management**

*Alison Wilkie and Tammie Bairen*

Learn techniques for saving your money and time so that you can get the most out of both. Feel free to share your ideas as well.

### **Boy Scouts—Words to Live By**

*Joseph Milharcic*

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent. The Boy Scouts of America builds character through the following programs: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing for boys and girls aged 14 – 20. Augment your homeschool program with a large range of activities from science, engineering and art to outdoor and survival skills.

### **Co-Ops and Book Clubs**

*Diane Goliwas and Melissa Rooney*

Take the fear out of starting your own mini co-op or a book club. Discover what subjects lend themselves well to a small co-op and how / when to split age groups. Learn the benefits of shared teaching, and ways to encourage a love for reading and sharing stories.

### **Christian Cassical Education**

*Laura Miller*

The core of classical education is the Trivium, an enduring teaching method that tailors the curriculum to a child's cognitive development, consisting of three stages: the Grammar stage, the Dialectic stage and the Rhetoric stage. Learn about Christian classical education, why is it necessary in our day, what are the benefits and how can we synchronize this philosophy into our homeschooling environment?