



# The Homeschooler

Teachingparents.org

April 2017

## WHAT IS TPA?

TPA is the acronym for Teaching Parents Association. But what is this organization? TPA is a Christian organization networking new, current, and former homeschool families within the state of Kansas. TPA provides education, edification, and encouragement through multiple channels such as support groups, programs, and events.

Here is a list of upcoming events that TPA is sponsoring:

- April 20-21 Achievement testing using the *Iowa Test of Basic Skills* (registration is closed)
- May 12 High School Graduation (registration closed)
- May 19 Used Book Sale (registration opens April 15)
- June 22 Homeschool + College Open House at WATC
- July 28-29 Leader Retreat for leaders of support groups, co-ops, and other homeschool groups
- August 5 Homeschool 101 for anyone interested in or just beginning to homeschool
- August 5 High School How-To Workshop
- Sept. 14 Zoofari Day at the Sedgwick County Zoo – includes fun, educational programs
- October ACT Prep Workshop (date to be determined)
- April 13-14 2018 Homeschool Convention

More information about each of these events can be found at [www.teachingparents.org](http://www.teachingparents.org) under the “TPA Events” tab.

Becoming a member of TPA helps us offer these events throughout the year. Our programs and services are available to all homeschool families, not just TPA members, but membership does provide several discounts: FREE admission to convention, \$20 HSLDA membership discount, \$15 high school graduation registration discount, and \$5 ITBS registration discount. Membership runs from January through December of each year. Membership is available through the TPA website under the “About” tab.

The biggest event each year that TPA sponsors is the homeschool convention. This year’s convention was held on March 10 – 11 and was an amazing time of fun, learning, shopping, and encouragement. The recordings of the featured speakers and the workshops will be available soon to be purchased through the TPA website under the “Convention” tab. This will enable you to receive encouragement and information throughout the year.

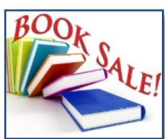
Another way TPA helps homeschool families is by training them to homeschool. The “Homeschool 101” class gives parents the legal background and basic steps to teach their children. This includes choosing curriculum, making lesson plans, and keeping records. The “High School How-To Workshop” has information to encourage and train parents for teaching at an advanced level. Making a transcript, using dual-credit classes, and navigating college admissions are all covered to give parents confidence in teaching their teenagers.

The TPA Library is a valuable resource for all homeschooling families. There are books for enjoyment for children and adults as well as curricula from a variety of publishers that may be checked out. This may help a homeschooling family decide which curriculum will best suit their needs. The library also offers a summer reading program to encourage children to read for enjoyment and knowledge as well as prizes. The summer reading program this year runs from May 4 through August 17. Stop by the library located in the basement of Pathway Church (2001 N. Maize Road) any Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm. NOTE: Box Tops are accepted at any of the TPA events to help purchase new materials for the library.

*The Homeschooler* is TPA's monthly newsletter that contains pertinent information to homeschoolers in Wichita and the surrounding areas. Sign up to receive this free publication each month by email at [www.teachingparents.org](http://www.teachingparents.org) under the "Resources" tab. Timely reminders for special events are also emailed to those on our mailing list.

As a ministry to homeschoolers and our community, TPA charters both a Trail Life USA troop and an American Heritage Girls troop. These are Christian programs for boys and girls from age 5 to age 18. Both of these troops help develop character and leadership skills as well as provide outdoor adventure opportunities.

All TPA events are made possible by a dedicated group of homeschooling parents. Everyone who works in TPA does this on a volunteer basis. Their desire is to encourage other homeschooling families on their journey of educating their children and to help them "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Your prayers are always appreciated for this special ministry serving the homeschool community in Kansas.



### TPA USED BOOK SALE

The TPA Used Book Sale is **May 19, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** at the Sedgewick County Extension

Education Center, 7001 W. 21st Street in Wichita.

Sign up to be a seller so you can earn a little money for your curriculum for next year, or plan to come and shop the great sale prices for used curriculum!

Questions: [www.usedbooksale@teachingparents.org](mailto:www.usedbooksale@teachingparents.org)

*Table registration will begin April 15, 2017.*

*6-foot table - \$15.00, ½ table - \$7.50*

To register go to

[www.teachingparents.org/TPAevents/TPAusedbooksale](http://www.teachingparents.org/TPAevents/TPAusedbooksale)



### TPA GRADUATION 2017

Teaching Parents Association High School Graduation Ceremony

**Friday, May 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

Central Christian Church, 2900 N. Rock Road, Wichita, Kansas.

TPA is pleased to announce: **State Representative Kevin Jones from the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Kansas** will be the keynote speaker!

Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony and reception celebrating this year's homeschooling class of 2017 – **TPA's 25<sup>th</sup>**!

**RURAL RENO COUNTY HOMESCHOOL**

**NETWORKING NIGHT**, April 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. 104 King St., Partridge, KS 67566.

TPA is excited to travel to Reno County to meet with homeschool families in the area. This is your opportunity to visit with representatives from various educational resources. Come and connect with other homeschool families!

TPA will have a presentation on homeschooling through the difficult times. There will also be a time to connect with educational resource leaders and other homeschool families so you can find the support you need to homeschool. Even a Q&A time with TPA representatives who are long time homeschool parents. Come and get connected!

Questions: *Dalena Wallace* [gr8fulmommyof6@gmail.com](mailto:gr8fulmommyof6@gmail.com)

**AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS**

We have had a very exciting year so far with American Heritage Girls Troop KS0281! One of our latest adventures consisted of taking a self-defense class for the Emergency Preparedness badge. Our older girls learned some basic self-defense moves and then brought their knowledge back to the troop and taught everyone the life-saving skills! Our second outing was to the Great Plains Nature Center to experience God's beautiful creation. We successfully completed the Nature and Wildlife badge by learning about endangered species, types of tree and plants, and pond life. What a great time we've had learning about and experiencing our great God this year!

We are excited about our upcoming camp-in at the Cosmosphere at the end of April. We will be completing 2 of our badges dealing with space as well as having a lot of fun checking out this great museum. If you would like information about our troop or just have questions about AHG, please contact Angie Ray at [mrsangieray@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsangieray@yahoo.com).

**TPA Library  
Summer Reading Program**

On your Mark, Get Set... READ

May 4<sup>th</sup> – August 17<sup>th</sup>  
Thursdays 11am – 1pm

Prizes & Recognition

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Where: TPA Library, Pathway Church, 2001 N. Maize Rd.  
In the basement next to the kitchenette

**TRAIL LIFE USA**

Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered, outdoor adventure, character, and leadership program for boys and young men in kindergarten through 12th grade. Trail Life Troop KS-0281 (Troop 281) of Wichita is chartered by Teaching Parents Association.

One way to support our Trail Life Troop is through our **BBQ Brisket and Pulled Pork Dinner** on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. We are raising money for our Summer Adventure Camps and would appreciate your support. You can also buy online at <https://troop281.eventcube.io/>

We meet on Monday nights 7:00pm-8:30pm at Riverlawn Christian Church, 4243 N Meridian (just north of I235/K96). For more details about our Troop, please contact Scott Durkee at [tpatroop281@gmail.com](mailto:tpatroop281@gmail.com) or 316-518-0948.

**TPA Homeschool  
Support Group Leader  
Retreat**

Featuring: Carol Topp, CPA

Date: July 28-29, 2017  
Place: Hyatt Hotel in  
Wichita, Kansas

Registration Begins in April

<http://bit.ly/2017TPALeaderRetreat>

**AREA EVENTS:****CHFM USED BOOK SALE**

The annual CHFM Used Book Sale is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00-4:00pm at Central Christian Church (2900 N. Rock Road, Wichita, 67226). Please park on the south side of the church and enter at the Chapel entrance (#4). If you have items you would like to sell, you may reserve a table after April 1st. Tables are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost to reserve a table is \$5 for a 6-ft. table and \$10 for a 12-ft. table. Doors will open at 1:00 pm for sellers to set up and then shop. If you have questions or wish to reserve a table, contact Merav Maxwell at [meravm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meravm@sbcglobal.net) or 316-208-4054.

**ENGINEERING EXPO**

This FREE event features hands-on activities for kids in grades K-8 to learn how engineering relates to the world around us. It is presented by the Wichita section of the Society of Women Engineers and by Spirit AeroSystems.

What: SWE Engineering Expo

Where: Century II Exhibition Hall

When: April 29, 9 am - 2 pm, stop in anytime.

The activities are intended for girls and boys in grades K-8. All participants must have a parent or guardian present during the Expo. We also have workshops during the event specifically for kids in 6th - 8th grade. They are free, but you do need to sign up in advance at <http://wichitaswe.org/expo/>. More information is at <http://wichitaswe.org/expo/>.

**MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES**

Martial Arts Classes begin April 6, 2017, at Premier Martial Arts of Wichita (2121 N. Tyler Rd #205, Wichita, KS 67212). Classes are for ages 5- High School. Classes are every Thursday at 2:00 pm.

In our classes we teach Character Education, Physical Fitness, Leadership Skills, Personal Safety, Self-Defense, Kickboxing, Karate, Krav Maga - everyday fun! Classes are \$25/month. We do offer several family discounts. Please call us to get signed up at [316-706-3863](tel:316-706-3863) or go to [www.facebook.com/Jettshomeschoolmartialarts.com](http://www.facebook.com/Jettshomeschoolmartialarts.com).

**OLD COW TOWN MUSEUM EVENTS**

- April 1 – Season Launch Party

Come out to Cowtown to find out what we have planned for the 2017 Season! Where else can you find Santa Claus and the Headless Horseman together? There will be information on all our upcoming events, volunteers to chat with, and membership info. Most of the action will be inside our Visitor's Center, but there will be access to the museum grounds! Free admission, 12-4pm.

- April 8 – Once Upon a Time (at Cowtown)

Have you ever wanted to chat with your favorite storybook characters? Maybe take a picture on the yellow brick road? Come out to Cowtown from 10am-5pm for a day filled with fun and magic. We will have pirates, dancers, princesses, and some of your favorite characters including Dorothy and her friends and the Big, Bad Wolf! Regular admission: \$7.75 - Adults (18-61), \$6.50 - Senior Citizens (62+), \$6.00 - Youth (12-17), \$5.50 - Children (4-11), FREE - Children (under 4) & Cowtown Members.

[www.oldcowntown.org](http://www.oldcowntown.org)

(316) 350-3323

1865 W. Museum Blvd, Wichita, KS 67203

**SUZUKI VIOLIN AND PIANO LESSONS**

Grace Notes Music Studio with Valerie Chouinard

Website: [www.gracenoteswichita.weebly.com](http://www.gracenoteswichita.weebly.com)

Email: [gracenoteswichita@gmail.com](mailto:gracenoteswichita@gmail.com)

- 12 years of experience teaching music
- 10 years of homeschool experience
- Located near I-235 North and Meridian
- Weekly individual lessons
- Monthly group lessons
- Bi-annual large group recitals and frequent small group recitals
- Ages 4 and up
- Beginning Piano
- Beginning to Advanced Violin

Visit my website for details on the Suzuki method, tuition, studio policies and more! **As seen at the TPA Homeschool Convention before the Friday morning Keynote. Now enrolling for Fall 2017!**



### CHRISTIAN YOUTH THEATER

Spring is rapidly approaching and with it comes our upcoming production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*! We invite

your group to consider attending this wonderful show, and then join us in the summer for one of our awesome camps!

#### CYT Wichita Summer Camps:

The spirit of theater is alive and well during the five-day summer CYT camp. Themed days, high energy games and awesome activities combine with theater skills to make a fun week of learning and friendship building. All campers are placed on teams which prepare a script, dance, and song for a final showcase at 7pm on Friday of camp week.

- Teen Camp: July 10-14: 1st Evangelical Free Church (1825 N. Woodlawn)
- West Kids Camp: July 17-21: West Evangelical Free Church (1161 North Maize Road, 67212)
- East Kids Camp: July 24-28: Eastminster Presbyterian Church (1958 N. Webb Road)

Please visit [www.cytwichita.org](http://www.cytwichita.org) or call 316-682-1688 for more information.

#### CYT Wichita-Disney's The Little Mermaid

Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is a hauntingly beautiful love story for the ages. With music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater, and a compelling book by Doug Wright, this fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl," and "Part of Your World."

Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, wishes to pursue the human Prince Eric in the world above and bargains with the evil sea witch Ursula to trade her tail for legs. But the bargain is not what it seems, and Ariel needs the help of not only her colorful friends Flounder the fish, Scuttle the seagull, and Sebastian the crab, but also her forgiving father, to restore order under the sea.

- School Field trip option - Friday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00am-- \$6 each for groups of 15 or more
- Public Shows - April 27 & 28 at 7:00 pm and April 29 at 2:00 & 7:00 pm-- Seniors/Students \$11 and Adults \$13 each (add \$2 at the door).  
\*\*Groups of 15+ may purchase tickets to Thursday evening's show for \$11 per ticket.

All performances will be held at Isely Traditional Magnet School (5256 N. Woodlawn Blvd., Bel Aire, KS 67220).

Tickets for *The Little Mermaid* are now available and reservations for the school-day show may be made by calling **316-682-1688**. Credit card orders may be taken over the phone. For more information about CYT, please visit our website at [www.cytwichita.org](http://www.cytwichita.org).



**Interested in engineering?** Using tools? Programming? Painting? Public speaking? Like writing? Wiring? Powerpoint? Web design? Or CAD modeling?

**As a member GSR** you will have the opportunity to do all this and much more, regardless of your previous skill or knowledge.

**BEST Robotics** is a nationwide middle and high school robotics competition where students are given 6 weeks and a list of materials to design and build their own robot to complete that year's game.

**BEST teams** on the state level compete to see whose robot can score the most points.

**BEST also judges** each team's engineering notebook, oral presentation, exhibit, website, programming, and much more.

**For more information about BEST visit their website at** [http://best.eng.auburn.edu/b\\_about\\_best.php](http://best.eng.auburn.edu/b_about_best.php).

**Before the robotics season begins**, GSR hosts project days where we introduce potential members to the team and teach anyone interested shop skills by building simple shop projects. Anyone interested is invited to attend; no previous shop experience is needed.

**Next project day: JUNE**

#### Contact Us

To inquire about joining our team or if you have any questions contact us at [paul.weddle@cox.net](mailto:paul.weddle@cox.net).

## HERB DAY AT THE EXTENSION EDUCATION CENTER

The 23rd Annual Herb Day will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017, from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in 4-H Hall at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center at 21st Street North and Ridge Road in Wichita. You will learn about selecting, planting, maintaining, and cooking with herbs! The National Herb of the Year for 2017 is Cilantro/Coriander, which will be featured in the demonstrations and seminars.

The featured chef is Charlotte Knapic of Beautiful Day Café.

In addition, seminars by members of the Herb Society, Extension Master Gardeners, and Extension Agents will cover topics relating to growing and cooking with herbs. Plant vendors from around the region will have herbs and other plants for sale.

### Herb Day Events:

- Seminars in the Sunflower Room and the Demonstration Garden
- Master Gardener Plant Sale
- Herb Society Brunch & Lunch Sale
- Children's Activity
- Garden Magazine and Book Sale
- Vendors selling herbs and other garden related items
- Door Prizes

Kansas Grown! Farmer's Market will be going on in the parking lot.

### Seminars in the Sunflower Room:

8:30 Herb of the Year – Growing and Using Cilantro/Coriander  
 9:30 Chef Demonstration by Charlott Knapic from Beautiful Day Café  
 11:00 Using Herbs for Spring Cleaning

### Seminars in the Demonstration Garden:

8:00 Composting Demonstration  
 9:00 Making Herb Breads  
 10:00 Container Gardening with Herbs, Veggies and Flowers  
 11:00 Making and Using Herb and Fruit Vinegars  
 11:30 Tour of the Demonstration Garden

For more information: [www.sedgwick.ksu.edu](http://www.sedgwick.ksu.edu)  
 Rebecca McMahon County Extension Agent, Horticulture Sedgwick County



## HOMESCHOOL BAND

Learn a musical instrument in a group setting: have fun, make friends, and share the gift of music in the homeschool band!

Make A Joyful Noise Music Studio launched a concert band program for homeschoolers in Wichita, beginning in Fall 2016. Students age 10 and up are taught playing techniques, practice habits, and performance skills for wind and percussion instruments, as well as gain the experience of playing in a disciplined group. No prior musical experience is necessary - instruction starts at a beginner level. Rehearsals are held once a week on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Northwest Wichita.

Laura and Guy Vollen are the co-directors of the Homeschool Band. Laura is an experienced clarinetist and pianist with twenty years of teaching experience; she is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and a licensed Kindermusik instructor. Guy is a horn player and holds a doctorate in composition; he has taught and directed ensembles at area colleges, including Wichita State University and Bethany College, and was a founding conductor of the Delano Chamber Players. Additional details and registration information can be found at [www.joyfulstudio.net](http://www.joyfulstudio.net), and the Vollens may be reached by phone at [\(316\) 773-2373](tel:3167732373).

## ACCENT STUDIO MUSICAL INSTRUCTION

Need to integrate music into your curriculum but feel like you don't have the extra time? I can help. I teach piano lessons in the comfort of your home. I have been teaching piano for over 20 years have taught all ages, levels, and abilities. I have a Master's Degree in Education and am a firm believer in God and His importance in our lives. God has blessed me with the ability to teach, and I am grateful every day that I am able to help people learn to express themselves musically.

Please visit my website for all the specifics: [www.accentstudioks.com](http://www.accentstudioks.com), or feel free to text me any questions at 316-214-3636. I do offer family discounts and great referral bonuses. While I don't have many spots available, I would love to help more homeschool families reach their musical goals.