

# HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is an option in the Pax River region. Homeschooling regulations are governed by the Maryland State Department of Education to ensure regular, thorough instruction is occurring throughout the year in studies usually taught to public school children of the same age (English, math, science, social studies, art, music, health and physical education).

Parents choosing to home school their children must file a notification form with the Student Services Department of the local public school system at least 15 days prior to starting a home schooling program. This form must be filed each year a student is home schooled.

## TYPES OF HOMESCHOOLING

### **Classical Homeschooling**

The goal of the classical approach is to teach individuals how to learn for themselves. The five tools of learning known as the *Trivium* are reason, record, research, relate, and rhetoric. All the tools come together in the rhetoric stage with communication as the primary focus.

### **Multiple Intelligences**

This idea developed by Howard Gardner and Harvard University's Project Zero states that everyone is intelligent in his or her own way and that learning is easiest and most effective when it uses a person's strength rather than weakness. Most successful homeschoolers naturally emphasize their children's strengths and automatically tailor their teaching to match their child's learning style.

### **Montessori Method**

The Montessori Method emphasizes error-less learning in which children learn at their own pace to develop their full potential. The Montessori homeschool curriculum emphasizes beauty and avoids things that are confusing or cluttered. Learning material is kept well-organized and ready to use. Although Montessori materials are available for high school students, most homeschoolers use the Montessori Method for younger children.

### **School-at-Home**

Most families follow the school-at-home approach which comes with textbooks, study schedules, grades, and record keeping. Also School-at-home is the style most often portrayed in the media because it is so easy to understand and can be accompanied by a photo of the children studying around the kitchen table. But this is also the most expensive method and the style with the highest burnout rate. Because this option requires much more work on the part of the teacher/parent and provides lessons which may not be tailored to meet an individual child's needs, it has the greatest burnout rate of homeschooling options.

### **Distance Learning/Internet Homeschooling**

Online curriculum programs, public and private distance learning, and homeschool support academies are available via the internet. Depending upon the program or tutors, expert advice and resources may be found to assist the parent with homeschooling their children.

### **Unit Studies**

This type of home schooling involves teaching everything within the spectrum of a unit. For example, while studying the topic of the Titanic, students might read about or do activities involving ice, flotation, naval history. They may do math activities to figure the square footage of space on the ship, weight of the passengers total compared to capability of the lifeboats, they study deep sea exploration, read about the history of the time, write a fictional story about a child on the ship, study social stratification at the time or discuss the increase in immigration to the US at the time, its reasons and implications.... on and on. Lots of the instruction is ACTION based not just workbooks. The advantage here is "killing several birds with one stone" and it can be easier to teach multiple grades simultaneously.

## HOMESCHOOL REGULATIONS AND FORMS

[Maryland State Department of Education](#)

[St. Mary's County Public Schools](#)

[Calvert County Public Schools](#)

## HOME SCHOOL RESOURCES

[Home School Legal Defense Association](#)

[Homeschool World](#)

[Homeschool.com](#)

[Military Homeschoolers](#)

[Christian Military Homeschoolers](#)

[Homeschool Association of Military Families](#)

[Homeschooling Today magazine](#)

[The National Home Education Network](#)

[Homeschool Central](#)

[The WorldWide Independent Distance Education Academy](#) (WorldWide IDEA)

[Home School Mentor](#)

[You Can Homeschool](#)

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