



The Homeschooler **February 2017**



Carol Brown will be one of the featured speakers at this year's TPA Homeschool Convention, held on March 10 – 11. Carol has over 30 years of experience as a principal, teacher, cognitive developmental therapist, social worker, reading and learning specialist, speaker, HSLDA special needs consultant, and mother. She received her M.A. in Social Services from Southwestern Seminary and B.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling from Marshall University. She is a certified school counselor, special education specialist, teacher, and principal and served classical Christian schools in North Carolina, Georgia, Northern Virginia, and Lyon, France. In 2012, Carol was licensed and certified as an FIE Mediator by the Feuerstein Institute: International Institute for the Enhancement of Learning Potential. She is a consultant for Sound Therapy International. In 2014, Carol is continuing her educational and research endeavors as she pursues a Doctor of Education (Ed. D 2016) at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

“Understanding how children learn is my passion. Cognitive training is the missing piece to the puzzle.”

In the December issue of *The Homeschooler*, Carol's story revealed some of the struggles her son Clayton had throughout his childhood. These struggles pushed Carol to do research and training to assist her son, which has helped him deal with and overcome his disorder.

Carol Brown will be speaking at a keynote session and workshops during the 207 TPA Convention. See the workshop schedule on the TPA website for Carol's workshops and other special needs focused workshops. The vendor hall will also feature local businesses and services to support your family as you homeschool your special needs child.

The following is a poem Clayton wrote during finals week just days before completing his undergraduate degree:

Take My Hand and Run With Me!

When people look at me,

A great student they see,

Spoken well of by the faculty,

Who constantly excels academically,

Who will go into vocational ministry,
This path has been far from easy,
For me, nothing ever came naturally,
Since a child I worked more rigorously,
Than all my fellow classmates,
Always falling behind in my classes,
No matter how much effort,
It never looked well on my report,
Despite my failures, I pressed forward,
Discouragement was constant, yet I endured,
The hope and love my parents showed,
And the Lord's hand of providence,
Brought me from shame and disgrace,
To a place filled with faith and grace,
Fellow student, have hope and rejoice,
For you also can be set free,
From all these struggles and miseries,
For nineteen years it haunted me,
But now I can run with ease,
See, and learn from me, oh please!
I wish to see you at peace,
So take my hand during this race,
We will run a steady pace,
Confident with hope and success,
Until we unlock your gifts.

Clayton Brown

November, 2014

If your child could have any of the same feelings and struggles as Clayton, please come hear Carol share with us at convention. You will be blessed!



WANT FREE ADMISSION TO THE 2017 TPA CONVENTION?! Admission is FREE for 2017 TPA Members! TPA offers programs, workshops and events to support your family throughout the year, and we travel anywhere in the state if your group needs help. Our programs and services are open to all homeschool families, not just TPA Members. TPA Membership gives you a discount at most TPA events, a \$20 HSLDA discount, a \$15 high school graduation registration discount, and a \$5 ITBS testing discount! Remember: Your TPA Membership is valid from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Go to www.teachingparents.org to become a 2017 TPA Member.



2017 TPA CONVENTION – DISCOUNT REGISTRATION

Discount registration ends **February 25!** If you have never attended the TPA Convention you can register free! ***Don't forget if you are a 2017 TPA member you will get free admission to the convention – but you need to register.***



ADVENTURES IN CHARACTER

Don't forget to register your children for AIC when you register for convention! AIC is a program for children 6-12 years old held concurrently with the TPA Convention. Registration includes a t-shirt with this year's theme.

CONVENTION PAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you interested in developing LEADERSHIP skills and making new FRIENDSHIPS while VOLUNTEERING for a great organization?

TPA is asking for volunteers for the 2017 Homeschool Convention to help as Pages on March 10th and 11th. We ask that our volunteers be 13 years of age or older. They will help welcome workshop attendees, assist attendees and speakers with minor needs, collect workshop attendance, possibly introduce workshop speakers, etc. Sign up by February 15th. For more information or to sign up, visit <http://goo.gl/1pSPcJ>.

Contact Rebecca Hammond with any questions at rebecca.h831@outlook.com.

ITBS ACHIEVEMENT TESTING COMING IN APRIL

TPA will be offering the ITBS test to 1st-12th graders again in 2017. This is a standardized test which is not required by the government but may prove helpful in assessing a student's strengths and weaknesses relative to his peers. The results are for parental use only and are not given to any other entity.

Testing will run over two mornings, approximately 8:30 – 12:30 each morning. Subjects covered will include Vocabulary, Reading comprehension, Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation, Usage and Expression, Math Concepts & Problem Solving, Math Computation, Social Studies, Science and (for high school only) Sources of Information. The test results show where a student falls in national percentiles and grade equivalents for each subject.

One parent will be required to assist with testing and remain on site each morning (exceptions made for nursing mothers). Parents with bachelor's degrees will be needed to be test readers, and others will assist in various ways. All students will test in April **at Riverlawn Christian Church, 4243 N Meridian Ave, Wichita, KS**. Cost is \$45 for 1st-2nd graders, \$35 3rd-12th. (\$40/ \$30 for those who have purchased a TPA membership).

Registrations must be received by March 15, 2017.

Questions may be directed to Charlotte Durkee at crdurkee@gmail.com.

FREE STARTING POINT WORKSHOP

Do you know someone who is considering homeschooling? Are you new to homeschooling? Are you teetering on the edge, contemplating giving up?? If any of this describes you or a friend, please join us at STARTING POINT- Teaching Parents Association's **FREE workshop** offered the evening before convention begins!! This workshop will cover the basics, but it will also equip you with TOOLS for success, PERSPECTIVE for the JOURNEY, and will include a mom's panel, dad's panel, and grads' panel- find out how they did it! So come, bring your spouse and your friends to **STARTING POINT, Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.** at the Hyatt in the Cypress Room. Registration is not necessary but is appreciated. Register on the convention registration form at www.teachingparents.org.

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Bring all of the family for a FREE family movie night! The movie night is included in your convention registration. Crossbows, boats, spies, and cannons clash as the City Defense Force and Raiders square off in The Defense of New Haven - March 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Hyatt, in the Redbud Room. See our website for all of the details about this great opportunity for a family night before the convention begins!

AREA EVENTS:**WICHITA AREA HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

The Wichita Warriors are excited to be in our 23rd year as an organization. In the spring of 2017 we will offer homeschooled student athletes a place to compete in junior high and high school track and field, as well as junior high and high school ladies soccer. We will have a coed golf team for students in the 8th-12th grades. Also, the Wichita Warriors will be offering high school baseball again this spring!! 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.

The Wichita Warrior families and fans would like to say "THANK YOU" once again to our volunteer coaches and trainers for their time and dedication to our student athletes in the 2016-17 school year. If you are interested in attending a parent's meeting with the Warrior coaches for any spring sport, please contact Jeff Masterson at wichitawarriorsad@gmail.com or go to www.wichitawarriors.org for more information.

BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS**Grizzly High School Night**

FREE admission for high school juniors and seniors for the Butler basketball games on Saturday, February 4. Women tip-off at 5:30 p.m. and Men tip-off at 7:30 p.m. Butler of El Dorado gym (500 Building). Check in at the Butler Booth at the north entrance. Prizes will be awarded!

Fine Arts Auditions

Butler Community College offers activity scholarships that cover in-state tuition and books for students who participate in music, theatre, art, and mass communication activities. Recipients are selected through audition or interview.

Students interested in Art Department Activity Scholarships may interview and have their portfolio reviewed on either Friday, February 10, or Saturday, February 11.

Students interested in Music (Vocal or Instrumental), Theatre (Performance or Technical), and Mass Communications (Sports Media, Newspaper, Magazine, Radio/TV) may audition or interview on either Friday, March 3, or Saturday, March 4.

Interested students can see the individual audition and interview requirements and register online at:

www.butlercc.edu/facscholarships

To expedite the registration process, students should also apply to Butler Community College:

www.butlercc.edu/enroll

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Sparks at ssparks3@butlercc.edu or 316.322.3221.

Early College Academies

The Butler Early College Academies are the only degree program for high school students in the state of Kansas. These programs offer an exceptional opportunity for students to complete career-specific coursework, participate in job-shadowing opportunities, qualify for certifications, and build a relationship with a mentor in your field of interest. In the last two years, Academy graduates have earned a combined \$1.2 million in scholarship offerings post-graduation and have been accepted at 100% of the universities they have applied to.

Early College Academies are offered in:

- 3D
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Cyber Security
- Elementary Education
- Engineering Technology

- Fire Science
- Health Sciences
- Pre-Law

Interested students need to meet specific admission requirements, complete an academy-specific application, and be selected for participation in each Academy. For more information, email academies@butlercc.edu or check out: www.butlercc.edu/academies

Mark Your Calendar

- Fall 2017 enrollment begins Monday, March 27.
- High school juniors are invited to Grizzly Junior Day on Wednesday, April 26, at our El Dorado Campus. Online registration will begin in April.
- Orientation & Enrollment Days, call 316.322.3163 to register:
 - Wednesday, March 15, Butler of Andover
 - Friday, March 17, Butler of El Dorado
 - Friday, April 21, Butler of El Dorado
 - Friday, April 28, Butler of Andover
 - Wednesday, May 17, Butler of Andover
 - Wednesday, May 24, Butler of El Dorado
 - Friday, June 9, Butler of Andover
 - Friday, June 16, Butler of El Dorado

TANGANYIKA WILDLIFE PARK JOBS

Are you looking for a **Wildly Different Experience** this year? Tanganyika Wildlife Park is hiring for our 2017 season!

We are looking for bright individuals who enjoy engaging with people and have a love for animals. Our opening week is March 17th through March 26th. Weekdays availability is preferred. Spend your summer break working with unique animals and developing lasting experiences.

Apply online at www.twpark.com/jobs by February 12th. QUESTIONS? Call Lauren Joyce (316)794-8954 or email operations@twpark.com.

WICHITA HOMESCHOOL WARRIORS ROBOTICS

Every year the BEST Robotics Program (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology) holds a robotics competition to spark interest in high school students for future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers. The competition is broken down into two parts: the BEST Award and the Robot Award. The BEST Award is the marketing side of the competition in which teams must show judges how they used the engineering

process to design and build their robot and why they believe they have the best robot. This is demonstrated through a thirty-page technical notebook, a marketing exhibit, and a marketing presentation. The Robot Award is the part of the competition in which the robot from each team competes to find who truly does have the best robot. Each year the BEST organization creates a new game field for the robot competition. Every year the game field is made with its own theme such as manufacturing windmills, ore mining, and also automated farming, which was last year's competition theme. At the beginning of the six-week competition, each team is given a kit of materials containing electronics, plywood, sheet metal, screws, and other items. With these kits teams design and build a robot to compete on the game field. This year's game field contained items relating to automated farming such as tomatoes, lettuce, and corn which were represented by whiffle balls, loafahs, and paint rollers respectively. Students had to design a robot to harvest these items and score them to earn points. At the end of the six weeks, teams competed at Game Day to find who had the best robot in their state. The top six teams advanced to the regional competition. Last year, Game Day was held on October 22, 2016, where Wichita Homeschool won first place in both the Robot Award and BEST Award in Kansas, which qualified them to compete at the regional competition. It was held on December 2-3, 2016, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where Wichita Homeschool won second place in the Robot Award and fourth place in the BEST Award. For more information about Wichita Homeschool or how to join their team, check out their booth at the homeschool conference and drive their award winning robot, or visit their website at www.whwrbest.com or call David Alexander (2635700) at 54b_e_s_t@sbcglobal.net. For more information about the BEST Program go to www.kansasbest.org, www.bestinc.org, or www.uafortsmith.edu/FTBEST.



2 HOURS OF FUN FOR HOMESCHOOL GROUPS

New prices and options:

\$10/person - Aviate only

\$12/person - Aviate + 2 WSF Courts

\$15/person - Aviate + 22 WSF Courts + WSF Turf

Monday – Friday 10 am – 2 pm

Teachers/Chaperones jump for free!

Reservations required for WSF Court use or large groups.

WSF electronic waivers required for all participants.

Book your group today!

Email events@wichitasportsforum.com.

Wichita Sports Forum, 2668 N Greenwich Road Ct

316.201.1414

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB

Join Prager Force Political Science Online High School Club. View 3 designated prageru.com videos each week (5 min. each) and post a comment to share with other club members. Rate the videos.

No travel, \$20 per semester (\$5/mo.). Enriching information for family discussion about politics, economics, culture, history, foreign affairs, history, environmentalism, new LEFTism, life studies --all in traditional Judeo-Christian values.

Mr. Prager is described by Toastmasters as one of the 5 best speakers in America today. He is considered an amazing gifted man and MORALIST--who has crystallized his mission: "**to get people obsessed with what is right and wrong.**"

Taking Memberships now. Renewable each Semester.

Contact Melanie Petersen at

melaniepetersen7056@gmail.com



WICHITA DEFENDERS

The Wichita Defenders exists to provide home school 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.

TPA Conference

Stop by and visit us at the TPA Conference. We are located at Booths 97 & 98.

Basketball

The Defender basketball season is underway. Please visit our website at www.wichitadefenders.org to learn more

about our program and see our schedule for high school and middle school games.

The Wichita Defenders are offering Elementary basketball mini-camps this year. Our next mini-camp information is listed below:

- Who: ALL boys AND girls ages 6 and up (beginner/novice level)
- When: Tuesday February 7 from 3:00-5:00 pm (check website for changes)
- Where: Immanuel Baptist Church (1415 S Topeka Ave, Wichita, KS 67211)
- How Much: \$5 per child with a \$15 family max
- Includes: Basic and foundational skill work, drills, games, fun and FOOD!

Soccer

The Wichita Defenders are excited to offer our first year of girls soccer. Practices begin in March. Check our website for upcoming information. Please contact Eric Nordberg (wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org, 316-619-4653,) or Brian Moser (moser-bunch@cox.net) for more details.

Track & Field

Defender Golf will begin in March. Check our website for upcoming details. Contact Eric Nordberg (316-619-4653, wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org) for more details.

Golf

Defender Golf will begin in March. Cost is \$110 plus green fees and practices are held at MacDonald Golf Course. See our website soon for more details. Contact Rod Martin (rod.martin@legendseniorliving.com) for more information.

Annual Wichita Defenders Golf Classic Tournament

- Friday, April 21, 2017, at Sand Creek Station Golf Course in Newton.
- Participate as player (\$125) or team (\$500) in our annual fundraiser golf tournament. Players and teams can register online at www.sandcreekgolfclub.com/Defenders.
- Sponsorship and contribution opportunities are also available. Contact Jenny Rackley (316-305-9740, jennyrackley@sbcglobal.net) or Eric Nordberg (316-619-4653, wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org) if you are interested.

Visit The Wichita Defenders on Social Media

www.wichitadefenders.org

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

TeenPact is a dynamic, hands-on leadership school for Christian students. Our mission is to train youth to understand the political process, value their liberty, defend their Christian faith and engage the culture at a time in their lives when, typically, they do not care about such things.

Every teen has the spiritual capacity and biblical mandate to cultivate and use their talents. Join dozens of other students on their journey to excellence!

4-Day Class (Ages 13+) – March 6-9, 2017

Optional Political Communication Workshop – March 10

1-Day Class (Ages 8-12) – March 10

Contact the Kansas State Coordinator Kathy Gentzler at 913-297-0394 or kansas@teenpact.com.



MARK ARTS YOUTH CLASSES

WEEKLY CLASSES

Classes started the week of January 9, but it's not too late to enroll.

Homeschool Drawing and Painting

Ages 9 – 12 | Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Instructor: Alex Browne | \$130 / Members \$120.

Students will learn with basic drawing techniques to build landscape and portrait compositions. Subject matter is based on student interests, and no prior experience in drawing or painting is necessary.

Youth Drawing and Painting

Ages 9 – 12 | Saturdays, 2:30 – 4 p.m. | Instructor: Alex Browne | \$130 / Members \$120. Students will learn with basic drawing techniques to build landscape and portrait compositions. Subject matter is based on student interests, and no prior experience in drawing or painting is necessary.

Youth Potter's Wheel

Ages 10 – 15 | Saturdays, 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Instructor: Jack Norris | \$115 / Members \$105. Learn proper throwing techniques and fundamentals of working with clay. Closed-toe shoes required.

WORKSHOPS FOR AGES 6 – 11

The cost is \$30 per child. Advance registration is required.

Weekday Options:

Feb. 20 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Presidents Day Paintings
 Feb. 20 | 1 – 4 p.m. | Presidents Day Clay Sculptures
 Feb. 27 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Harry Potter Paintings
 Feb. 27 | 1 – 4 p.m. | Harry Potter Mixed Media

Evening and Weekend Options:

Painting (3 – 5 p.m.) Sculpture (7 – 9 p.m.)
 Feb. 4 | Football Team Themed
 Feb. 18 | Andy Warhol Inspired
 Mar. 4 | Dr. Seuss Themed

Mar. 11 | Under The Sea Themed
 Mar. 18 | St. Patrick's Day Themed
 Jan. 12 | Kansas Day Themed
 Jan. 26 | Chinese New Year Themed
 Feb. 9 | Harry Potter Owls
 Feb. 23 | Presidents Day Themed
 Mar. 9 | Toad Hotels Themed

STEAM CAMPS FOR AGES 6 – 12

Mark Arts STEAM Camps are all about creativity and innovation, linking art to concepts in science, technology, engineering and math. Students will explore mixed media, drawing, painting, clay and experiments. At the end of the week, students will demonstrate and display their work. More information is at www.MarkArtsKS.com/weeklong-camps. Each camp is limited to 36 students.

Ages 6 – 9 | Spring Break STEAM Camp
 Mar. 20 – 24, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. | \$120/ Members \$110
Ages 9 – 12 | Spring Break STEAM Camp
 Mar. 20 – 24, 1 – 5 p.m. | \$120/ Members \$110

ROBOMASTERS LEGO ROBOTICS & TECHNOLOGY SUMMER CAMPS

Lego Robotics Camps:

Introductory (ages 8+), June 5-9, 9 am-Noon

Advanced (ages 9+), June 12-16, 9 am-Noon

Programming Camps:

Introductory C++ (ages 12+), June 5-9, 1-4 pm

Advanced C++ (ages 13+), June 12-16, 1-4 pm

Lego Robotics (ages 6-7) – Contact Rena to determine if there is enough interest for a class

Required minimum of 8 students and maximum of 21 students for Lego robotics camps. Number of students in programming camps will depend on available resources. Camps will be held at South Riverside Baptist, 4235 S. Hydraulic, Wichita, KS.

Camps are \$150. If paid before May 15, there is a \$20 discount. \$10 off each additional sibling enrolled in a camp. First child is full price.

For more information or to register for camps, contact Rena Hixon, PhD

545 N. Oliver

Belle Plaine, KS 67013

Phone: (620) 488-3486

Cell: (316) 651-0054 - Please Leave a Message

E-mail: rndhixon@yahoo.com

Check out RoboMasters on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/robomasters/?fref=ts