



The Homeschooler

January 2017

SOCIAL MEDIA AND TEENS

By Leah Nieman

Do we say “no” to social media for our teens?

Do we put firm limits on their time online so that they can only use the computer when we can watch them?

These are valid questions and ones that draw heated conversations among parents. There is the question of what age we begin to release control and guide our kids to teach themselves to self-monitor. When should it be more conversation and less rules and filters?

First ask yourself a couple of questions:

Does my teen seem to understand what he/she should and should not do/share online?

Is he/she showing the post with respect for self and others?

Here are a few social media guidelines for teens:

Your digital footprint does matter! Keep it clean so that, years from now, you don't have to worry about things that you've posted.

Limit your profile search-ability.

Remember that your profile photo can be (and is) a first impression.

Think before you post.

Your blog or social media pages are your “home.” Remember, YOU maintain the atmosphere of your home.

Tone doesn't come through in posts.

Don't assume that your teen understands or knows all of the guidelines above. Instead, talk openly with them about what they should and should not do and share online. And be sure that your teen understands that you want to help keep them safe. That's the goal. Let them know that they can come to you without fear if they ever feel threatened or stumble across something that makes them uncomfortable online.

Most importantly, if your teen comes to you in an effort to share something upsetting that they've seen or done online, stay calm. Don't react in such a way that they become afraid to share with you. I can't stress this enough. Teens make mistakes and accidents happen. Teens often don't share with their parents when something bad happens online because they fear the repercussions. Keep

open conversations and assure your teen that they are safe by thanking them for their honesty when they talk to you. Take a moment to evaluate the situation. Then come back with a solution and guidance if needed. In the end, this will help keep open lines of communication your teen. And, that's the goal!



Speaking about technology and social media is what Leah loves! Leah has been speaking for the past 8 years to parents, homeschooling groups, and teens about technology, social media, and parenting. She offers sessions, advice, and resources so parents can raise kids with a healthy perspective of technology and social media. Leah Nieman is one of our convention keynote speakers for 2017!



2017 TPA CONVENTION FREE ADMISSION! Become a 2017 TPA Member and receive free admission to the 2017 TPA Convention, along with the many perks of membership! 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. Don't forget, your TPA Membership offers you **free admission** to the 2017 TPA Convention, 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.



AIC DRAMA AUDITIONS AND TEACHER REGISTRATION!

If you have a heart to serve, a flare for the dramatic, and a love for children, we invite you to apply to be a part of Adventures in Character (AIC) 2017: CORAM DEO! AIC is a program for children 6-12 years old held concurrently with the TPA Convention, and will be March 10-11, 2017, at Century II Convention Center. Our goal is to support parents in instilling the principles of God's Word in the hearts and lives of their children, and we challenge the students—and volunteers—to build their lives on the unchanging Truth of the Bible, learning how to apply it in the here and now of life.

Volunteers 13 and older may apply to be part of the drama cast/crew or to teach small groups of children. All applications may be submitted via the website at: www.adventuresincharacter.com.

Drama Auditions are January 5 and 6 from 6-9 pm at Heartland Community Church (457 S Woodlawn in Wichita, KS). Please submit your audition application online and you will be contacted by Drama Director, Amy Shelden, with specific information regarding your audition. (Additional times may be available upon request.)

Teacher Registration opens January 1 and is an excellent opportunity for young people to grow in their own faith while investing in the lives of the next generation. Teacher trainings are held on Thursday evenings throughout the month of February, giving teachers and assistant teachers a chance to get to know each other while learning and preparing for their responsibilities. Visit the website for specific details and to submit an application.



Please contact AIC Director, Natalie Weber, at director@adventuresincharacter.com with any questions or for additional information.

2017 TPA CONVENTION REGISTRATION OPEN!

Yes, the 2017 TPA Convention is early this year – March 10-11. But it's always a perfect time to get refreshed, shop for curriculum, and attend workshops to get answers to some of the homeschool questions you have. For the last few years TPA has been praying about finding a featured speaker to help homeschool families with special needs students. We are so excited to offer workshops and local vendors who have information and services to help these special families. Check out the TPA website for information on featured speakers, convention details, and to register for the 2017 TPA Convention. Registration today! ***Don't forget if you are a 2017 TPA member you will get free admission to the convention!***



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. This year's theme is "Coram Deo", which is Latin for "in the presence of God" or "before the face of God". The story and curriculum will focus on the importance of living every day for Jesus Christ – seeking Him, serving Him, and proclaiming Him to the world. 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.



TPA 2017 High School Graduation Ceremony – May 12, 2017

ATTENTION homeschooled seniors & parents!!!

Information for the 2017 TPA Graduation Ceremony is now posted on the TPA website (www.teachingparents.org) under the graduation tab! If you missed the Fall Meeting in September, you'll want to read through the detailed information thoroughly as the deadlines are firm.

Important dates:

***** Online registration & ordering now open! *****

Winter Informational Meeting

Date: Jan 5, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Central Christian Church

***** DEADLINE to participate --- Feb 1, 2017 *****

AUDITIONS for Student Presentations

Date: Feb 7, 2017

Contact Seth at gradstudntpres@teachingparents.org

The **deadline** to participate in TPA 2017 Graduation Ceremony is **February 1, 2017**. Questions? Contact Jeff or Jeanine Schantz at graduation@teachingparents.org.



TRAIL LIFE USA AND AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

What is Trail Life USA? What is American Heritage Girls? What do they do for kids?

Come have some cold-weather fun with us and find out more about both of our troops at our **Winter Warm Up!**

On Saturday, January 7, we kick off the season with our **Winter Warm Up!** The kids will divide into patrols and alternate between indoor and outdoor activities that will teach or strengthen their outdoor skills. We'll provide hot dogs for lunch, hot chocolate, and hot coffee. Bring a side dish to share for lunch. After lunch, the patrols will compete against each other to show what they learned. The fun starts at 10 am and we should finish about 2 pm.



Riverlawn Christian Church Gym (4243 N. Meridian, Wichita)

Winter Warm Up, Saturday, January 7, 2017, 10 am-2 pm
For more information contact Scott Durkee at tpatroop281@gmail.com or Angie Ray at mrsangieray@yahoo.com.

AREA EVENTS:

Register for the Winter Summit today! Cost is \$109 before January 1, 2017, and then goes up to \$119. Come have a fun, refreshing time with other homeschooling moms!

BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS**Spring 2017 Classes Begin January 17**

To get started, click on the link below, choose which type of student you will be, and follow the enrollment checklist: <http://www.butlercc.edu/enroll>

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.

Fine Arts Auditions

Please see the link below for details on how you can audition for fine arts scholarships at Butler:

<http://www.butlercc.edu/info/20115/fine-arts-and-communications/49/fine-arts-and-communication-scholarships>

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.

**CHRISTIAN YOUTH THEATER (CYT)****CYT Wichita Spring classes:**

CYT is an after-school theater arts program training youth in all aspects of performing arts. Children ages 5-18 can learn dance, drama, voice, improvisation, make-up, set design, and backstage technology through these after-school classes. Those students ages 8-18 enrolled in a class may audition for the seasonal Broadway-style musical production. Dedicated to developing character over stardom, CYT brings students and their families together to produce a wholesome yet professional product.

Enrollment for Spring classes begins January 2nd at cytwichita.org or 682-1688. Spring Classes begin February 2/2/17 (East) and 2/13/17 (West)

CYT Wichita-Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

- January 26th, 7pm
- January 27th, 10am (School show) and 7pm
- January 28th, 2pm & 7pm

All shows will be at Isely Traditional Magnet School -- 5256 N. Woodlawn Blvd., Bel Aire, KS 67220.

School Field Trip Prices: \$6 each for groups of 15 or more
Public Show Prices: Seniors/Students \$11 and Adults \$13 each (add \$2 at the door).

Tickets are available at www.cytwichita.org or by calling 682-1688.



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.

MIDWINTER PACE BOWL ACADEMIC TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by High Plains Home Educators

The competition will have the categories of Spelling, Geography/history and Bible. Students will be able to choose only one of Chess, Checkers, or Cup Stacking. The Pace Bowl is a four-player team competition. This will cover general subjects, math, English, and science.

1st thru 7th grade students will compete as individual grades

8-12th grade students grouping depends on the number of students in each grade; some may be combined.

Tournament Information:

Friday, January 27, 2017, 8 am – 3 pm

Bible Christian Church (1501 E Mary, Garden City)

Pre-Registration emailed or postmarked by January 20

Registration fee - \$5/student (late registration - \$7)

For more information contact Erin Biernacki at 620-436-6020 or jebiernacki@wbsnet.org.



AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS 10/12

Friends University is offering the first round of AMC 10/12 testing this

year. If you have students interested in participating, we would ask that you send us the name, age and birthdate, grade level, and which test each student will take. The schedule is listed below. Lunch will be provided by the University.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 9 am – 1 pm

Friends University, Marriage & Family Therapy Building, Room 101

Schedule for Tuesday, February 7, 2017:

9:00-9:45 Check in

10:00-11:30 Test

11:30-12:45 Campus Tour and Lunch

Contact: Division of Mathematics, Friends University

Phone: [316.295.5818](tel:316.295.5818)

email: amy_morgan@friends.edu

Link to more information about the American Mathematics Competitions: <http://www.maa.org/math-competitions/about-amc>.



2017 MONART DRAWING

WORKSHOPS for Homeschoolers at the Art Park

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.

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

ENROLL ONLINE: www.theartparkwichita.com/classes

Call [316- 683-2500](tel:316-683-2500) with questions.

PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME

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.

I have been teaching piano for over 20 years, and have taught all ages, levels, and abilities. 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 offer family discounts and generous referral discounts. Spots are limited. 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.



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.

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 January 3 from 2:00-6:00 pm
- 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 this coming spring. Please contact Eric Nordberg (wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org, 316-619-4653) or Brian Moser (moser-bunch@cox.net) for more details.

Bowling

High School Bowling practice is underway at Northrock Lanes. Bowling meets/tournaments are in January and February. Contact Coach Walter Level (316-636-5444) or Eric Nordberg (wichitadefenders@wichitadefenders.org, 316-619-4653) for more details.

Golf

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

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](#)

Twitter: [@WichitaDefender](#)

Instagram: [Wichita_Defenders](#)

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

CELLO AND PIANO LESSONS OFFERED

My name is Jennifer McConaghie, and I am new to Kansas. I have been teaching cello and piano privately for 15 years and am looking to build my studio here in Kansas. I take students from young children to adults and have very flexible daytime and evening hours. I teach Suzuki piano up to book 3, having received Suzuki training myself starting at age 3. I studied cello at Arizona State University receiving my Bachelor of Music in Music Education. I have taught orchestra as well and have performed with the Arizona Opera Company, Sioux City Symphony, and Sioux City Rockestra. Throughout the years, I have also performed in various other capacities and groups, from recording studios and groups like Video Games Live, to weddings and city symphonies and quartets. On the piano, I have been an accompanist for church, school, private groups and soloists for 10 years.

My studio is on the west side and I start at \$20/30-minute lesson with options for 45-60 minute lessons as well. Feel free to contact me with any questions! [480-246-4793](tel:480-246-4793) or mcconaghiejennifer@gmail.com

ANGELS ACADEMY

Angels Academy PE Classes begin on January 3rd, 2017, at Immanuel Baptist Church (1415 S. Topeka, Wichita). Our PE Classes for Ages 5-8 is at 11 am, Ages 9-12 is at 12:15 pm, and Ages 13-16 is at 1:15 pm. Angels Sports Camps begin on January 5th, 2017, at Immanuel Baptist Church (1415 S. Topeka, Wichita) and go for 6 weeks. Volleyball Camp (Ages 8-14) is at 11 am, Basketball Camp (Ages 6-14) is at Noon, Speed & Agility (Ages 6-17) is at 1 pm, and Dodgeball Camp is at 2 pm. PE Classes are only \$45 per child for 9 weeks, or \$80 for the 18-week semester, and we offer several family discounts. Sports Camps are only \$30 per child and offer discounts as well! To sign up, go to www.wichitaangels.com or email Coach Dave at coachdave@wichitaangels.com.



PIANO LESSONS

I began studying with Sandra during my elementary school years. I was playing on a basic level at the time.

Within weeks of starting lessons in Sandra's studio, my command of the keyboard expanded exponentially, and I was given a new perspective on musicianship and performance which enabled me to perform the works of "the masters". I witnessed personally, in both my private lessons and in group class settings, how Sandra masterfully and insightfully instructed each student according to his or her capability and skill-level, always encouraging progress to a higher degree of proficiency and to a deeper understanding of the language and power of music.

Her instruction and mentorship has empowered me not only to perform personally in a variety of genres and in countless venues, but also to instruct and mentor other young musicians in doing the same, including my own children. Without question, there is no one I could more emphatically recommend than Sandra! She is a gifted pianist and master-instructor! {Former student: Traci (Douty) House}

Degrees & Certificates

The University of Tulsa Degrees include:

Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy

Minor Degree in Voice

Master of Music Degree - Musicology & Performance and Accompanying

The New School for Music Studies - Princeton, NJ - Piano Pedagogy Certificate

The University of Michigan - Private Piano Studies

International Concert Series Participant - Mexico City, Mexico

Intercollegiate Concert Work - London, England

For enrollment information please contact me at:

STUDIO: 316.272.9656

CELL: 818.264.6617

email: sandrasv@earthlink.net

Studio Address: 3229 N. Forest Lakes Street 67205