**CSTHEA quick-start guide** 2021

At the expo, please seek out the ladies wearing the silk flowers if you have questions. These are veteran homeschool moms that are willing to help you.To-do list for Home Education Expo**1. Register with a church-related school if you homeschool in TN**

- Aaron Academy (booth 74-75) - Homelife Academy – (booth 118-119)

- Gateway Christian Schools (booth 18) - Ali-Yah Academy — (booth 3)

There are three routes to legally homeschool in Tennessee.  Your options include:​

1. **Register with your local school district (not recommended)**
2. **Register with a church-related umbrella school**
3. **Register with an accredited online program (note these can be private or public)**

These four church-related schools above are represented at the Home Education Expo. Talk with their representatives to find the church-related school you prefer. The church-related schools can answer questions regarding Tennessee laws, record keeping, grading and curriculum choices. You have the option of registering with the superintendent of schools, but we don’t recommend that option. Despite what you may have been told, Tennessee law does not require registering with the superintendent. The differences among the church-related schools include geographical areas they cover, local presence, cost, testing requirements and whether they offer online reporting and record keeping among others. There are other church related schools that are not at our expo. You can find a more complete list at MTHEA.org.

As for online private accredited programs, there are many nationwide. Represented here at our Expo is Abeka Academy and BJU. Be aware that if you register with an online PUBLIC education program such as your county’s K-12, you are not classified as a home schooler and thus can not participate in CSTHEA sponsored activities. If you decide to go with the third option, be sure your choice of online school **is** accredited or you will need to **also** register with a church related school. Be sure your choice of an unaccredited online program will be accepted by your church related school.

GA homeschool law requires you send a letter of intent to the Georgia DOE. This can be done online at GaDOE.org

2. **Visit the HSLDA booth.** The Home School Legal Defense Association is one you should join. You can receive a nice discount via a discount code on the HSLDA membership if you are a member of THEA or registered with a church-related school in their discount group. At the HSLDA booth you will find helpful getting-started guides. You can find them in booth 79 or online at hslda.org – loads of helpful resources at the quick navigation bar including special needs, pre-school, struggling learner, state laws, and even high school online classes.

 **3. Attend a helpful workshop.** There is a complete listing of workshops available in your expo brochure. Possible workshops to consider if you are getting started with younger children and some for getting started with high school are:Friday —

 12:00 a.m. How to Teach Pre-School and Lower Elementary Grades

 Area 2

10:45 a.m. Teaching Reading and Reading Comprehension Area 2

2:30 p.m. Kindergarten at Home Area 3

3:45 p.m. Getting Started Area 3

Saturday ––

 1:15 Homeschooling Through High School Area 1

Different approaches to homeschooling

Traditional Textbook/Workbook Approach This approach uses textbooks and workbooks. Examples of curriculum using this method would be Abeka, (booths 94-99) Bob Jones (booths 90-93, 100-103) Rod and Staff (booths 20-21), and ACE (booths 9-11). Some questions to ask before trying this approach are listed below.Did my child perform well in a classroom?Does my child like to complete assignments and to have defined goals?Will my child complete assigned tasks with a minimum of prodding from me? Am I the kind of person who will follow through with the lesson plans and pace of the course of instructions?Does my child read well and have good comprehension skills?Can my child work well independently?Does my child learn without a lot of variety to the teaching materials?**Strengths of the Textbook/Workbook Approach**Everything is laid out for ease of useFollows a standardized scope and sequenceHas a definite milestone of accomplishmentsTesting and assigning grades is easy to do**Weakness of the Textbook/Workbook Approach**Is geared to the generic child. Does not take into account individual learning styles, strengths and weakness, or interestIs teacher directed and seatwork orientedExpensive when teaching multiple childrenClassical approachBased on three stages of learning called the trivium. The first stage (the Grammar Stage) covers early elementary ages and focuses on reading, writing, and spelling; the study of Latin; and developing observation, listening and memorization skills. The second stage (the Dialectic Stage) covers middle school ages and teaches logical discussion, debate, and how to draw correct conclusions and support them with facts. The final stage (the Rhetoric Stage) covers high school and seeks to produce a student who can use language, both written and spoken, eloquently and persuasively. Examples of curriculum using this method would be The Omnibus by Veritas Press, The Well Trained Mind by Susan Wise Bauer, and Teaching the Trivium: Christian Homeschooling in a Classical Style by Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn. You may want to check out local groups such as Veritas or Classical Conversations (booths 112-113). Some questions to ask yourself before trying this approach are listed below.Does my family like to read good literature?Are my children intellectually oriented and comfortable with a rigorous academic approach?Am I a learner? Am I comfortable learning alongside my children so I can teach them things I never studied?Do I like to study and discuss ideas that have influenced civilization?**Strengths of the Classical Approach**Teaches thinking skills and verbal/written expressionCreates self learnersHas produced great minds throughout history**Weakness of the Classical Approach**Requires a scholarly teacher and studentMay overemphasize ancient disciplines and classicsThe unit study approachThis approach takes a theme or topic and delves into it deeply over a period of time, integrating language arts, science, social studies, math, and fine arts as they apply. Some examples of curriculum using this method would be Amanda Bennett, Five in a Row, KONOS, and Valerie Bendt. Some questions to ask yourself before trying this approach are listed below.Am I a creative person?Do I like trying to make everything interesting and fun?Do my children have a variety of interest and learning styles?Can I live with the fact that there may be “gaps” in my children’s education?Do I have the time and energy to be the driving, creative force behind the development of units?**Strengths of the Unit Study Approach**All ages can learn togetherChildren can delve as deeply or as lightly into a subject as they likeThe family’s interest can be pursuedStudents get the whole pictureIntense study of one topic is the more natural way to learn**Weakness of the Unit Study Approach**It is easy to leave educational “gaps”Hard to assess the level of learning occurringRecord keeping may be difficultPrepared unit study curricula can be expensiveDo it yourself unit studies require planningToo many activity-oriented unit studies may cause burn-out of the teacher and studentSubjects that are hard to integrate into the unit may be neglected

There is a helpful workshop on Saturday at 1:15 in Area 2 on Unit StudiesLiterature-based approachUses study guides and classic children’s literature. An example of curriculum using this method would be Sonlight, or Tapestry of Grace. Some questions to ask yourself before trying this approach are listed below.Does our family like to read, both alone and together through reading aloud?Am I comfortable with more of a “free form” approach to learning?Do I trust my children to learn on their own?**Strengths of the Literature-Based Approach**Exposes children to a wide variety of books Encourages curiosity, creative thinking, and a love of learning 3. Eliminates meaningless tasks, busywork**Weakness of the Literature-Based Approach**Time consumingCan be difficult to stick to the scheduleSometimes hard to find booksPrepackaged curriculum including all the pre-selected books can be expensiveLiving book or Charlotte Mason approachMason’s approach to academics was to teach basic reading, writing, and math skills, then expose children to the best sources of knowledge for all other subjects. This meant giving children experience like nature walks, observing and collecting wildlife; visiting art museums; and reading real books with “living ideas.” She called such books “living books” because they made the subjects “come alive” unlike textbooks that tend to be dry and dull and assume the reader cannot think for him/herself. Some examples of curriculums and resources using this method would be Amblesideonline.org, CMI’s The Alveary, SimplyCharlotteMason.com, Charlotte Mason: a Study Guide by Penny Gardner, Charlotte Mason Companion by Karen Andreola, and Charlotte Mason Education by Catherine Levison. Locally there is a Charlotte Mason support group, and Chattanooga Charlotte Mason Facebook group. Exhibitors who feature this method are Simply Charlotte Mason (104-106). Some questions to ask yourself before trying this approach are listed below.

Does our family like to read both alone and together through reading aloud? Am I comfortable with more of a “free form” approach to learning?Will I follow through with exposing my children firsthand to nature, music, and to great art?**Strengths of the Living Books or Charlotte Mason Approach**Stresses formation of good character and habitsExposes children to real objects and books instead of interactions with distilled information Encourages curiosity, creative thinking, and a love of learningEliminates meaningless tasks, busywork**Weakness of the Living Books or Charlotte Mason Approach**Relies on the parent studying in depth the philosophy and the methods.

May not provide enough structure if you are geared that way

Here at the expo you can find Living Books at Books Bloom, booths 72 and 73 and also at Home Works booths 80-85.

Charlotte Mason support can be found locally at the Facebook group Chattanooga Charlotte Mason

Other optionsIf you are not comfortable teaching a particular subject, you can seek out the assistance of groups such as online classes, private classes, co-ops or tutorials Tutorials represented at this expo are Hilger Higher Learning (booth 76), Classical Conversations (booths 112-113), Michaels Homeschool (booth 86-87), Scriptorium Hall (booth 33) and There are also booths that offer art, music, foreign languages, sports and other classes to meet specific needs.

\*\*\* Much of the information in the Learning Styles section of this guide was taken from the Elijah Co. catalog. Special thanks to the Elijah Co. (now defunct) for letting us reprint the information. \*\*\*

Helpful websites for getting started http://www.thehomeschoolmom.comHere is a great place to get started. Very comprehensive with excellent pre-school advice.

HomeschoolingToday.com – online magazine with lots of helpful articles, free digital issue

HomeschoolMagazine.com – another online magazine with lots of helps

http://www.successful-homeschooling.com/This website is comprehensive, well organized website that gives some good answers to the questions, “Why homeschool?” “How do I start homeschooling?” and “Where can I find the best homeschool resources?” She has sections on getting organized, saving money, working at home, and finding support. She also offers a free e-book

http://www.csthea.org/This is the website for CSTHEA. It is a great site that will keep you up to date on what is happening in the realm of CSTHEA, which stands for Chattanooga Southeast Tennessee Home Education Association. This will include information on Events & Activities such as graduation, yearbook, Sports, and the annual Home Education Expo. It includes resources such as support group information and homeschool services. Helpful booksHow to Homeschool: A Practical Approach, by Gayle GrahamThe Ultimate Guide To Homeschooling, by Debra BellChoosing & Using Curriculum, by Joyce HerzogThe Way They Learn, by Cynthia TobiasEducating the Whole Hearted Child, by Clay & Sally ClarksonCharlotte Mason Companion, by Karen Andreola100 Top Picks For Homeschooling Curriculum, by Cathy Duffy
So You’re Thinking About Homeschooling, by Lisa WhelchelHomeschooling the Early Years, by Linda DobsonHome Learning Year by Year by Rebecca RuppThe Ultimate Book of Homeschooling Ideas, by Linda DobsonThe Successful Homeschool Family Handbook, by Raymond and Dorothy Moore

Homeschooling for the Rest of Us by Sonya Haskins

For the Children’s Sake, by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

**Phonics**

Simple —

Alpha Phonics, by Sam BlumenfeldTeach your Child to Read in 100 Easy LessonsDelightful Reading, by Sonya ShaferGetting Ready for the CodeBob booksPhonics PathwaysTeach a Child to Read with Children’s Books by Mark Thogmartin

The Ordinary Parents Guide to Reading, by Jessie Wise Bauer

More Involved —Sing, Spell, Read and WriteThe Writing Road to Reading by Romalda SpaldingPhonics Museum by Veritas Press

For dyslexia — All About Reading

A more complete list and reviews are available at cathyduffyreviews.com.Help after expo

 Join the CSTHEA fb page, our online community, or other local homeschool fb pages  Join a support group in your area if there is one. Support groups are listed in the Esprit newsletter. Free copies of current issue available at CSTHEA table. To learn even more about the homeschooling method you have chosen, do a Web search on that style or that particular curriculum or fb page or group search.  Go through all the books and materials you purchased and get organized. There are many homeschool planners on the market. Chattanooga is remarkable for all the venues, clubs, organizations and attractions that cater to home educators — the zoo, aquarium, Children’s Discovery Museum, Hunter Art Museum to name a few. Look on their websites for options for homeschooling.

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