



The Homeschooler

Teachingparents.org

September 2016

Managing the Homeschool Teaching Day with a Struggling Learner by Pam Gates

As a homeschooling mom of six, one of the most challenging situations that has arisen is having a struggling learner who needs one-on-one time with me. I do as much of my homeschooling as possible with all of us working together. Even with math, which is so individualized, I prefer to have everyone working at the same time so I can move easily from one child to the next, helping where necessary. Our day is full, so the thought of spending an hour to an hour-and-a-half with just one child seemed difficult at best. The reality is, though, that that one-on-one time is crucial for the struggling learner.

Up to the time I began my third child's more formal education, I thought I must be a pretty amazing teacher. My two sons had no struggles academically. My daughter is very bright, so it was a surprise to me when I began noticing her having difficulty grasping even simple things.

She wanted so badly to learn. But by the age of 7 she was already considerably behind. She could not count to 10 comfortably. She could not say the alphabet (even with the song). She could write her name, but was unable to name each of the letters in it consistently. She could not remember phonics, so reading was nonexistent.

I scheduled a consultation with an educational diagnostician in Denver who was able to diagnose my daughter as having dyslexia. The diagnostician outlined a daily schedule for us to follow and taught me specific teaching methods (most of them right brain strategies). She also taught me therapy designed specifically to open my daughter's blocked learning gates and guided me through a nutritional plan found to work particularly well with children with dyslexia.

I left the appointment relieved and excited, but somewhat overwhelmed. Frankly, at this point, educating my daughter had become so frustrating for both of us that we had drastically reduced the amount of time we spent on it. But I went home determined to prayerfully carve out the time she needed.

Please take this in the spirit it is intended. I know how difficult the task is and how the enemy tries to cripple us with guilt, so I was asked to share practical advice to help those of you who find yourselves in a similar situation. With our schedule as it was, how could I possibly give Breanna the individual time she needed, continue my sons' education, and manage my 4-year-old, 2-year-old and newborn's schedules?

Time Management Suggestions

Set your priorities. The first milestone was the realization that teaching my daughter to read was the most important thing to focus on at that time. Her two big brothers could afford to take a break, if necessary, while I concentrated on her for awhile. I found that my children who are not struggling can catch up in a short time. You may decide that it is necessary to ease up on the amount of curriculum you cover with them during the school year and spend some of the summer break working to pick up the slack.

Realistically look at your daily schedule. What activities could we drop, or at least put on hold for a while? Music lessons, sports, field trips, even extra church activities may need to be set aside. Remember, this is not a permanent situation. It is often more difficult for us as mothers to give the extra activities up than for our children.

Extend your teaching time. For me this meant getting up earlier in the morning. It is much more productive for me to get myself to bed earlier and have more hours in the morning than to plan to get things done after the children have been put to bed. The energy I hope to have in the evening hours is somehow nonexistent. As for my children, I began making sure they were up, breakfasted and ready for the school day by 8. Look at your schedule to see what works best for your family.

Delegate within the family. My husband encouraged me to look at my daily tasks and determine which of my responsibilities I could turn over to the children. For example, we set up a simple breakfast and lunch menu and my three older children (10- and 8- and 7-year-olds) were each responsible for one day a week. As a mother, your time is more stretched. It is important to free yourself from some of the more repetitive tasks. Generally, our children can take on a lot more responsibility than we give them credit for. Once the initial (rather messy) training period is completed, this turns out to be a real blessing.

Delegate outside of the family. Recently, someone suggested hiring a homeschooled teen in the area to come over for an hour a day to do some of the teaching with the other children. It is important to note that I, as parent, am the one who needs to be focusing on my struggling learner. If funds are tight, consider instead checking history, science, and literature videos out at the library to keep your other children productively entertained during the tutoring session.

Incredible Progress

The individual time invested with my daughter was invaluable. We would not have been able to accomplish all we set out to do by keeping her constantly in the family teaching setting. She had to have some time free of distractions with me. After about six months of more concentrated time with her, she had made incredible progress and was able to work alongside the other children most of the time. We have been using the teaching strategies found to work best for her and have continued with the at-home therapy, along with nutritional interventions.

It has been a long, sometimes laborious, process, but now, six years later, you would never know she ever had dyslexia. She is reading, writing, and doing math at grade level. Last year her language arts teacher in our once-a-week home school co-op said she was amazed at her talent for poetry. Her teacher this year commented that she sometimes uses my daughter as a "second teacher" to help some of the other students. Best of all, my daughter no longer considers herself dyslexic.

Just as with homeschooling in general, this is obviously a very personal situation. I encourage you to pray for wisdom and patience to accomplish the task God has placed before you.



TPA 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY - May 12, 2017

If you have a homeschooled senior this year who would like to participate in the 2017 TPA graduation ceremony, you'll want to attend the fall meeting for parents & their graduates! The senior year flies by swiftly, so it is advantageous to get an early start on the details.

Date: Monday, September 12, 2016 (NOTE the date change!!)

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Central Christian Church (Hospitality Suite – use entrance #2)

The deadline to participate in TPA 2016 Graduation Ceremony is February 1, 2017.

Questions? Contact Jeff or Jeanine Schantz at graduation@teachingparents.org.



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS Troop KS0281

Come join us for our first troop meeting for the new year – **Monday, September 12, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Riverlawn Christian Church** (4243 N. Meridian). We

have troop meetings the 2nd & 4th Monday evenings each month from September through May. All girls from age 5 – 18 are welcome to visit our troop. Please enter through the north doors of the church.

Our September events include a service project to mark AHG's National Day of Service and a family campout with the Trail Life USA Troop at the Fall River Rendezvous. We will be participating in a Mountain Man Re-Enactment during the camping weekend.

Please contact Angie Ray at mrsangieray@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



8TH ANNUAL TPA ZOOFARI DAY

Join us for TPA ZOOFARI DAY at the Sedgwick County Zoo on **Thursday, September 15, 2016!** This year marks eight years of partnership with TPA and the Sedgwick County Zoo. To help homeschool families, TPA is offsetting part of the admission price. This year you can enjoy all the fun and educational programs for only \$4.25 per person. The reduced rate is only good for entrance from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** – however, you can stay later. You can also use your Zoo Membership, and all homeschool families are invited – you do NOT have to be a TPA member!

This year is really special because we get to meet the Zoo's new friends – the elephants! There is even a special class about the elephants included in our schedule.

A special meal deal will be available to TPA Zoofari Day participants. Lunches include a hamburger, fruit snacks, chips and juice, and all is packaged in an exciting animal-themed reusable tote bag for \$5.00. Please call the lunch line at 266-8330 and leave the requested information. Lunch orders must be placed by September 12th at 5:00pm.

Don't forget the educational classes just for homeschool families! All events will take place in (or around) the Pavilion, located to the west of the Plaza Beastro Restaurant. Please refer to our website for the descriptions of the classes.

9:30 am:

Birth to Kindergarten - Animal Tales Story Time
1st – 5th Grade – Habitats
6th – 12th Grade – Zoo Careers

10:30am:

Birth to Kindergarten - Animal Tales Story Time
1st – 5th Grade – Critter Café
6th – 12th Grade – Habitats

11:30am:

Birth to Kindergarten - Animal Tales Story Time
1st – 5th Grade – Great Plains Mall
6th – 12th Grade – Critter Café
1:00pm: All Ages – Elephant 411



TRAIL LIFE USA

Have you considered registering your son(s) in Trail Life?

Trail Life USA is an Outdoor Adventure, Character, and Leadership program for boys and young men in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Teaching Parents Association is the charter organization for Trail Life Troop KS-0281 in Wichita.

Our "Join the Trail" Informational Meeting and Open House for all troop families and prospective families is Monday, September 12, 7:00pm-8:30pm at Riverlawn Christian Church, 4243 N Meridian (just north of I235/K96). After the meeting we'll have root beer floats / ice cream. Come meet our families, learn about Troop 281, and have some fun.

For more information about Troop 281 in Wichita or if you have questions about starting a Troop in another area of Kansas, contact Scott Durkee, [316-518-0948](tel:316-518-0948), tpatrop281@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION TO JUDO

This fall semester Newman University is offering a one-hour credit course in judo. Judo is a graceful martial art focusing on the principles of mental and physical balance within its throwing and grappling techniques.

The Introduction to Judo course is open to Wichita-area homeschool high school students age 16 and older. High school students receive college credit through Newman University's Advanced Standing Program. No separate admission to the university is required. Students simply may enroll in the Introduction to Judo course the night or day of the first class meeting: either Wednesday, Sept. 7 or Saturday, Sept.10.

The course is co-educational and meets on the Newman University Campus. A Wednesday evening class is offered at 7:00-9:00 pm and a Saturday afternoon class at 2:00-4:00 pm. The Introduction to Judo course is designed for beginning students. No prior judo or athletic experience is therefore necessary.

The cost of the course is \$125, which includes the judo uniform.

This is an outstanding opportunity for homeschool students to earn college credit at a highly rated university. Interested parties may contact the course Instructor, Mr. Greg Gideon, MrGGideon@aol.com for further course and enrollment information.

AREA EVENTS:



Get on the **FastTrack** to a college education! Cowley College's dual enrollment program lets you start earning college credit while still attending high school.

Our special tuition rate helps you supercharge your coursework without breaking the bank. Cowley College waives your general fees and online course fees. AND our new textbook rental program saves you up to 60% in textbook expenses.

Whether they're taught in your high school, on our campus or online, the courses listed here are eligible for our **\$49 ACCELERATE**. These courses are also guaranteed to transfer among all Kansas public post-secondary institutions.

Basic Skills
Calculus I
College Algebra
Elementary Statistics
English Composition I
English Composition II
Interpersonal Communications
Public Speaking
Trigonometry

Lab Science
General Chemistry
Human Anatomy & Physiology
Introductory Astronomy
Physical Science
Principles of Biology

Social Science
American National Government
Cultural Anthropology
Developmental Psychology
General Psychology
Principles of Geography
Principles of Macroeconomics
Principles of Microeconomics
Principles of Sociology

Computer Literacy
Computer Applications

Humanities
Art Appreciation
Ethics
Introduction to Literature
Introduction to Philosophy
Music Appreciation
Theatre Appreciation
US History since 1865
US History to 1877

Other Electives
Development of the Young Child
Intro to Criminal Justice
Intro to Mass Communications
Nutrition
Personal Finance

Talk to your high school counselor or a Cowley admissions representative today to ignite your college career!
Find out more at: www.cowley.edu/dual



MONARCH DAYS

September 26 at 9:30 am

Students cost \$4 and one

teaching parent enters free. All children under age 3 are always free. Groups will enjoy a series of stations where they may explore butterfly anatomy, predation, migration paths and tagging demonstrations. This is a wonderful time to pack a picnic and stay after class for lunch in the gardens. We do offer a café with delicious wraps and snacks too.

MONARCH DAYS September 26 at 9:30 am. Students cost \$4 and one teaching parent enters free. All children under age 3 are always free. Groups will enjoy a series of stations where they may explore butterfly anatomy, predation, migration paths and tagging demonstrations. This is a wonderful time to pack a picnic and stay after class for lunch in the gardens. We do offer a café with delicious wraps and snacks too.



Check out the new and improved Facebook page for Butler's Early College Academies. "Like us"...we like to share all that we have to offer! Butler Community College offers 12-week classes that start on September 19 and 8-week classes that start on October 17. To enroll, go to www.butlercc.edu/enroll.

WICHITA AREA HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Wichita Warriors are looking forward to beginning our 23rd year as an organization. We offer homeschooled student athletes a place to compete in football, volleyball, soccer, cross country, basketball, track and field, golf, and cheerleading. If you are interested in participating in competitive athletics, go to www.wichitawarriors.org. If you have questions or are interested in participating with the Wichita Warriors in any sport, please feel free to contact the Athletic Director Jeff Masterson at wichitawarriorsad@gmail.com. We are excited to begin our 5th season of 8-man tackle football. Our junior high and high school teams begin play on Friday, September 2nd. Our volleyball teams, soccer teams, and cross country teams will also begin competition in September. The Wichita Warrior families and fans would like to say THANK YOU to all of our volunteer coaches and trainers.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KANSAS! STUDENT PHOTO CONTEST August 1 – November 1, 2016

This contest is inspired by L.W. Halbe, a teenager who used a small box camera

in Dorrance, Kansas in 1908 to capture images of his hometown. His photographs are now in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society. Today, Kansas students are invited to follow in Halbe's footsteps and capture moments from their community. The theme this year is *Making a Difference in Your Kansas Community*. Entries will be accepted through www.happybirthdayks.org through November 1, 2016. Awards will be presented at the Kansas State Capitol as part of the Kansas Day Celebration on January 27, 2017. First place winners from each grade will receive an iPad, and second place from each grade will receive a Kindle.

For more information on this program and others please visit the contest website: www.happybirthdayks.org



SPARKS ACADEMY

HOME SCHOOL & ENRICHMENT
Classes at The Art Park
7230 E 29th Street North, Wichita
www.sparkscuriosity.com

2016 FALL CLASSES @ Sparks Academy

Sparks is a multi-age, community-minded environment for learning. Classes are organized to provide high interest engagement, hands-on exploration, concept explanation, self-directed elaboration, & evaluation. Feel empowered and supported in your educational journey with Sparks Academy!

SPARKS! S.T.E.M (Ages: 8-12) Tuesdays 9:30-11:00 am

Sparks! STEM uses children's picture books to engage and ignite science inquiry and understanding. Through the learning cycle of Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate, students construct their own understanding of STEM concepts.

SPARKS! WRITING (Ages: 8-12) Tuesdays 12:30-2:00 pm

Sparks! Writing empowers students to find their voice and confidence as a writer. Students will develop ideas and compose writing with clarity and energy. The environment will be filled with zeal, encouragement, and collaboration. Dictation software will be used.

SPARKS! CIVICS (Ages: 6-12) Wednesdays 11:30-1:00 pm

Sparks! Civics focuses on the rights and duties of citizenship. Engaging students in activities that explore service, action, leadership, law, & justice. Students will be encouraged to examine their environment, notice & question injustices, and take action.

SPARKS! MATH WISE (Ages: 6-9) Thursday 9:30-11:00am

Sparks! Math Wise uses collaborative, hands-on activities to foster math confidence and fluency. Focusing on spatial relationships, estimations, reasoning mathematically, organizing information, and solving puzzles. There will be building, games, cooking, measuring, and much more.

SPARKS! CODING (Ages: 8-12) Thursdays 12:30-2:00 pm

(Ages 10+) Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 pm

Sparks! Coding guides students through simple steps to become expert coders using the popular programming language of Scratch. Students will collaborate to create, remix, customize, and share games and animations.

SPARK CURIOSITY. IGNITE LEARNING!!

Call: 316-200-3949 or Email:

Julie.price@sparkscuriosity.com

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUBS

Contact info: melaniepetersen7056@gmail.com

1500 E. Tall Tree Rd. 18-104, Derby 316-214-7056

1. Clubs are open to Homeschool students. Parents are welcome to share these experiences with their student.
 2. Clubs will be conducted primarily online with www.Moodlecloud.com
 3. 3-4 monthly meetings/semester
 4. Clubs cost \$20/semester (please mail check to above contact information)
 5. Officer positions (that require action) to give some leadership development.
 6. Members take turns making in poster presentation or media presentation to encourage others to join the club.
- Registration for launching this semester is due by Sep 5. Signing up sooner is better.**

Clubs Offered

“What’s Happening Today—“ Learning about Current Events thru selected news sources.

Meets at NW Christian under Lifetime of Learning on 1st WED of month at 11:45-12:20 (a bring-your-lunch meeting)

“Prager U Club” Utilizing www.prageru.com

Meets at NW Christian under Lifetime of Learning on 2nd WED of month at 11:45-12:20 (a bring-your-lunch meeting)

“American Citizen Club” Monthly topics about the political process, elections, citizenship

“American Founder’s Club” Study 1 Founder each week—mostly online via the Bill of Rights Institute or via books we share.

“Bill Bennett Patriot’s Club”

Family Civics - Sharing personal perspectives about the world at home; Meets infrequently-maybe 1-2 a school year.

PIANO LESSONS

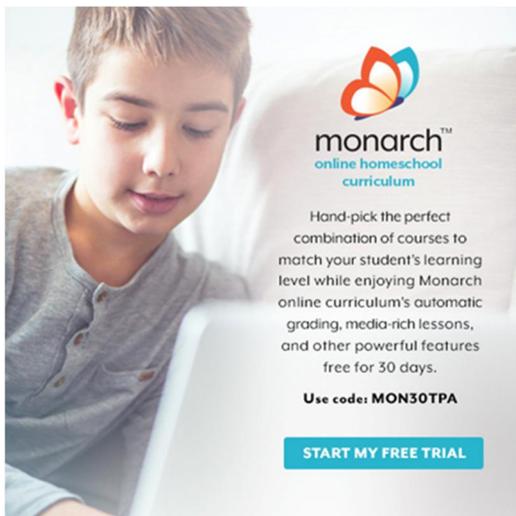
Would you like your child to take piano lessons, but don’t want to deal with the hassle of getting to them? Now you can have lessons come to you! This is a great, easy way for you to add music to your curriculum.

Everyone can benefit from piano lessons. Children and teenagers benefit with increased math and reasoning abilities, adults benefit with a break from the regular stresses of life, and retired persons benefit with increased brain function and activity.

I have been teaching piano for over 20 years, and have taught all ages, levels, and abilities. I offer family discounts and generous referral discounts. Spots are limited and will fill fast. Contact Julia for more information. Call/text 316-214-3636 or check out my website www.AccentStudioKS.com or Facebook page www.facebook.com/AccentStudioKS

READING TUTOR

Is your child having a difficult time learning how to read? Have you tried every program out there and they still just don’t seem to be able to read? I am a retired homeschool mom, and this summer I attended Fundamental Learning Center’s Literacy Intervention Specialist class, and I am so excited by what I learned! They train teachers to use a phenomenal program called Alphabetic Phonics that has a proven track record of helping struggling readers and dyslexics learn to read! By using this research-based, multisensory instruction, we can unlock the mystery of reading for your child. Call me and we can discuss how I can help in more detail. Sheila Robbins 316-734-6280



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BACK-TO-HOMESCHOOL BOWLING BASH

Thursday, September 1 from 1 – 4 pm
Northrock Lanes (3232 N. Rock Road, 316-636-5444)

There will be a brief meeting about the upcoming Homeschool league season followed by FREE BOWLING!

CALLING ALL CODERS, HACKERS AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN!!

Apply for the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award Application Period Open: Sept. 1- Nov. 7

NCWIT (National Center for Women in Technology) is a non-profit community of more than 650 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to correct the imbalance of gender diversity in technology and computing.

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing honors high school women who are active and interested in computing and technology, and encourages them to pursue their passions. This multi-tiered competition includes recognition at the national level (sponsored by Bank of America) and at the local level (sponsored by Microsoft).

Aspirations Award recipients are chosen for their aptitude and interest in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for post-secondary education. Applicants for the national award are automatically considered for the local Western Missouri & Kansas affiliate award.

Application Details

To apply for the award, high school women must first register online. Go to

<https://www.aspirations.org/user/register>.

Computing Educator Award

Computing teachers are also recognized in this award cycle. Find out more at

<https://www.aspirations.org/participate/educators>.

Please note that if a web site contains last year's information, it will be updated soon for 2016-17. If I can provide additional information, please contact me.

Judy Mullins

Coordinator, Western Missouri & Kansas Aspirations in Computing Award

mullinsj@umkc.edu 816-390-4386



MONART DRAWING CLASSES FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

The Art Park 7230 E 29th St. N., Wichita
316-683-2500 or

TheArtParkWichita@cox.net

Want to learn to draw? Whether you want to learn the basics of drawing or improve existing drawing skills, these are the classes for you! Instructors will show you new techniques and provide professional quality materials to complete your artwork. This guided step-by-step method improves visual perception skills by breaking down the subject matter for people of all ages to see and follow along. The patented Monart Drawing Method was designed by leading art educator Mona Brookes, author of Drawing With Children and Drawing For Older Teens and Adults. In these monthly workshops students have fun using provided media, such as design markers, water color, water color pencil, acrylics, colored pencils, oil and chalk pastels while learning to draw! The theme for the 2016-2017 workshops for the school year is OLD MASTERS. Tuition each month is \$10.00 (cash please!) per person per class and includes all supplies and materials. This class meets Fridays from 10:00-11:00 and is geared for ages 4 ½ -7 and 8-14.

ONLINE ENROLLMENT:

www.TheArtParkWichita.com/classes

Sept. 16th: MICHELANGELO, 1475-1564

Oct. 21st: LEONARDO DA VINCI, 1452-1519

Nov. 18th: REMBRANDT, 1606-1669

Dec. 16th: MARTIN JOHNSON HEADE, 1819- 1904

Jan. 20th: BOTTICELLI, 1445-1510

Feb. 17th: RAPHAEL, 1483-1520

Mar. 17th: GIUSEPPE ARCIMBOLDO, 1527- 1593

Apr. 21st : ALBRECHT DURER, 1471-1528

May 19th: PAUL SIGNAC, 1863 -1935

June 16th: GEORGE STUBBS, 1724-1806

July 21st: WILLIAM TURNER, 1775-1851

Aug. 18th: VERMEER, 1632-1675

WANT MORE CLASSES? Then sign up for our weekly classes! Meets Mon. 3:30-4:30 pm or Wed. 1:30-2:30 pm, ages 4 ½ - 7 Getting Ready or ages 8-12 Basic Drawing. Intermediate Teen classes meet Mon. or Thurs. 4:30-6:00 pm. Homeschool families receive a 15% discount for the first two students and a 25% discount for any students thereafter. Prices below indicate tuition for one student for a semester. Call for pricing for 3+ students.

Fall Semester Sept. 1st -Nov 30th: 12 weeks. Pre-pay for 11 & choose which dates you can attend. **1 hour:** \$165.00; **1 ½ hour:** \$187.00. **Winter Semester Dec. 1st – Feb. 28th:** 11 weeks. Pre-pay for 10 & choose which dates you can attend. **1 hour:** \$149.00; **1 ½ hour:** \$175.00. **Spring Semester Mar. 1st – May 23rd:** 11 weeks, pre-pay for 10 & choose which dates you can attend. **1 hour:** \$149.00; **1 ½ hour:** \$175.00.



WICHITA DEFENDERS

Mission: The Wichita Defenders exist to provide homeschool athletes with a competitive sports program that uses athletics as a tool to disciple young men and women to pursue godliness and excellence in every aspect of their lives.

Basketball Parents Meeting

The basketball parents meeting is scheduled for 6 pm on Monday, September 19 at Evangel Presbyterian Church (Kellogg & West 135th). We have programs for 4th - 8th grade girls and 4th - 12th grade boys. Please come visit us at the parents meeting to learn more about our exciting program. Feel free to contact Basketball Athletic Director Matt Brown at BasketballAD@wichitadefenders.org.

Soccer

The Wichita Defenders are excited to offer their first year of Middle School Soccer. Boys begin this fall and girls start in the spring. Please contact Coach Brian Moser at moser-bunch@cox.net for more details.

Volleyball

High School and Junior High Volleyball is being offered this fall. Please contact Athletic Director Laura Moser at VolleyballAD@wichitadefenders.org for more information.

Bowling

High School Bowling will be kicking off in November. Look for sign-up information in next month's newsletter.

Visit The Wichita Defenders on Social Media

www.wichitadefenders.org

Facebook : [Wichita Defenders](https://www.facebook.com/WichitaDefenders)

Twitter: [@WichitaDefender](https://twitter.com/WichitaDefender)

Instagram: [Wichita_Defenders](https://www.instagram.com/Wichita_Defenders)

Contact Us

For inquiries of the Wichita Defenders please contact Eric Nordberg, WichitaDefenders@wichitadefenders.org or visit our website www.wichitadefenders.org.

FICTION WRITING FOR THE ASPIRING AUTHOR

As I've watched the Olympic games these past couple weeks, one fact has become glaringly apparent—every success story begins and ends with a great coach or mentor. I'd venture to say that no one who has risen to the top has ever done so without the help, encouragement, and instruction of someone who is further down the road.

I can definitely say that's been true of my own life. My spiritual growth has been dramatically shaped by mentors, from my parents and church leaders who showed me how to live out faith in real life, to college ministry leaders and missions co-workers who taught me how to incorporate Bible

study into my daily routine and share my faith effectively with others.

My journey from young homeschooled bookworm to my current career writing and editing, mentoring aspiring authors, and running my own book publishing company has also been marked by the influence of key mentors.

My mother, a strong writer herself, encouraged my passionate love for reading and laid a strong foundation for my writing success. My college journalism professors built on her instruction, teaching me how to tell stories concisely and ask the right questions. My superiors in my previous career writing for a newspaper and working in communications for a global missions organization also helped me develop my editing and writing skills.

However, my most influential writing mentor was a well-respected and multi-published Christian fiction author by the name of DiAnn Mills. Nearly eight years ago, I signed up for the Christian Writers Guild Mentorship Apprenticeship and Journeyman courses and was assigned DiAnn Mills as my mentor. She set me, a clueless 20-year-old student who had yet to complete her first novel, on a course to the success I'm enjoying today.

A great mentor knows when to encourage, when to push, and, most importantly, they know what their student has the potential to accomplish—and how to get them there!

DiAnn definitely embodied those qualities, and I strive to emulate her example in my own writing mentorship courses. Throughout both of my eight-week fiction and article-writing mentorship courses, my goal is to recognize and bring out the potential in each student through instruction, examples, and personalized feedback on each assignment via email and video chat.

My article-writing course draws on my training and experience as a journalist and explores different types of articles (feature, profile, opinion, essay), while building a strong foundation in the fundamentals of quality writing.

Designed for the aspiring author, my fiction writing course covers topics like story structure, character development, themes and world-building in a clear and practical framework that builds on itself to help my students walk through the novel creation process. Unlike many fiction writing programs, I approach the storytelling process from a biblical worldview and help my students learn to communicate truth in a natural and compelling way.

Mentors are key stepping stones on the path to success. It is my joy and privilege to mentor others on their writing journey. Who knows? Maybe one day they'll be mentoring others on their own road.

Questions or concerns? Ready to sign up for a writing mentorship course? Contact me at Morford.katie@gmail.com or visit my website, www.storyforhisglory.com, for more details.