

Introduction to Homeschooling
Notes for Fr. Noah's Presentation

*With us everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children,
and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the Lord.*
- St. John Chrysostom

Goal of Education

- Naturalizing Heavenly Citizens
 - o Goal of Education is equipping children for life in the world as a preparation for life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Reasons families Homeschool

Fundamentally, homeschooling parents choose for various reasons to not “outsource” their children’s formation, but take a more active role. Here are some of the reasons.

- The Best Opportunity (Positive Reasons to Homeschool)
 - o Spiritual Formation
 - o Family Unity
 - Traditional Socialization
 - o Flexibility of Schedule
 - Liturgical Involvement
 - “Roads” Scholarship
 - Service Projects
 - Home as the Hub (not necessarily the locus) of Education
 - o Tailoring the Curriculum to Each Child
 - o Superiority of Academics
- Avoiding the Enemy (Negative Reasons to Homeschool)
 - o Negatives of Public Education
 - Secular Worldview
 - Dumbed-Down Curriculum
 - Negative Social Influences
 - Super-Duper Busyness
 - o Lack of Orthodox Parochial Schools
 - o Expense of Private Schools

Statistics of Homeschooling - <http://www.nheri.org/ResearchFacts.pdf>

- Total Homeshoolers - (Brian D. Ray, Ph. D. - [nheri.org/HomeschoolPopulationReport2010](http://www.nheri.org/HomeschoolPopulationReport2010))
 - o Roughly 2 Million Homeschoolers in America
 - o 3.8 % of K-12 US students
 - o NB – This number will continue to grow. As an American movement, Home Schooling is about 45 years old and has been growing very steadily since then.
- Orthodox Demographics – (Alexei Krindatch – hartfordinstitute.org/research/2010-USOrthodox-Census.pdf)
Many people consider these finding to be much too conservative, but this represents the most thorough research to date...
 - o 1 Million Orthodox in America
 - o 0.34% of the Total Population

- My Estimated Number of Orthodox Homeschoolers
 - **Extremely Conservative Minimum: 6,800** (= 2,000,000 (total homeschoolers) in 2011 x .0034 (percentage of Orthodox in the general population))
 - In my experience, a higher percentage of Orthodox Christians home school their children than the general population - though I have found no hard numbers to substantiate this).
 - Therefore, I suggest that there are **12,000** Home-Educated Orthodox Christians at any given time.

Philosophies of HS - <https://www.homeschool-life.com/610/custom/12412>

- “Traditional” – Not really traditional, but “School at Home” – with Text Books, Workbooks, Texts
- Classical – Old School approach to reading classics and learning through the trivium - <http://www.classicalhomeschooling.org/>
- Unit Study – One Topic unifies all the subject-areas.
- Charlotte Mason – Living Books (not text books), nature study, art, highly aesthetic
- Un-Schooling – children pursue their own interest with parental guidance and support.
- Eclectic – utilize variety of resources and approaches to best fit the family’s need at the time. Most Homeschooling families use this.

Bridging from Teen to Young Adult Years

- Primary Home-Schooling tends to be home-based education in the “Three R’s” (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic) with coops for to deepen learning in science, art, history, and physical education.
- As children bridge into adolescence, hopefully they have learning aptitude and curiosity beyond their parents. At this point, it is important for parents to recognize a shift in their purpose and provide the best resources and opportunities for their children to grow spiritually, socially, and academically:
- Please see the attached document written by Kh. Elizabeth Bushelli “Homeschooling Through High School”

Online Schools and Resources

St. Raphael School - RaphaelSchool.org - Online Orthodox Home School

Classical Learning Resource Center - <http://www.clrconline.com/> - Online Orthodox Homeschool

Circe Institute | Cultivating Wisdom & Virtue - circeinstitute.org - The Lost Tools of Writing and many materials on classic education

<http://hslida.org/hs/default.asp> – Homeschool Legal Defense Association

How Parishes and Clergy Can Support Homeschooling.

- Recognize and encourage the goodness of their intention and depth of their sacrifice.
- Make the parish a center of education with church services, educational activities, and a homeschool cooperative.
- Prevent isolation.