



The Homeschooler

Teachingparents.org

November 2016

HOW TO TEACH SO A CHILD FALLS IN LOVE WITH LEARNING

By Steve Lambert

TPA is pleased to announce Steve Lambert will be a featured speaker at the 2017 TPA Convention – March 10-11.

When Jane and I began homeschooling more than thirty years ago, almost no one gave up or quit homeschooling. You began and you finished the task—at least until, if not through, high school. But in recent years the “drop-out rate” of homeschool parents is growing rapidly, with many quitting after only a year or two of trying. (By the way, it takes two to three years to get the feel and rhythm of successful tutorial education!) We attribute much of this drop-out increase to over planning and feeling the importance of including too much in every learning day.

The world tells us we need to do so much. “Core Standard” and “No Child Left Behind” suggest that we have to teach to the test. Other well-meaning homeschoolers and their zealous blogs, Pinterest pages, and Facebook posts make whatever we’re doing seem inadequate. And so we add even more to our already burdensome load.

It’s a lie! An absolute lie!

If you’re over planning FIAR or any curriculum, you and your child will burn out. And worse, you will strangle the life out of tutorial education. Skill subjects like math, spelling, and phonics do require a systematic, planned approach; but during the early years, for all the other subjects such as history, science, literature, creative writing, art, etc., a series of serendipitous discoveries and companionable learning journeys together produce longer-lasting results and much more enjoyable times for both teacher and student.

Teaching a child to FALL IN LOVE WITH LEARNING is the key. Period. We aren’t filling buckets—we’re lighting fires, as has been said so often. We’re teaching children the delight and joy of great books and wonderful discussions and the pleasure of asking questions and discovering answers.

FIAR should not take more than 10-15 minutes of daily planning. Order a few books from the library for the next several weeks, glance over the lesson plans, and jot down a few notes. Then see where the week takes you. Go on a voyage WITH your child rather than feeling the necessity to steer and direct every hour of the teaching day. Better still—plan a trip to the library during the week and let your children find related books that they’re interested in. Then go exploring together. Explore astronomy or cooking and nutrition. Explore ballet, architecture, or World War II. Explore whatever comes up in your story in real time. Use the Internet. Use encyclopedias. Have discussions. Write stories. Do art projects. Go to museums.

Honestly, the very best days in homeschooling are the days when a child asks a question that you don't know the answer to, and you both embark upon a spontaneous, memorable, fun, learning adventure. That is what will teach your child the joy of learning. And that really is the point of it all.



A busy working father of two, Steve found himself "along for the ride" when Jane first began homeschooling more than 30 years ago. But he quickly saw the benefit to Jane's unique approach to teaching and became an enthusiastic cheerleader as he watched his children's love of learning blossom. By the mid-nineties, Steve had become a popular author and speaker at homeschool conventions nationwide. Today Steve remains involved in a variety of family-related ministries, public speaking and writing while enjoying the wonderful role of grandfather. Article copied from www.fiveinarow.com



2017 TPA MEMBERSHIP NOW AVAILABLE! 2017 TPA Membership is now available on-line. Your TPA Membership helps home educating families in Kansas. TPA offers workshops to support your family throughout the year and throughout the state, ITBS testing, ACT prep, Zoofari Day, high school graduation ceremony, the homeschool library and a support group leader retreat are all part of TPA services to your family. Our programs and services are not only for TPA Members. All of our events are open to any homeschool parent or family. But, TPA Membership gives you a discount at most of these events. Your TPA Membership offers you graduation registration discount, free admission to the 2017 TPA Convention, \$20 HSLDA discount, \$15 high school graduation discount, and \$5 ITBS testing discount.

Remember, your TPA Membership is valid from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

TPA - Helping you educate your children for over 30 years!

THE ELECTION

Wait! Don't skip this article! I know I almost lost you with the title of this article. Don't give up on me yet. I can understand your frustration with the entire process this year. Emotions are riding high with this one.

Take a breath. Count to nine.

Yes, I said nine. As in "nine justices of the Supreme Court". Our next president will nominate at least one and possibly more Supreme Court justices. Both of the major candidates have already made their positions clear. See <http://familypolicyalliance.com/issues/2016/10/27/not-just-president-stoplight/>. The Supreme Court of recent years has wavered back and forth on issues that Christian homeschool families care about. The next justice will either maintain that "balance" or disrupt it for decades.

Want to read a comparison of where the presidential candidates stand on family policies?

<http://familypolicyalliance.com/issues/2016/10/18/candidates-issues-family-policy-briefing/>

And remember, the election is not just about our future president. There are many "homeschool friendly" people running for election or re-election in our state. Find out who is running in your location and ask them where they stand on the issues that are important to you and your family and then ask them how your family can help. There is still time and they need your help.

Interested in a pro-life voter's guide? <http://www.voteprorlife.net/> will give you a list of pro-life candidates based on your address.

Are you prepared to dig deeper? Read the platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties.

<https://www.demconvention.com/platform/>

<https://www.gop.com/the-2016-republican-party-platform/>

Next, contact your friends and family in other areas. Share your heart for the future of your family. Encourage them to vote based on Christian values. Talk to them. If you have to use social media, PM them. Make it personal. Please remember that as distasteful as the options of some of the races may seem to you, your vote is important. Don't give up. Don't drop out of the process. Be informed. Vote smart. The decisions made on November 8th this year will have a long-lasting effect on your children.



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.

2017 TPA High School Graduation Ceremony – Friday, May 12, 2017

2017 TPA GRADUATION CEREMONY

ATTENTION homeschool 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 opens Nov 1! ****

Winter Informational Meeting

Date: Jan 5, 2017

Time: 7pm

Place: Central Christian Church

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

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



TRAIL LIFE USA

Wow! It is November already! Here are some of the things we have coming up:

Sat, Nov 5 Veterans Day Parade

Mon, Nov 7 Troop Awards & Family Potluck

Mon, Nov 14 Operation Christmas Child Service Project and Patrol Meetings

Mon, Nov 21 Patrol Meetings

Mon, Nov 28 Patrol Meetings

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.

We meet on Monday nights, 7:00pm-8:30pm at Riverlawn Christian Church, 4243 N Meridian (just north of I-235/K96). 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 at 316-518-0948 or tpatrop281@gmail.com.

Walk Worthy! Colossians 1:10



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

Troop KS0281

It's the most wonderful time of the year! AHG is very excited to be kicking off one of our service projects – packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! The families of troop KS0281 have been working hard at collecting donations for shoeboxes as well as prayerfully selecting personal items for each child receiving one of the boxes. We will be meeting on November 14th to pack the boxes as well as adding a personal touch by writing a letter to include with each shoebox. We are all excited to be a part of this wonderful ministry through Samaritan's Purse.

Our troop is also looking forward to being part of the Veteran's day parade in downtown Wichita on November 5th! Come out for a wonderful time and support our troop as well! It is also fundraiser time and this year our

troop will be selling Rada Cutlery. That exciting event will kick off on November 14th! If you would like to help support our troop by placing an order or giving a donation, please contact our coordinator Angie Ray at mrsangieray@yaoo.com. Finally, it's hard to believe, but our year is almost half over! Our mid-year award ceremony and unit Christmas parties will be held on December 12th. What an exciting year this has been so far and we are all looking forward to the wonderful things to come!

If you have a daughter interested in AHG, please come visit our troop any time. Our meetings are on the 2nd & 4th Monday evenings from 7:00–8:30 pm at Riverlawn Christian Church (4243 N. Meridian, Wichita).



AREA EVENTS:



KANSAS HUMANE SOCIETY

Join us at the Kansas Humane Society! We have lots of fun things coming up in

November:

- ✓ Tot Tuesday-November 1
- ✓ Furry Film Friday-November 11
- ✓ Read to Rover-November 19
- ✓ Critter Camp-November 21
- ✓ Critter Camp-November 22
- ✓ Critter camp-November 23

Bring your group in for a tour/animal lesson, and an animal meet & great! Learn about all the amazing things happening at KHS.

If you are interested in any of our events, please contact the Youth Education office at 316-220-8709.

DERBY HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Derby Homeschool Athletic Association is excited to announce another full season of sports! Formed in 2000 the Derby Invasion offer volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball and are members of the Kansas Christian Athletic Association. Our mission is to develop young students' character, maturity and athletic skills. The basketball season kicks off at the end of November, and if you are interested in playing, please contact Don Folger at [316.706.9040](tel:316.706.9040). Please be sure and visit our website www.derbyinvasion.com for all the latest information.



WICHITA AREA HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

If you have questions or are interested in participating with the Wichita Warriors in any sport, please feel free to contact Jeff Masterson at wichitawarriorsad@gmail.com. Our fall sports seasons are drawing to an end. If you would like to participate in football, soccer, volleyball, or cross country next year, you can go to www.wichitawarriors.org for more information.

Basketball season is now upon us. The high school (9th-12th grades) and junior high (5th – 8th grades) boys and girls' basketball teams are forming now. Our annual pep rally will be held on Thursday, November 10, beginning at 6 pm. The pep rally will be held in the Warrior gym at 2901 W. Taft St. in Wichita. We take this time every year to recognize our fall high school athletes and also to introduce our basketball teams to you. If you are interested in playing basketball with the Warriors, it's not too late. Just contact Jeff Masterson at wichitawarriorsad@gmail.com.

Do you have information or an event for homeschool families? TPA will include your information in the TPA Newsletter – FREE! Contact editor@teachingparents.org for information.

ADVANCED FOOD GARDENING SERIES

Wednesdays, November 2, 2016-March 15, 2017, 9-11 am Sedgwick County Extension Education Center (7001 W 21st N, Wichita, KS)

Have you learned a lot of basic fruit and vegetable gardening skills, but you are still looking for ways to increase your knowledge? The Advanced Food Gardening Series might be right for you! The series is designed to increase the food gardening skills and knowledge of participants, as well as enabling them to teach others basic food gardening topics. Presentations are primarily focused on methods appropriate for the home gardener. The classes will include lectures, homework, class projects and field trips. Videos of recorded classes will be posted online as they occur and can be viewed by participants on their own schedule. Two live Question & Answer sessions will be scheduled for class participants. Participants will receive a binder with resources and readings for the class. Cost of the series is \$75. Need-based scholarships are available. Register online at <http://sedgwick.k-state.edu> or call 316-660-0100.

Class Dates & Topics:

Nov. 2, 2016: Growing Tomatoes & Other Solanaceae
 Nov. 9, 2016: Growing Berries
 Nov. 16, 2016: Growing Tree Fruit
 Nov. 23, 2016: Optional Class: Topic TBD
 Jan. 11, 2017: Growing Brassicas & Leafy Greens
 Jan. 18, 2017: Success with Vines & Vertical Gardening
 Jan. 25, 2017: Fruit Pest Management
 Feb. 1, 2017: Vegetable Pest Management
 Feb. 8, 2017: Weed Control & Perennial Vegetables
 Feb. 15, 2017: Growing Roots, Legumes, & Corn
 Feb. 22, 2017: Special Topic TBD
 Mar. 1, 2017: Hydroponics Tour
 Mar. 8, 2017: Project Presentations
 Mar. 15, 2017: Project Presentations

ANGELS ACADEMY

Angels Academy has PE classes on Tuesdays at Immanuel Baptist Church for ages 5-8 from 11 am-Noon, ages 9-12 from 12:15-1:15 pm, and ages 13-17 from 1:15-2:15 pm. On Thursdays November 3-December 15 at Immanuel Baptist Church, Angels Academy will have Volleyball Camp from Noon-1:00pm, Wally-Ball Camp from 1:10-2:00 pm, and Dodgeball Camp from 2:00-3:00pm. To sign up for PE or a Sports Camp, email Coach Dave Yordy at coachdave@wichitaangels.com or give him a call at 316-807-8822.

**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.

Would you like your younger children to get to have music in their lives also? Starting in January, I will be offering young child music classes with The Music Class curriculum. Please contact me if you would like more information on this. It will be for newborn to five years of age.

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 and are filling 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.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH THEATER (CYT) will be presenting three amazing full stage productions over the course of the 2016-17 year: Disney's Mary Poppins, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, and Disney's The Little Mermaid.

DISNEY'S MARY POPPINS – School Field trip option
 Friday, November 4 @ 10:00 am

•Public Shows November 3 & 4 at 7:00 pm and November 5th at 2:00 & 7:00 pm (see prices below)

SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS - School Field trip option
 Friday, January 27, 2017@10:00am

•Public Shows January 27 & 28 at 7:00 pm and January 28 at 2:00 & 7:00 pm (see prices below)

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID – School Field trip option
 Friday, April 28, 2017 @ 10:00 am

•Public Shows April 27 & 28 at 7:00 pm and April 29 at 2:00 & 7:00 pm

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). Please ask about our group pricing for the Thursday evening performance.

All performances will be held at Isely Traditional Magnet School (5256 N. Woodlawn Blvd., Bel Aire, KS 67220). For more information about CYT, please visit our website at www.cytwichita.org.