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2026 NDHSA Home Educators' Convention

Let's go on an
Adventure!

February 26th-28th
Alerus Center
Grand Forks, ND

—☆☆☆—

Daily Schedule

Friday

8:00 AM – Registration Opens
8:45 AM – Keynote Address
9:30 AM – Vendor Hall Opens
10:30 AM – Workshop One
11:20– 1:00 PM – Lunch Break
12:00 – 12:45 – Vendor
Workshops/Adoptive & Foster
Parents Lunch Discussion
1:00 PM – Workshop Two
2:15 PM – Workshop Three
3:30 PM – Workshop Four
6:00 PM – Vendor Hall Closes
6:15–7:15 PM – Talent Show
7:30–8:30 PM – Family
Social/Career Fair

Saturday

8:00 AM – Registration Opens
8:45 AM – Keynote Address &
Hall of Fame
9:30 AM – Vendor Hall Opens
10:30 AM – Workshop Five
11:20–1:00 PM – Lunch Break
12:00–12:45 PM – Vendor
Workshops/Special Needs Lunch
Discussion
1:00 PM – Workshop Six
2:15 PM – Workshop Seven
3:30 – Closing Keynote &
Graduate Recognition
5:00 PM – Vendor Hall
Closes/Convention Ends



“...teaching them to follow all that I
commanded you; and behold, I
am with you always, to the end of
the age.” Matthew 28:20 NASB

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CONFERENCE SPECIAL

20% off and free shipping on
all BJU Press products*



Visit the BJU Press Homeschool booth for more specials and promotions, and learn more about biblically based PreK–grade 12 textbooks, video lessons, and technology—all created to help your student develop a biblical worldview.

* This offer excludes Logos products and Testing and Evaluation products. It cannot be combined with any other discounts or promotions. Product discounts available exclusively at event. ©2026 BJU Press. All rights reserved.

Welcome to the 2026 NDHSA Christian Home Educators Convention! We sincerely appreciate each of you for investing your hard-earned money to attend this event. As a board, we spend a great deal of time in prayer and preparation for this convention. Our hope is that your experience here will be encouraging for you and for others. We trust that the wisdom shared this weekend will guide you closer to Christ. This year's theme is "Let's Go on an Adventure." Homeschooling is difficult work, but it is also joyful and one of the greatest adventures you will ever go on. We know that the Lord Jesus Christ will be with you as you undertake this great task, and He will be with you always, to the end of the age. A good friend of mine sent me a Christmas letter this year with a quote from her husband's grandmother. She said, "Everything is going to be alright, because it is God's will and His way is sure."- Esther Blend. Those words remind us that while the homeschooling journey may feel uncertain at times, we can trust the One who orders our steps. As we continue on this adventure, we do so with confidence — knowing God is with us, and His way is sure. We encourage you to visit the NDHSA booth and introduce yourself to our Board of Directors. We would love to meet you and hear any concerns or questions you may have.

~ Amber Sand, Convention Coordinator & NDHSA Board of Directors ~

NDHSA Board of Directors and Staff



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"A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are built for." - John A. Shedd



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*1/3 of our students are
homeschool graduates*

**VISIT OUR BOOTH TO FIND OUT WHY
HOMESCHOOLERS THRIVE AT EMMAUS!**



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ANSWERS IN GENESIS
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ENJOY YOUR LUNCH!



****Pre-purchased lunches are served each day from 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM in the Keynote Area.****

****A concession stand with a variety of snacks, food, and beverages will be available each day in the registration area.
Hours: 11:00-1:30****

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO
VIEW THE SUBMISSIONS IN
THE REGISTRATION AREA

STUDENT ART SHOW

Silent Auction

- During the convention, attendees are welcome to place bids on items and are encouraged to check back often to raise bids to ensure they win the item(s) they are bidding on.
- Bidding Closes at 1 PM on Saturday.
- Pick up won items from 2:00 - 3:30 PM on Saturday. Items not picked up by 3:30 PM will be offered to next bidder

****Located in Vendor Hall****

The cat is not for sale!



CONVENTION HELPS

Name Badge

The name badge you received at check-in is your admission to all areas of the convention and must be worn at all times. If lost, it can be replaced at the registration table.

Nursing Mothers' Lounges

For your privacy and convenience, there are two areas for nursing moms. There is also a family restroom. These are located across the hall from Meeting Rooms 10 & 12.

Credit Cards

We can accept credit card donations and payments at the registration table, the NDHSA booth, and the Silent Auction area.

Children

All children ages 5-10 are encouraged to attend the Children's Program in Ballrooms 2&3 during the general sessions. Infants and children may attend workshops with their parents, but please be mindful of others attending the workshops. If your baby or child becomes noisy, please step out quietly and quickly. The sessions are being recorded, and we want to provide high-quality recordings without noise distractions. We request that small children sit on parents' laps or on the floor until the workshop begins. They may then take any of the available seats

Distribution of Materials

Out of respect for our exhibitors who have paid for booth space and advertising, absolutely no unauthorized distribution of literature or materials or unauthorized promotion of businesses is allowed.

Free Book Table

There are several tables in the Upper Concourse with FREE curriculum and books leftover from the Used Book Sale. Feel free to take home as many as you'd like.

Exhibit/ Vendor Hall Etiquette

Exhibitors are a key part of our convention, so we encourage you to plan ample time to visit the Exhibit Hall. You will find an array of some of the finest homeschool resources available. Exhibitor workshops will also be held each day. A schedule is available on the back cover. The presence of an exhibitor does not constitute an endorsement of their product or service. It is essential that you use discernment when making your purchases. We are grateful to the businesses that support the work of the NDHSA and provide our convention attendees with a wide variety of quality curricula and resources to choose from. When an exhibitor takes the time and effort to explain a product or give beneficial advice, please buy the product from the exhibitor who took the time with you. Buying materials from the exhibitor who assisted you encourages these knowledgeable, well-established exhibitors to return to our annual convention.

Keynote Speaker



Israel Wayne is an author and conference speaker who has a passion for defending the Christian faith and promoting a Biblical worldview. He is the author of the books Questions God Asks, Questions Jesus Asks, Pitchin' a Fit: Overcoming Angry and Stressed-Out Parenting, Education: Does God Have an Opinion?, Answers for Homeschooling: Top 25 Questions Critics Ask, Raising Them Up: Parenting for Christians, Foundations in Faith, and Foundational Truths. He is also the site editor for ChristianWorldview.net and the founder of Family Renewal. Israel and his wife Brook (both homeschooled graduates) were joined in marriage in 1999 and have 11 homeschooled children.

Featured Speakers

Chuck Black is a former F-16 fighter pilot and tactical combat communications engineer, is the author of twenty-one novels. His heart is to equip and encourage families in their pursuit of Christ. He speaks at conferences across the United States and Canada. He is also an entrepreneur with sixteen patents and is currently the president and general manager for FlowCore Systems, a chemical injection automation company in the oil and gas industry. He is devoted to his wife, Andrea, and their six children and multiple grandchildren. Chuck and Andrea homeschooled their children for twenty-four years.



Andrea Black, wife of Chuck, mother of six and grandmother of multiple grandchildren, spent twenty-four years homeschooling her own personal Brady Bunch. When she ran out of children at home, she borrowed other people's and taught 5th & 6th grades at Trinity Christian School. With degrees in English and Speech/Theatre Education, she enjoyed coaching the local Christian school speech team for many years. She credits being an Air Force wife for challenging her to trust completely in Jesus while she waited for and supported her husband. Her love for her Savior gives her purpose and passion for a life lived in service to Him!

Seann Dikkers is a husband and father of two homeschooled children. He currently works as Chief Product Officer at Portals, developing support for new homeschooling families. He has worked as a middle school teacher, high school principal, researcher, Department Chair of Education at Bethel University, Executive Director of MACHE, and authored books including TeacherCraft, Mobile Media Learning, and Real-Time Research exploring the powerful impact of play, design, and, *gasp* even having fun while learning.



Speaker Bios



Nancy Bjorkman - After being a homeschool skeptic, Nancy began homeschooling her four children in 1992, and saw it work. Now a mentor to homeschooling families, she has spoken at homeschool conferences in over 10 states, where she is known for her enthusiasm, energy, and encouragement. Her favorite times are spent with her growing family including 9 grandchildren. She and her husband owned HEPPNER'S LEGACY, a homeschool store in Elk River, MN, for 18 years and now are learning what it's like to have more free time as they make the handoff to the new owners.

Lori Wentz is the Special Needs Coordinator for the NDHSA. As part of those duties, she frequently mentors parents one on one, as well as advocating for parents interacting with school districts. Over the years she has been a Parent Representative for Head-Start, a member of the RICC (Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee) on the local and state level and represented ND as a presenter at the National Alliance Conference.



Theresa Deckert has been homeschooling since 1986...before it was legal in ND! She and her husband, Jeff, served on the NDHSA Board of Directors for 17 years, and she was the Office Administrator from 2012-2021. Theresa has spent years lobbying for better homeschool laws in our state. Her four children were homeschooled from birth and are all married. She is now able to be more involved with her grandchildren through babysitting, teaching them piano, and helping with homeschooling. She's grateful for the 2019 legislation allowing others (grandparents) to be enlisted as tutors! Mrs. Deckert has much musical experience, she has spent 50 years as a private piano teacher and she is currently a keyboardist for the Devils Lake Community Orchestra.

Sharon Fisher is a wife, mother, and grandmother who is passionate about encouraging homeschool parents and Christian educators to teach children with excellence and a biblical worldview. She holds a B.S. and an M.A. in Elementary Education. With years of full-time teaching experience in elementary classrooms and as a former elementary author for BJU Press, she has made significant contributions to various educational materials. Additionally, she has presented workshops nationally and internationally on many topics and teaching methods. Currently, she serves as the Social Media Coordinator, Workshop Speaker and Coordinator, Blog Writer, and Curriculum Specialist for HomeWorks by Precept, a trusted provider of homeschool materials.



"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all." - Helen Keller.



Speaker Bios



Caleb Hoverson is a 2016 homeschool graduate and a Minot native. After studying Classical Liberal Arts and Philosophy at Patrick Henry College and graduating from Liberty University online, he is now finishing his MA in Theology from Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne. Caleb is also pursuing a campus apologetics ministry at Minot State University. He and his wife Delie are blessed with three children: Hosanna (4), Micah (2), and Enoch (months old), whom they intend---and have already started---to homeschool.

Liz Buck is a homeschooling mom of three boys (ages 22, 18, and almost 14) and has homeschooled for 17 years. She is also the office administrator/editor and board member at the ND homeschool association, a role she began in 2021. She has been married to her husband, Dave, for 27 years, and they live near Wing, ND.



Mindy Dicken is a follower of Jesus, the wife of a British-American sound engineer, and the mother of four hilarious homeschooled children. A Minot native, she was blessed to pursue her passion for music as a singer/songwriter for ten years in Kansas City before returning to Minot to raise a family. She began teaching music at the Children's Music Academy of Minot in 2019 and subsequently became the owner in 2023. Her desire is to impart the significant role music education plays in the overall health and development of every child, and to make it attainable for all, especially those with no musical background.

Susy Oliver was introduced to politics in Minnesota and volunteered for many years at the grassroots level before moving to North Dakota. A Fargo resident since 2017, she served two terms as the Republican District Chair of D11 from 2021-2025 and as a member of the NDGOP State Executive Committee as the Southeast Regional Chair from 2023-2025. Susy is currently working to activate and grow the conservative movement across North Dakota by teaching the political process and sharing three simple actions every busy citizen can take to make a difference.



Jeff Hoverson, husband of one wife (female) and father of six children - all walking in the truth (2 John 1:4) - three boys married to strong, Christian women, who have delighted us with, so far, four grandchildren. Pastor of Living Word Lutheran Brethren Church of Minot, ND and Legislator in the ND House of Representatives - District 3



Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work. - John Trainer

Speaker Bios



Chris Herrin serves as the Director of Admissions at Emmaus University, where he helps families navigate the college decision process with clarity, low-pressure, and a deep conviction to a boldly Christian education. With more than a decade of experience in admissions and ministry, Chris understands both the hopes and concerns parents carry as they guide their students toward life after high school. Chris holds three master's degrees in Christian Education, Theology, and Philosophy, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Apologetics. This blend of education and experience helps him equip families to think critically about where to send their student to college. Known for his energy, warmth, and practical wisdom, Chris loves helping parents ask the right questions and make decisions that honor both Christ and their students' future.

Llora Knight is a homeschool mom of fourteen, blessed grandma of thirty, and great-grandma of three. She homeschooled for 39 years in 3 countries and 3 states. Llora was married to Ken, her high school sweetheart, for nearly 45 years, until he graduated to heaven in June of 2021. She earned her master's degree in curriculum development in May of 2024. She now lives in Dickinson, North Dakota with her two youngest daughters, her dog Sadie, and her cat Blueberry. Llora served on the NDHSA board of directors for 12 years. She is the author of 19 books, five of which are *The Story of North Dakota*.



Teen Track Speakers



Tim Brenner grew up on a small farm in rural South Dakota and came to know the Lord at a young age. While attending college in Bismarck, ND, in 2003, he began working with the ministry of Crystal Springs Camp in Medina, ND. Shortly after graduating with a degree in Communications, he began to work with the camp's ministry full-time. He has now served as the camp's Executive Director for the last 15 years. Tim and his family enjoy the outdoors, particularly fishing and spending time together on the lake in their spare time. Tim's passion is to help young people think through the difficult questions of the faith and to help prepare them to engage every argument and lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God.

LeAnn Lindteigen has known the Lord as her savior since she was young. She has a passion for sharing this truth with people of all ages! She enjoys serving others, reading good books, and hanging out with family and friends. For the last 14 years, she has served as the Program Director at Crystal Springs Camp, Medina, ND.



"Not all who wander are lost." - J.R.R. Tolkien



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- Emily Schmitz, Secondary Education

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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, February 27th, 2026

8:45 - 10:00 AM

Keynote Address

Ballrooms 4&5

Israel Wayne- Education: Does God Have An Opinion?

Is Education a neutral subject? Does God have a preference for how He wants children to be educated? What does the Bible teach about schooling? Is there one correct path for education? Are public schools a viable option for Christians? These questions and more will be discussed in this engaging presentation.

Session 1

10:30 - 11:20 AM

Theresa Deckert - Getting Started Homeschooling in North Dakota MR (Meeting Room) 2

Mrs. Deckert will cover the North Dakota requirements for homeschooling. She will also give practical hints, including suggestions for lesson planning and record keeping. This is the place to start if you are just beginning the home education journey or are just “checking it out.”

Chuck Black - Developing Discernment in Your Child

MR 3

The Enemy is a master at deception, and oftentimes our children fall prey to his lies. Teaching your child the ability to discern Truth is critical to spiritual survival. Chuck offers sound advice and some practical tips on how to develop spiritual discernment in your children.

Seann Dikkers - Why Leave Schooling to do More Schooling?

MR 5

Education and discipleship are not the same as mass schooling. They have different traditions and different expectations. Have you ever asked, “How do I know if they are on pace?” “What if they miss something?”, “How do I know if they are learning?”, or even “I’m not sure I know enough to teach high school!” Then this session should settle your mind and help you plan for discipleship with excitement. Explore some of the key differences and save massive amounts of time and stress trying to recreate schooling at home.

Mindy Dicken - The Joy of Music in Your Homeschool

MR 10

Discover some of the tremendous and surprising benefits of music education, as well as practical advice to get you started or to advance your current efforts. Regardless of musical background, any family can take part in the God-given joy of music in their homeschool.

Sharon Fisher - When Was the Last Time Your Family Had Fun Learning Science?

MR 12

Do you need help getting your child excited about science? Need help getting excited about science yourself? Get new visions and methods for teaching science with a biblical worldview in this workshop. Get ready to have some hands-on fun!

Vendor Workshops

12:00- 12:45 PM

Classical Conversations - 5 Tools to Help Your Child Think Well and Develop Understanding

MR 2

Discover the tools that teach your children how to think well and develop an understanding of any subject, topic, or trade. We will model these tools, allowing you to experience them yourself!

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, February 27th, 2026

Vendor Workshops Cont.

12:00- 12:45 PM

Priscilla's Books - Five Essentials for Raising Successful Adults

MR 5

You've seen the homeschool families that look perfect, but when their kids graduate, they change, and live completely different than they were raised. Some, even rejecting homeschooling. What went wrong? Can you avoid the same disaster in your own home? Father/Daughter pair, Arthur and Priscilla Krahn, share what went on behind the scenes in the Krahn household that led to Priscilla being a successful author, and all seven graduates from their home still being in church, and homeschooling the 35+ grand-children.

Ck2 Inc. - Strengthening Minds for Lifelong Learning: The Arrowsmith Program

MR 10

This session introduces the Arrowsmith Program, a cognitive-based approach that strengthens the brain functions essential for learning—such as attention, memory, processing, and reasoning. Learn how Ck2 Inc. supports students by addressing the root causes of learning challenges, helping learners build confidence, independence, and lifelong learning capacity both academically and beyond.

Session 2

1:00 - 1:50 PM

Israel Wayne - How to Not Educate (Like a Heathen)

MR 2

What is the purpose of an education? When your children are grown, what will define success for you? What is the difference between a Biblical view of education and the way most Christian parents (even homeschoolers) educate their children? This workshop will help you to focus on what is really important.

Chuck Black - Call to Arms: The Guts and Glory of Courageous Fatherhood

MR 3

There is a spiritual war being waged for our families. Our enemy is strong, and we are in his territory. Dad, if you don't fight for your family, no one else will. When a soldier is in enemy territory, he is alert, focused, and purposeful about every move he makes with weapons ready. Only you stand between the enemy and your family, for God has given you the authority and the responsibility to stop him from destroying your marriage and your children. This takes courage, but your calling is noble...it is God's call to arms. Chuck offers straight answers and practical help for dads who are looking to protect, train, equip, and launch soldiers for Jesus Christ.

Seann Dikkers - Project-Based Learning

MR 5

Tired of worksheets, endless reviews, and tests? Is your child generally sick of school? Have you ever wondered, "Why are we learning this?" It may be time to try an entirely different and very effective approach---Project-based learning (PBL). Meet with the lead designer of the Portals Project-Based Curriculum to learn more about PBL, the research behind it, and how to get started in a few minutes. This session covers an overview, what makes PBL effective, how it has helped traditional homeschoolers stand out, and how it can be a part of every subject area.

Lori Wentz - Executive Function Skills in Your Home

MR 10

Children need help learning to organize their thoughts, control their behavior, and make decisions. These are important for their function in homeschool and in the world. Ideas we will be addressing include breaking down tasks, using prompts and cues, and providing feedback.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, February 27th, 2026

Session 2 Cont.

1:00- 1:50 PM

Liz Buck - From Overwhelmed to Equipped: Navigating Curriculum Choices

MR 12

The sheer volume of options in today's curriculum golden age can leave parents feeling stuck or unsure. In this session, you'll learn how to compare curriculum types, identify what matters most for your student, and walk away equipped to make clear, confident choices.

Session 3

2:15 - 3:05 PM

Israel Wayne - Education From a Biblical Worldview

MR 2

Are your children prepared to face the "Real World"? Learn how to equip your children to stand against the flood of secularism that threatens to drown them. What is your worldview? How are you going to transfer it to your children? Will you be more effective than the media and popular culture? Discover how to teach your children to view the core subjects (and all of life) through the lenses of scripture.

Andrea Black - Homeschooling High School: Preparing Your High Schooler

MR 3

For the Next Step

Preparing your teen for their first steps out of your home is critical to their future success as a follower of Jesus Christ. We launched six children into the world, each one with completely different goals and aspirations. From college prep to apprenticeship opportunities, equipping your child with the tools to succeed is challenging and rewarding. I'll share examples and lessons learned from our journey, as well as leave time to hear from other veteran homeschoolers, so you don't feel alone in the critical mission to prepare your teen to launch.

Seann & Steph Dikkers - Marriage Adventures

MR 5

What makes for a joyful marriage? How do some couples grow closer together over time, and some do not? Seann and Steph will share the biblical design for marriage, communication strategies, and ways to enjoy growing through seasons of life together. Marriage is the hearthstone of the family, and God wants your marriage to bring warmth, affection, and love into your home. This session is great for married couples, dating couples, singles, and anyone who wants to hear great ideas and wisdom in the lifelong adventure of marriage. Learn from experience, bring your Bibles, and connect with others doing life the way the bible guides us to. When done God's way, there simply is no greater blessing than a loving spouse!

Jeff Hoverson - The old 1-2-3 Family Devotions

MR 10

I will be sharing a very simple yet effective method that I used as a father of young boys to train them in "how to lead a Bible devotional". This can be used for more than that, but the aim flows out of Ephesians 6:4, "fathers...train up your children in the Lord". My strong hope and prayer is that you would leave this session with a dependable tool in your toolbox for training others (emphasis on boys) to lead a discussion with a Bible passage. Your only disappointment may be that you find the session overly simple. Women and girls are welcome too. This is primarily a tool for any "devotional" setting, such as family worship. It is not intended to be a tool for an in-depth Bible study.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, February 27th, 2026

Session 3 Cont.

2:15- 3:05 PM

Llora Knight - Homeschooling Multiple Children

MR 12

Are you homeschooling more than one child? Do you find it hard to get everything done? This workshop is designed to assist moms who are attempting to homeschool two or more children at one time. It includes suggestions for schedules, organization, record keeping, preparing for potential problems, and a plethora of other ideas gleaned from homeschooling fourteen children over thirty-nine years.

Session 4

3:30- 4:20 PM

Israel Wayne - Techno-Parenting: Navigating Screens and Media

MR 2

Parents today struggle with knowing how to balance their child's use of technology and screen-time. On the one hand, we want our children to know how to use technology in the ever-changing global economy, but on the other, we struggle with knowing how much screen-time is harmful and addictive. This session will help give you courage and competency to navigate these difficult issues.

Chuck Black - The Power of Fiction: Influencing the Hearts of our Youth

MR 3

Fictional stories are a powerful way to capture the attention of the young and old alike. Jesus used short fictional stories to explain the kingdom of God as did Nathan the prophet to bring a king to his knees in repentance. Discover how your use of fiction can get your children excited about seeking truth and about serving God in kingdom-building work. Does fiction really have the power to change lives? Absolutely! Join Chuck Black in discovering how.

Nancy Bjorkman - Homeschooling: The Big Picture

MR 5

Come and discover, or discover anew, a bigger vision of what homeschooling can be for your family. Find encouragement as you reconsider your goals and put into perspective the pieces of the puzzle. We'll talk about both academic and non-academic objectives, and practical ways to fit it all together to help you and your children find out who they were created to be and what the changing seasons might hold for you.

Chris Herrin - College is Not a Scam

MR 10

Many parents feel overwhelmed by mixed messages about college. Rising costs, cultural pressure against Christianity, and claims that college is "a scam" raise real concerns. This practical, encouraging session cuts through the noise with a biblical and realistic lens. We'll explore what the purpose of higher ed was and what it should be again, what families should expect from college today, Christian and secular, and why Christian formation during these years matters deeply. You'll gain tools to evaluate programs, understand costs, spot unhelpful narratives, and make wise, confident decisions for your teen's future with the gospel at the center.

Sharon Fisher - Do You Homeschool a Wiggly Kid?

MR 12

How can you teach anything to a child who won't sit still? Enjoy some fun, inexpensive techniques that will help your wiggly learners become more focused and help make teaching less frustrating and more of a joy for all of you!



An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered; an adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. - G.K. Chesterton

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Keynote Address

Saturday, February 28th, 2026

8:45- 10:00 AM

Israel Wayne - Whom Should We Trust: Government or Parents?

Ballrooms 4&5

There has been a fundamental shift in our culture's view of the role of parents versus government in the past two hundred and fifty years. Contrasting the statements of America's Founding Fathers with Ivy League professors and journalists today, you can better understand the battle over who should control the education and upbringing of children.

Session 5

10:30- 11:20 AM

Israel Wayne - The Do's and Don'ts of Teaching Your Children Theology

MR 2

Most Christian parents want to teach their children theology and Bible doctrine, but aren't sure how to go about it. Learn the difference between primary and secondary doctrines and how to help your children protect themselves against cults and false religions that would seek to woo them away from true Christian faith.

Chuck Black - Guiding the Young Writer: What Parents Need to Know

MR 3

Join author Chuck Black for a session specifically designed for parents supporting a child's serious literary pursuits. If you feel unsure how to guide a field you're unfamiliar with, this is for you. Gain the understanding and tools needed to effectively instruct and support your student. We'll discuss fostering strong writing habits, addressing creative challenges, and navigating the unique, often-unclear career paths of writing. Empower your young author!

Seann Dikkers - The Insidious Nature of Schooling

MR 5

For the history lovers, this session will review 150 years of government schooling in America against the backdrop of freedom-keeping Christian education. We'll review key legislation, key thought leaders, and the motivation, design, and intentions of education leaders, answering questions like "What were government schools designed for?" "Where they go so wrong?", "How might the system itself be contributing to the dumbing down of learning?", and clarify how powerfully different home discipleship is in contrast.

Caleb Hoverson - A Defense of Classical Education

MR 10

What is classical education? Is it Christian? If so, why do classical homeschoolers read books by pagans? Is there any value to learning a dead language like Latin or Greek? Shouldn't we just be learning the Bible in our homeschools? Hear answers to these questions and more in this workshop defending classical Christian education.

Kristin Durham & Michelle Allerdings - Support Group Leader Session

MR 12

Join fellow homeschool support group leaders for a collaborative and encouraging session designed to strengthen your groups and refine your leadership. We'll share ideas, discuss what's working—and what isn't—in our communities, and explore practical ways to support one another. This is a great opportunity to network, gain fresh insights, and leave refreshed and equipped for the year ahead.



Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God. - Elisabeth Elliot

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Saturday, February 28th, 2026

Vendor Workshops

12:00- 12:45 PM

Music is Forever - How To Teach Music When You're Not Musical

MR 3

In this workshop, we will explore why music education is important, what elementary music instruction looks like, and how everyone can teach music with the curriculum "How To Teach Music When You're Not Musical: Lesson Plans, Ideas, and Resources for the Elementary Homeschool," whether or not they have any previous music experience.

Session 6

1:00 - 1:50 PM

Israel Wayne- How to Keep Your Child in the Faith

MR 2

Studies show that 70% of church youth abandon the Christian faith sometime before high school graduation. While there are no guarantees in parenting, there are steps parents can take that have been proven through various studies to statistically improve the chances of your child embracing and remaining in the faith. Learn what actionable steps you can take to help strengthen your child against unbelief.

Andrea Black - Homeschooling High School: Navigating the Social Minefield of High School

MR 3

We took homeschooling one year at a time. Then, before we realized it, we had six kids in high school—maneuvering, dodging, coaching, and organizing many facets of their high school extracurricular and social lives. The pull and pressure felt from church, homeschool co-ops, private school, public school, and peers can be intimidating and overwhelming. We discovered how important it was to have a clear vision for our family and for each child, we launched into God's kingdom work. Join me as I share lessons learned (from both successes and failures) to help you in your important role as a homeschool high school teacher and parent.

Seann Dikkers - Carrots, Not Sticks: Designing Learning for Joy

MR 5

What drives our learning? What convinces anyone to pursue knowledge, invest, and embark on great endeavors? Is 'boredom' necessary or to be avoided? Why do we learn new skills? This session will explore learning for joy, motivational strategies, and outline practical planning tools that will help you take any content and foster joy in the process. If your child is less than motivated, this session may help answer why and offer key approaches you can use starting tomorrow.

Lori Wentz - Good Character Training and Tools to Encourage Delightful Behavior

MR 10

Well-behaved children are created, not born that way. Let's talk about how to focus on a character trait each week—traits such as honesty, perseverance, courage, and compassion. We will also learn to encourage the good behavior we want through habit training.

Sharon Fisher - Math That Adds Up

MR 12

Have you ever heard your child say, "I'll never use this in real life." It begs the question - why are we teaching math in this manner? To train with a biblical worldview, we must teach our children subject matter that will equip them with the necessary skills to serve God and show love to others. Let's delve into teaching math that has real-life applications!

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Saturday, February 28th, 2026

Session 7

2:15 - 3:05 PM

Israel Wayne - Influence vs. Control: How to Best Motivate Your Child

MR 2

There is a careful tension that must be maintained between being your child's authority figure and being their life coach. There is a necessary shift in approach that must take place as your children go through various stages of development. If this transition is not carefully managed, your parenting approach will likely backfire, resulting in a lack of influence in your child's life. Learn the proper balance in this important message.

Chuck & Andrea Black - 10 Lessons Learned

MR 3

Chuck and his wife, Andrea, co-lead this session as they list their top-ten lessons learned from living for twenty-four years in the trenches of home education. From the obvious to the original, Andrea and Chuck share from their hearts ideas to incorporate into your home.

Nancy Bjorkman - Engaging Early Learners

MR 5

This session will explore what "school" should look like for early learners. We will discuss what is developmentally appropriate for younger ages and how to keep our "Littles" engaged while homeschooling their siblings. Participants will enjoy a fun and informative experience, gaining a wealth of ideas specifically tailored to engage pre- and elementary-age children. Nancy will share valuable resources, enjoyable games, toddler tips, and simple activities, all designed to encourage parents to think creatively about "doing school."

Chris Herrin - Not All Christian Colleges Are Created Equal:

MR 10

How to Discern What Really Matters

Christian colleges may look similar on paper, but real differences lie in doctrine, culture, and mission. How can parents know whether a school will strengthen—not weaken—their teen's faith and character? This session offers a practical framework for evaluating Christian colleges beyond brochures and tours. We'll cover key questions about theology, faculty worldview, student life, and spiritual formation, along with red flags, marketing myths, accreditation, academic rigor, and affordability—equipping you to make a wise, confident, Christ-centered decision.

Susy Oliver - How Ordinary Homeschoolers Can Drive Extraordinary Change

MR 12

You have more influence than you think, and it starts in your own backyard. Discover how ordinary homeschool families can become a driving force in North Dakota politics. You'll learn how the political process works and practical steps to get involved locally so you can turn your convictions into real impact. Whether you've never voted or you have your legislators on speed dial, this talk will teach you how to move from the grandstands onto the field.

Keynote Address

3:30 - 4:45 PM

Israel Wayne - The Power of Affirmation

Ballrooms 4&5

When you are trying to inspire and motivate children, there are two forces that are often exerted: Positive and Negative Reinforcement. In this session, Israel explains the importance of Affirmation as a way to inspire and motivate your reluctant child. Drawing from practical and Biblical examples, this session will help you to keep those important relational connections as you are attempting to impart knowledge.



"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis



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Home School Association 1985

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FRIDAY HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2026

RETURN OF THE TALENT SHOW

FEATURING

NORTH DAKOTA HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES & YOUTH

CASH PRIZES

\$100 JUDGE'S CHOICE WINNER
\$100 PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER
(PRIZE MONEY PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR)

ALERUS CENTER KEYNOTE AREA
6:15-7:15 PM

TO ENTER VISIT WWW.NDHSA.ORG UNDER THE 2026 CONVENTION TAB

Contestants are allowed 5 minute slots. All music and performances must be generally acceptable to a Christian audience. Text or email Amber Sand @ 701-535-1335 or sand723527@gmail.com with any questions.

NDHSA CONVENTION - FRIDAY NIGHT DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE TALENT SHOW IN THE KEYNOTE AREA UNTIL AROUND 9 PM - BRING YOUR BOARD GAMES AND YOUR FRIENDLY SMILES!

FAMILY SOCIAL

NDHSA CAREER FAIR

Are you a business owner seeking high-quality employees? The NDHSA will be hosting a career fair at our upcoming convention. We invite young people who may be interested in:

- Asking questions and learning about various careers from experienced professionals
- Job shadowing in potential career paths
- Opportunities for short-term or long-term employment

If you are a business owner interested in this opportunity, please contact Kelly Pratt at kellydanpratt@yahoo.com for more information or to register.

Friday February 27th, 2026 **Time: 7:30 PM-8:30 PM**

Keynote Area



\$45 per family per year

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Home School Association

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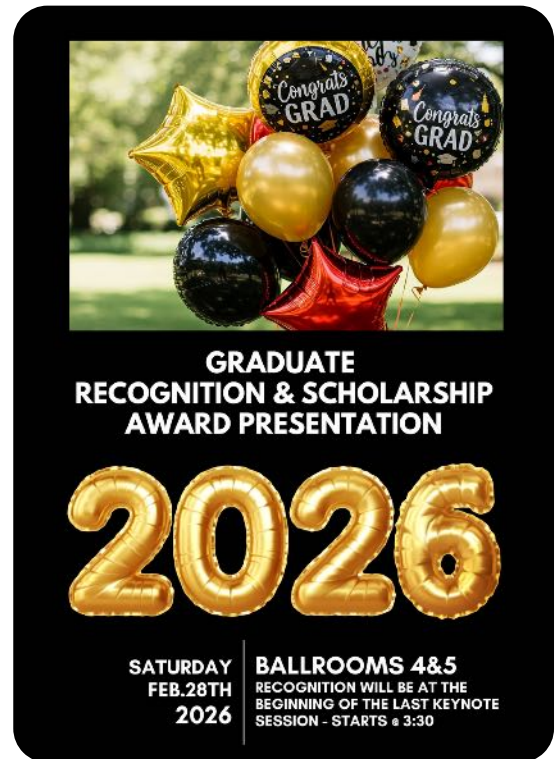
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CHECK OUT THE FREE
 TABLES IN THE
 UPSTAIRS LOBBY.



"Every man's life is a fairy tale written by God's fingers." - Hans Christian Andersen

SATURDAY HAPPENINGS



Don't miss the passport drawing and scholarship presentation at the beginning of the last keynote session!

LUNCH DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES



NOTES:

ELEMENTARY MUSIC CURRICULUM THAT YOU CAN TEACH AT HOME.

"Whether or not
you know anything
about music."

-Stacy



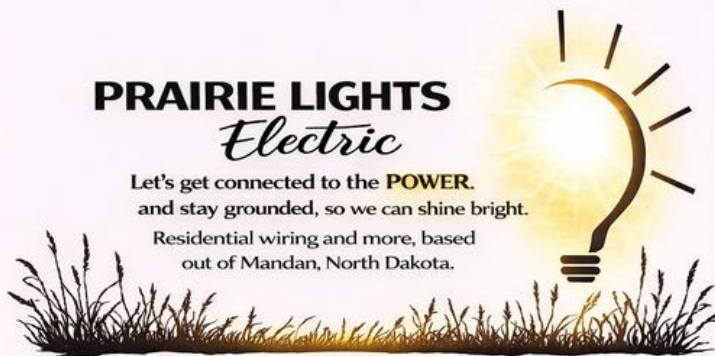
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NOTES:

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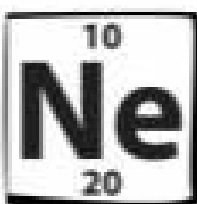
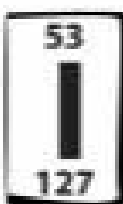
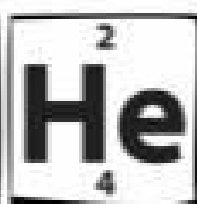
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NOTES:



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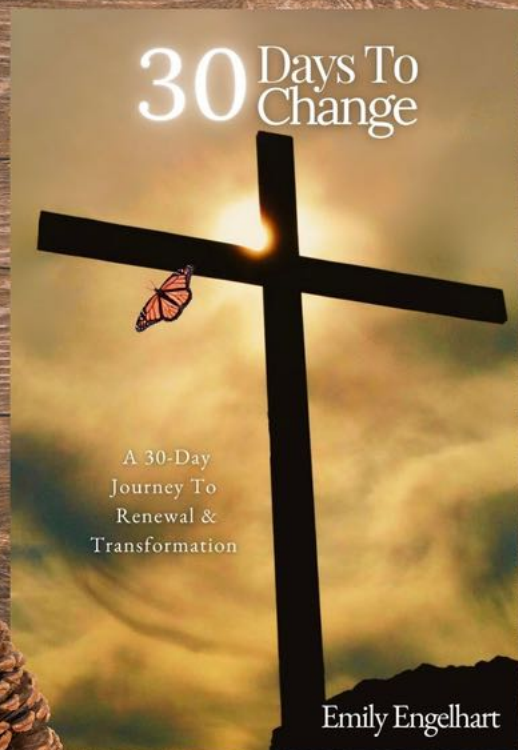
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NOTES:

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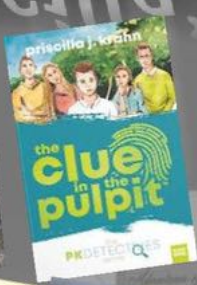
More Than Ministries aims to encourage teens and adults to find their identity in Christ and embrace His purpose for their lives, inspiring all to be 'more than' the trials that they face because of Jesus' love for them.



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NOTES:

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NOTE

[illegible]

NOTE

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. A single vertical black line runs down the left side, creating a margin. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



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— John Bunyan



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YOUTH PROGRAMS

Kid's Program with Pastor Paul & Amy Redding & Family

AGES 5 to 10 Ballrooms 3&2

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MEETING ROOMS 6&7

MIDDLE SCHOOL Sessions

FRIDAY

10:30-11:20 AM

Betsy Gross - Miracles of Jesus Escape Room

1:00-1:50 PM

Writing Like a Tree with Noah Gonzales

Writing doesn't have to be boring or overwhelming, it can be fun and engaging. In this session, we will break down writing a story into a simple eight-step process called the Novel Tree Concept. You will learn how to formulate your own story idea that gets you excited to write and leaves you feeling encouraged.

2:15-4:20 PM

Creating a Masterpiece Art Class with Randy Whitman

Lessons in Pencil: Rocketing through Space - Learn how to draw an amazing rocket in pencil.
Lessons in NU Pastel: Baby Duckling - This fun and accessible class guides you step-by-step in crafting an adorable baby duck using vibrant NU Pastels.

SATURDAY

10:30-11:20 AM

Betsy Gross - Salvation Scriptures Escape Room

1:00-3:05 PM

Creating a Masterpiece Art Class with Randy Whitman

Lessons in Conte: White Stallion - Join us as we take you step by step through the process of drawing this beautiful white stallion with Conte Crayon on black paper.

The Creating a Masterpiece class is the only one that requires pre-registration on your registration form. All other classes operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Be sure to arrive early for the class of your choice, as they fill up quickly.

MEETING ROOMS 8&9

MIDDLE SCHOOL Sessions

FRIDAY

10:30-11:20 AM - Plant Identification with Alora Woodruff

In this class we will learn about common North Dakota plants and how to identify them using their most prominent feature: leaves! Basic leaf anatomy and characteristics will also be covered.

1:00-1:50 PM - STEM Activities with Lori Slaubaugh - Bridges, Shapes, & Strength

"What is the strongest shape?" Students will dive into this question as they use simple materials to design, build, and test their own bridges, seeing which designs hold the most weight and making fun improvements along the way.

2:15-3:05 PM

Children's Book Illustrations From Beginning to End with Elijah Gonzales

Take a behind-the-scenes look at illustrating a children's book! In this session, we will unpack the process of creating a children's book illustration from beginning to end. If you love to draw and use your imagination, but aren't always sure how to get those ideas onto paper, this session can help put you on the road to seeing your illustrations through.

3:30-4:20 PM

Adventures in Storytelling, Part 1 with Rinnah & Reanna Knight

This year, Adventures in Storytelling will teach students to create audio dramatizations of stories using sound effects, props, vocalizations, accents, and music. Students will tell a story from out of sight and effectively communicate its feelings and settings while remaining true to the script. Students will be provided with props, or they may bring their own, to support their storytelling endeavour.

SATURDAY

10:30-11:20 AM - Knot Tying with Alora Woodruff

Are you tired of your knots never holding? Knots can be confusing at first, but with practice and determination, they become easier. Join this knot-tying class to learn basic knots, practical knots, and even some fun knots!

1:00-1:50 PM - STEM Activities with Lori Slaubaugh - Balloon Power Race Lab

Get ready to race! Students will explore motion, force, and energy by building and testing their own balloon-powered cars. Through experimenting, racing, and redesigning, kids will learn how physics works in real life.

2:15-3:05 PM

Adventures in Storytelling, Part 2 with Rinnah & Reanna Knight

You do not need to pre-register for these classes. Arrive early for your chosen class, as they fill up quickly.

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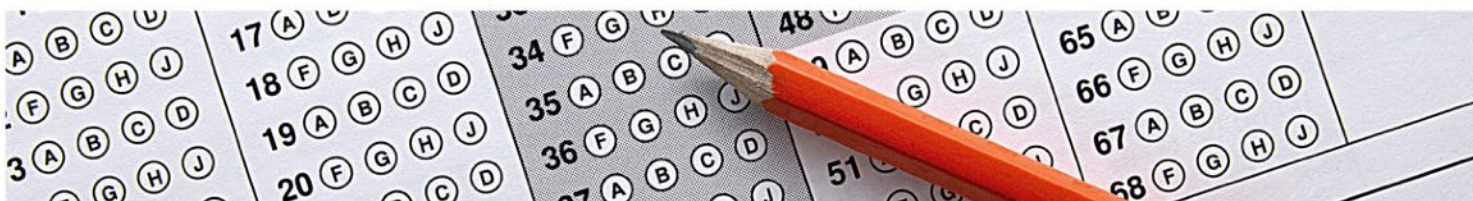


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OUR PROGRAMS

2026 Four Day Class (*Ages 13-19*)

Learn to understand your state government and how you can make a difference as you:

- Write and debate legislation
- Run for office to represent your peers
- Listen to leaders from your state
- Worship and pray together each day

2026 One Day Class (*Ages 8-12*)

Learn the basics about how your state government works and how you can make a difference as you:

- Study what the Bible says about government
- Pray for your governing leaders at the capitol
- Act as a legislator while debating your own bill
- Run for office or manage a campaign

Calling all Teens!

SOMETIMES WE FEEL LOST IN THIS WORLD

Come for Direction From God's Word – Ballroom 1

Friday



Reason, Intuition, and Intelligent Design – Tim Brenner, 10:30-11:20 A.M.

Is it unreasonable to believe that life came about from the creative action of an intelligent mind? Is an evolutionary explanation of the origin of life the only intellectually satisfying answer one can entertain? Explore these questions and apply the power of your reason and natural intuition during this interactive session.

How to Share the Gospel – LeAnn Lindteigen, 1:00-1:50 P.M.

The most loving thing we can do for our family, friends, and neighbors is share the Gospel with them! However, this can seem intimidating to many; where do you start, how do you bring it up, what do you say, are all questions that can run through our minds. Come join us as we learn about a few different ways to be prepared to share the truth of the gospel with the people around us!

The Bible and Homosexuality – Tim Brenner, 2:15-3:05 P.M.

What does the Bible teach about human sexuality and marriage? What is its meaning? How does God view homosexual relationships? This session will explore what the Bible has to say about these questions and will help you to know God's heart regarding our current cultural moment.

The Bible and Transgenderism – Tim Brenner, 3:30-4:20 P.M.

Transgenderism and many other "isms" have taken our culture by storm in the last several years. This session will tackle questions regarding our deep-seated desires and identities. How can we truly interpret what we feel about ourselves? Shouldn't we express ourselves in a way that matches these feelings? Does the Bible even address these complex and modern issues? The term "transgender" is not in the Bible, but indeed, God's word has much to say on these issues.

Saturday

The Truth about the Flood – LeAnn Lindteigen, 10:30-11:20 A.M.

"The evidence doesn't lie, people do." This quote by Timothy Clarey, a geologist for The Institute of Creation Research, speaks volumes about the lengths people will go to in order to suppress the truth of God's word. We will examine what the Bible says about the flood as well as the evidence that the flood left behind.

Racism, Offense and the Gospel – Tim Brenner, 1:00-1:50 P.M.

The topic of racism has been front and center in the national conversation for years now. Every day seems to bring another story on the news or social media that adds to the fire. Why does racism persist? Where does it come from? Most importantly, how can it truly be ended? Once again, the Bible is our guide, and God is not silent on this issue. This session will explore how the Gospel is our only hope to overcome racial animosity.

Thinking Through Abortion – Tim Brenner, 2:15-3:05 P.M.

We like to think that we live in an enlightened time period of human history, but is that really the case when we consider the widespread support for abortion? Is it simply a matter of women's rights? Is it accurate to call it healthcare? This session will take a close look at what an abortion does, not just to children, but to the mothers who have had an abortion. Have you really thought it through?

Exhibit Hall

43	Alliance Recordings / NDHSA Hall of Fame
33	Beakers & Bricks, LLC
5	BJU Press Homeschool/HomeWorks by Precept
1	Bluegrass Association of North Dakota (B.A.N.D.)
45	Charity A. Land
30	Christian Light
47	Ck2 Inc.
25	Classical Conversations
35	Club America
17	Creating a Masterpiece
29	Crystal Springs Baptist Camp
20	Duckling Press
36	Elijah Mai Creates
39	Emmaus University
46	Energematrice6
27	Family Renewal
12	Free Lutheran Bible College
48	Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum
18	Heppner's Legacy Homeschool Resources
28	HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association)
44	Knight Publishing
23	Knotty Pines Resort
24	Lakes Area Adoption Support
14	Lamplighter Ministries

38	Laurie's Stories
32	Miller Pads & Paper, LLC
34	Montana Bible College
7	More Than Media
37	Music is Forever
16	ND Department of Water Resources
41	NDHSA
42	NDHSA Special Needs Consultant
26	North Central Camp Cherith
2	North Dakota Council on the Arts
15	Oak Hills Christian College
31	OnWord Community
4	Paper Pie-FUNofReading.com
13	Perfect Praise Publishing
40	Portals Education
11	Priscilla's Books
8	RightStart Math
10	Rod & Staff Publishers
21	Royal Servants
6	Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads
19	Teaching Textbooks
22	Trinity Bible College and Graduate School
9	Wildhaven Woods
3	Writing For A Better Tomorrow

1	2	3	4	5
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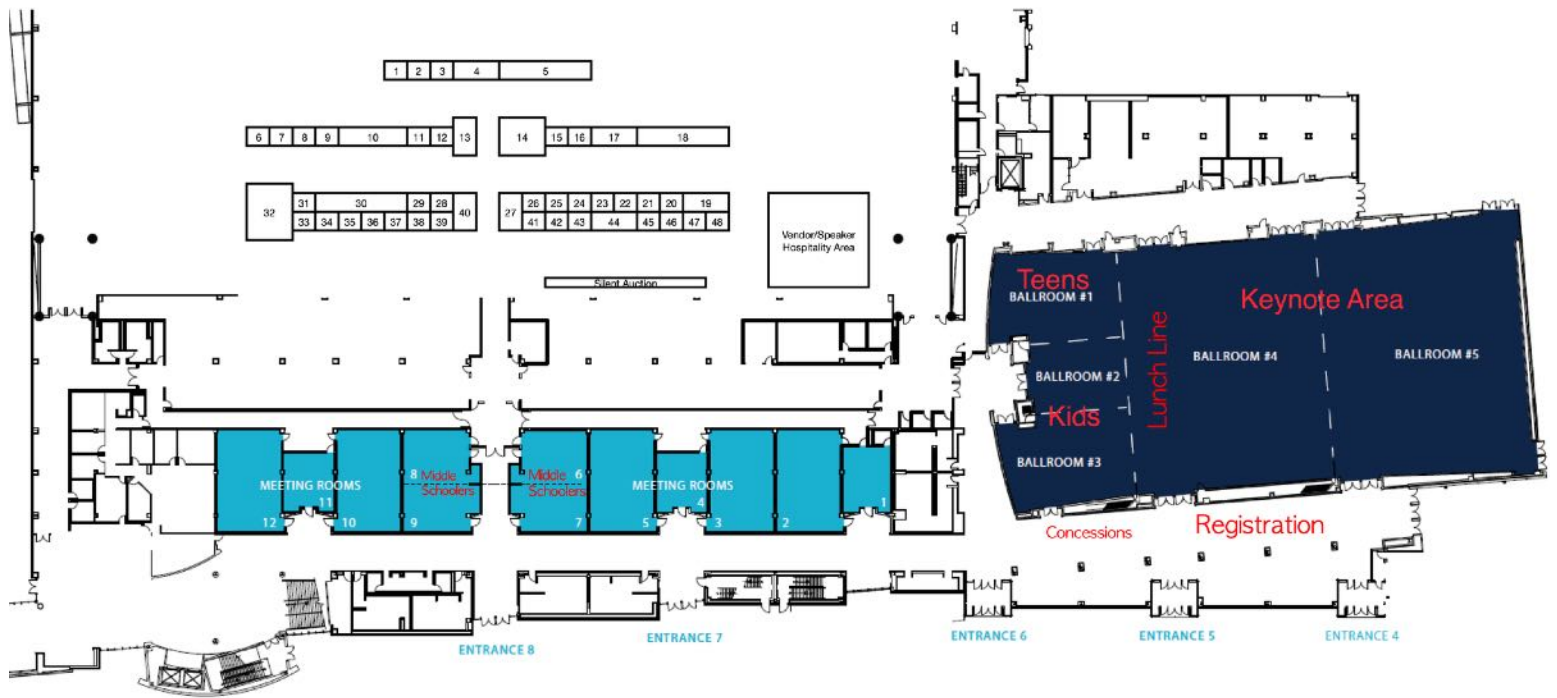
Vendor/Speaker
Hospitality Area

Silent Auction

*Highlighted exhibitors will present workshops over noon hours. See schedule on back cover.

Vendor Hall Hours
Friday - 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday - 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Facility Map



THANK YOU

Thank you to our sponsors! Please take time to stop by their booths (Notgrass, Zalpha, Greater Grand Forks are not attending) to express gratitude for their generosity!



Upcoming Events

The ND Homeschool Association presents

2026 Spring Formal

[REGISTER NOW](#)



open to all homeschooled high school students
(9th grade-age 19), dates do not need to be homeschooled

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026
JOANN HETZEL MEMORIAL BUILDING
BISMARCK, ND

Doors open at 5:00 PM, with photos beginning promptly. The Grand March will start at 6:30 PM, followed by dancing from 7:00–10:00 PM. After the dance, a post-prom party will be held at the same venue from 10:00 PM–12:00 AM. Please note that dress code and age limits will be strictly enforced.

We
hope
to see
you
there!



"If we are going to wait until every possible hindrance has been removed before we do a work for the Lord, we will never attempt to do anything." – I.J. Bach, 1881–1963, Missionary to Venezuela



FAITHFUL IN EVERY SEASON GALATIANS 6:9

2027 NDHSA CONVENTION

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Date:

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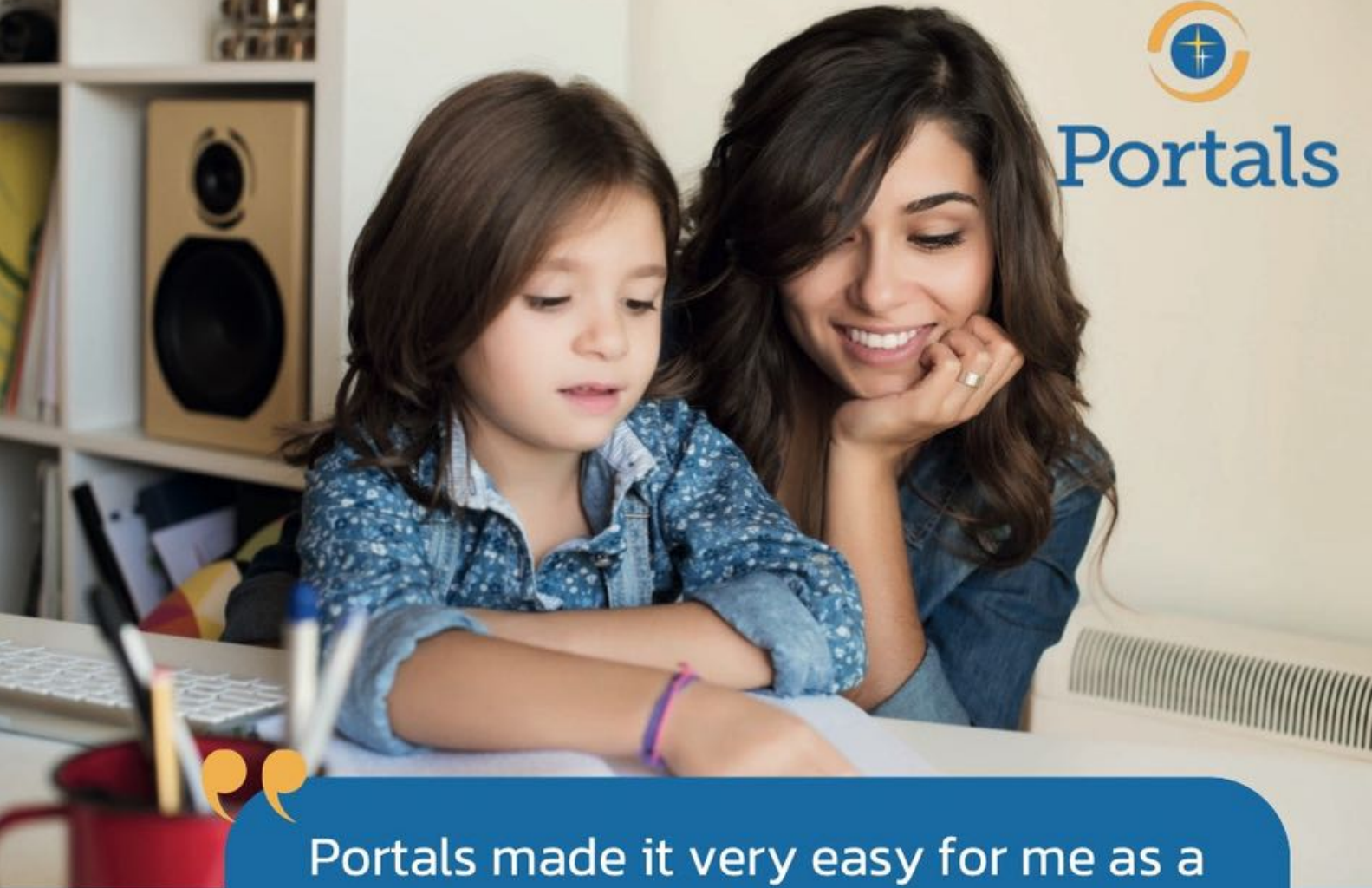
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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Friday

	Meeting Room 2	Meeting Room 3	Meeting Room 5	Meeting Room 10	Meeting Room 12	Ages 10-13 Meeting Rooms 6&7	Ages 10-13 Meeting Rooms 8&9
8:45-10:00 AM	Israel Wayne - Education: Does God Have an Opinion? Keynote Area Ballrooms 4&5						
10:30 -11:20 AM	Theresa Deckert - Getting Started in North Dakota	Chuck Black - Developing Discernment in Your Child	Seann Dikkers - Why Leave Schooling to do More Schooling?	Mindy Dicken - The Joy of Music in Your Homeschool	Sharon Fisher - When Was the Last Time Your Family Had Fun Learning Science?	Betsy Gross - Miracles of Jesus Escape Room	Alora Woodruff - Plant Identification
12:00-12:45 PM	Classical Conversations -5 Tools to Help Your Child Think		Priscilla's Books - Five Essentials for Raising Successful Adults	Ck2 Inc. - Strengthening Minds for Lifelong Learning	Foster & Adoptive Parents Lunch Discussion (Bring Your Own Lunch)		
1:00-1:50 PM	Israel Wayne - How to Not Educate (Like a Heathen)	Chuck Black - Call to Arms: The Guts & Glory of Courageous Fatherhood	Seann Dikkers - Project Based Learning	Lori Wentz - Executive Function Skills in Your Home	Liz Buck - From Overwhelmed to Equipped: Navigating Curriculum Choices	Noah Gonzales - Writing Like a Tree	Lori Slaubaugh - STEM Activity
2:15-3:05 PM	Israel Wayne - Education From a Biblical Worldview	Andrea Black - Preparing Your High Schooler for the Next Step	Seann & Steph Dikkers - Marriage Adventures	Jeff Hoverson - Family Devotions	Llora Knight - Homeschooling Multiple Children	Randy Whitman - Creating a Masterpiece	Elijah Gonzales - Children's Book Illustrations From Beginning to End
3:30-4:20 PM	Israel Wayne - Techno-Parenting: Navigating Screens and Media	Chuck Black - The Power of Fiction: Influencing the Hearts of our Youth	Nancy Bjorkman - Homeschooling: The Big Picture	Chris Herrin - College is Not a Scam	Sharon Fisher - Do You Homeschool a Wiggly Kid?	Randy Whitman - Continued	Rinnah & Reanna Knight - Adventures in Storytelling, Part 1

Saturday

	Meeting Room 2	Meeting Room 3	Meeting Room 5	Meeting Room 10	Meeting Room 12	Ages 10-13 PR Meeting Rooms 6&7	Ages 10-13 Meeting Rooms 8&9
8:45-10:00 AM	HALL OF FAME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Israel Wayne - Whom Should We Trust: Government or Parents? Keynote Area Ballrooms 4&5						
10:30 -11:20 AM	Israel Wayne - The Do's & Don'ts of Teaching Your Children Theology	Chuck Black - Guiding the Young Writer: What Parents Need to Know	Seann Dikkers - The Insidious Nature of Schooling	Caleb Hoverson - A Defense of Classical Education	Kristin Durham & Michelle Allerdings - Support Group Leaders Session	Betsy Gross - Salvation Scriptures Escape Room	Alora Woodruff - Knot Tying
12:00-12:45 PM		Music is Forever - How to Teach Music When You're Not Musical		Special Needs Lunch Discussion (Bring Your Own Lunch)			
1:00-1:50 PM	Israel Wayne - How to Keep Your Child in the Faith	Andrea Black - Navigating the Social Minefield of High School	Seann Dikkers - Carrots, Not Sticks: Designing Learning for Joy	Lori Wentz - Good Character Training & Tools to Encourage Delightful Behavior	Sharon Fisher - Math That Adds Up	Randy Whitman - Creating a Masterpiece	Lori Slaubaugh - STEM Activity
2:15-3:05 PM	Israel Wayne - Influence vs. Control: How to Best Motivate Your Child	Chuck & Andrea Black - 10 Lessons Learned	Nancy Bjorkman - Engaging Early Learners	Chris Herrin - Not All Christian Colleges are Created Equal: How to Discern What Matters	Susy Oliver - How Ordinary Homeschoolers Can Drive Extraordinary Change	Randy Whitman - Continued	Rinnah & Reanna Knight - Adventures in Storytelling, Part 2
3:30-4:30 PM	GRADUATE RECOGNITION, SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, & KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Israel Wayne - The Power of Affirmation Keynote Area Ballrooms 4&5						

Vendor Hall Hours

Friday - 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday - 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM