

Brevard Christian Home Educators, Inc.

Table of Contents:	Page:
Welcome to BCHE / Purpose for Home Schooling	2
Welcome to Home Education, Purpose, Statement of Faith ³	
History of BCHE, Inc.	4
Structure of BCHE	4
Requirements of Membership	5
Benefits of Membership	6
Florida Homeschool Law	7 & 8
Sample Letter of Intent	9
Sample Letter of Termination	9
Sample Written Evaluation Form	10
Tips for Building and Maintaining Your Portfolio	11 & 12
Resource Listing	13 & 14

"Now is not the time for home schoolers to hunker at home, fearfully avoiding the association of others. In numbers there is strength, as well as help and good fellowship. Your local and state home school groups do more than take your money and mail you a newsletter. They lobby legislators, sit in on court trials, if necessary, set up conventions and educational fairs, organize field trips, present media events, and act as your resource network. Homeschoolers who fail to tap into this rich source are not only denying themselves many wonderful opportunities, but are failing to support the sacrificial efforts of those who are working to make home schooling thoroughly legal and respectable. Obviously, the more numbers a state group can claim, the more impact it can have on legislators and the media. Stand up and be counted!"

Mary Pride, The Big Book of Home Learning

WELCOME
to
Brevard Christian Home Educators, Inc.

Here are a few guidelines to help you know what's expected of you:

Please make it a priority to attend the monthly small group meetings during the year. Vital home school information is explained and distributed at these meetings. If unusual circumstances prevent you from attending, please contact another person in your small group or your small group leader for any missed information. This is where veteran and new homeschoolers share experiences and concerns with another to lift up one another.

We strongly encourage each parent to become involved in participation in the area or areas of service in which their family has an interest. Extra curricular activities, such as field trips, etc., will only take place if we as parents volunteer to assist/coordinate these special events for our children. As explained on the Membership Application under Participation/Area of Service, many volunteers make the job easier and much more enjoyable.

Pray for BCHE, its leadership, members, students, and for continuing favorable homeschooling laws.

PURPOSE FOR HOME SCHOOLING

Several areas of our children's lives require our dedication as we purpose to home school. Those areas include: 1) Spiritual, 2) Character, 3) Family, and 4) Academic.

God has given us the responsibility to train our children in Deuteronomy 6:5-7. That means we as parents are responsible to install our faith and beliefs in our children.

By homeschooling our children, we have a better opportunity to instill God's Word and Christian values in the hearts of our children and thus we can build our children's self-esteem and help them gain emotional maturity. We desire to provide positive socialization by combining learning with everyday experiences and also desire

to decrease negative peer pressure that so often results in ungodly character traits.

As parents, we want to build a stronger family unit. This strong relationship will provide our children with love, support, and encouragement.

Homeschooling allows us to provide an education in which each subject is approached from a Christian standpoint. Our children can receive a better quality education, due to individualized instruction, and more concentrated learning, due to the lower pupil-teacher ratio, in an environment filled with love.

Patricia Jenkins, Previous BHEA
Secretary

Welcome to Home Education!

We offer this basic information packet to you as an introduction to home education as well as to the services provided by Brevard Christian Home Educators, Inc. (BCHE), members.

PURPOSE:

This corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes which include, but are not limited to, the supporting of parents who choose to educate their children at home, and the establishment and operation of a private Christian School for home educating families. We are in association for encouragement and mutual edification of those who recognize the scriptural imperative and

constitutional right to so educate their children. We place a strong emphasis on spiritual maturity and training along with the other educational disciplines. Our common goal is to see our children excel in every area of growth: spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally and socially. The character of this corporation is defined by the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Scriptures.

STATEMENT OF FAITH:

We believe that the only true living God, creator of all the universe and all in it (living and nonliving), is a personal God. We believe that God the Father sent God the Son, the Messiah, to earth and that He lived a perfect (sinless) life of obedience to the Father. We believe that He was crucified for our sins, that He was buried, and the third day He physically rose from the grave never to suffer or to die again. We believe the Son of God ascended to the Father and is seated at the Father's right hand as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. We believe Jesus Christ to be the Messiah as promised in

the Old Testament. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead. We believe that the Holy Spirit is given to God's children. We believe that the Holy Spirit is active in and upon the lives of those who are born again, and who submit to His workings. We believe the Holy Bible as contained in the Old and New Testaments has given the parents of children the final authority and responsibility for the training and education of their children. To God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit we and our children owe absolute allegiance and obedience.

HISTORY OF BCHE, INC.:

Formed in 2001, BCHE replaced BHEA, which was formed in 1987. BHEA began as a group of twelve homeschooling families in central Brevard meeting together at parks and family homes for support.

This group grew as more families took advantage of new Florida State legislation creating a better atmosphere for homeschooling. Soon, they took the name of Central Brevard Homeschoolers and began printing the first newsletter, a one page update on activities within the group. The name changed to Brevard Home Educators Association as the membership began to encompass the entire county, and the newsletter grew to the multi-page monthly, Home Front News. BHEA incorporated in 1992 in order to provide a private Christian School, under Florida

Statute 617, which was named Christian Heritage Academy (CHA). This enabled BHEA to form a Board of Directors to take care of the necessary business concerns while leaving the monthly meetings free for family support. BHEA grew exponentially during the years 1993-94, and was restructured into separate chapter groups which met monthly, countywide in order to maintain the needed personal support, which is foundational to this association. Leadership has always been on a voluntary basis from members within the association. BHEA (now BCHE) has maintained membership with the Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA) from 1987 to present and is still recognized by FPEA as a support group in good standing.

STRUCTURE OF BCHE:

BCHE is a corporate structure formed of a Board of Directors with Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer) elected every two years, Board Members [Communications Director, Member at Large, and Chapter Representatives] elected annually by the membership, and one Board-appointed position [CHA Administrator]. Each member of the Board is entitled to one vote.

Support chapters are led by volunteer chapter leaders. Each chapter is composed of not less than five families and not more than 20 families. These numbers were selected in order to have a large enough group size to enable support and at the same time be small enough to enable finding an adequate meeting place, since most groups prefer to meet in homes. Contact your Area

Representative or see the newsletter for the location of meetings nearest to you.

Christian Heritage Academy (CHA) is a school operated by the CHA Administrator and under the authority of the BCHE Board of Directors. A school committee is appointed by the Administrator to assist in carrying out those duties. The school exists as an optional benefit for BCHE families and is dependent upon membership in the BCHE support group. BCHE support group membership does not exclude a family that chooses to enroll in another private school other than CHA.

All board members and school personnel are homeschooling parents who are sacrificially volunteering their time to these BCHE positions. There are no paid staff members at BCHE except for the CHA Administrator. Activities provided

during the year are dependent upon volunteers within the membership. Everyone must help in some area throughout the year to make these events happen. We encourage new ideas and

leadership skills in the areas already designated or in new opportunities of your choosing upon approval by the Board of Directors.

REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP:

The qualifications of membership in BCHE are: (1) you must be educating at least one of your children in your home; (2) you must be in agreement with our Purpose and Statement of Faith as stated on the membership form; and (3) you must pay the annual membership dues of \$40 per family in full at the time of enrollment. **[PLEASE NOTE: a specified amount of this fee (\$10.00) is designated to support the Home Education Foundation (HEF), which is our Lobbying Arm in Tallahassee.]** Renewals and reinstatements are approved when qualifications are met. Likewise, a membership may be terminated when the member no longer meets the qualifications. Membership fees are not pro-rated and fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE AT ANY TIME** should you withdraw membership from BCHE. Applications for membership are accepted during the months of August and January. Exceptions can be made in special cases with board approval. This limited enrollment time was set to alleviate the excessive paperwork associated with registration, which can cause volunteers to be over burdened if it were not limited to a specific time frame.

Note: BCHE requires at least one Parent to attend both the January General Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting to remain a Member In Good Standing.

CHA membership can be obtained year round on an appointment basis. The qualifications for membership in Christian Heritage Academy are primarily: (1) paid membership in BCHE; (2) annual enrollment fee of \$55 per child K-6th, \$130 per child 7th-8th grades, \$180 per child 9th - 12th (maximum of \$450 total per. family) paid in full at registration; (3) all proper health forms, legal documents and transcripts as designated in the CHA Handbook; and (4) submission of grade reports as designated in the handbook. More specific information, a CHA Handbook, and the proper forms will be given at the time of your enrollment in CHA. Students enrolling in CHA after 9th grade (high school level) must either be transferring from a registered private school with a transcript or pay for and verify previous high school courses. Attendance at academic and other functions offered in the support group are encouraged but are not mandatory.

Families may collect Boxtop for Education labels and turn them in for 9 cents per label off of registration fees.

Neither BCHE nor CHA can provide legal counsel or assurance. Membership in the Home School Legal Defense Association is highly recommended.

Benefits of Membership

- **BCHE MONTHLY PARENT SUPPORT MEETINGS** are held by individual chapter groups throughout Brevard County for practical, spiritual, and emotional support of each family. Specific times, dates, and particulars are decided by the individual chapter groups. (A general meeting for the entire association is held in January. A business meeting is held in May to elect new officers and board directors.)
- **OPTIONAL ENROLLMENT IN CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ACADEMY** offers official school transcripts, accountability to the school instead of the state, a program for dual enrollment with Brevard Community College and high school diplomas upon completion of an approved track of study (see CHA Handbook).
- **VOTING PRIVILEGES** at business meetings as well as optional attendance at board meetings.
- **BCHE FAMILY DIRECTORY** keeps home educators in touch with each other. Listings are confidential and optional.
- **HOME FRONT NEWS** is a newsletter publication of BCHE. It consists of ten issues and contains news of BCHE activities, field trips, local and national opportunities, legislation, helpful hints, classified ads, etc. The membership is invited to contribute in these areas.
- **HOME EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP (HEF)** includes updates on legislative efforts for homeschoolers made available through the Home Front News. HEF is a FULL-TIME watch-dog in legislative activities and also lobbies for better laws impacting Florida homeschoolers.
- **FIELD TRIPS** are organized by volunteers within each chapter group for the benefit of that group or for the entire association.
- **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES** are planned by volunteers within each chapter group for the benefit of that group. Activities are also planned for the entire association and may include holiday socials, fall/spring festivals, teen get-togethers and ministry groups, sports teams, park days, cooperative learning activities, etc.
- **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES** may include, but not be limited to, Christmas parade participation, Mother's Retreat, Home School Information Night, community service activities, etc.
- **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES** are planned by volunteers and may include, but not be limited to, a student orchestra, Spelling and Geography Bees, science fairs, student project exhibitions, group testing (Stanford Achievement Test), and referrals of selected Florida certified teachers for end-of-year evaluations.
- **OTHER ACTIVITIES** that have been conducted by volunteers within BCHE have been: seminars with guest speakers; Physical Fitness Challenge (training, testing, and awards); Servant's Heart teen ministry (serving the needs of BCHE families and community); and the BCHE Discoveries yearbook (parents and students working together in design and layout, advertising, photography, and writing).

FLORIDA HOMESCHOOL LAW

s.228.041 (34) HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM - A home education program is a sequentially progressive instruction of a student in his or her home by his or her parent or guardian in order to satisfy the requirements of S.232.01.

s.232.02 - Regular School Attendance - Regular attendance is the actual attendance of a pupil during the school day as defined by law and regulations of the state board. Regular attendance within the intent of S.232.01 may be achieved by attendance in:

- I. A public school supported by public funds.
2. A parochial, religious, or denominational school.
3. A private school supported in whole or in part by tuition or by endowments or gifts.
4. A home education program as defined in S.228.04 1 and which is in compliance with S.229.808, provided that at least one of the following conditions is met:

a. The parent holds a valid regular Florida certificate to teach the subjects or grades in which instruction is given and complies with any other requirements prescribed by law or rules of the state board; OR

b. The parent does not hold a valid regular Florida certificate to teach and complies with the following requirements:

I. Notifies the superintendent of schools or the county in which the parent resides of his intent to establish and maintain a home education program. The notice shall be in writing, signed by the parent and shall include the names, addresses and birthdates of all children who shall be enrolled as students in the home education program. The notice shall be filed in the superintendent's office within 30 days of the establishment of the home education program. A written notice of termination of the home education program shall be filed in the superintendent's office within 30 days of said termination.

2. Maintains a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio shall consist of a log made contemporaneously with the instruction, which designates by title the reading materials used and samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks and creative materials used or developed by the student. The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years and shall be made available for inspection by the superintendent, or his agent, upon 15 days written notice.

3. Provide for annual educational evaluation in which is documented the pupil's demonstration or educational progress at a level commensurate with his ability. A copy of the evaluation shall be filed annually with the district school board office in the county in which the pupil resides. The annual educational evaluation shall consist of one of the following:

- a. A teacher selected by the parent shall evaluate the pupil's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the pupil. Such teacher shall hold a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects on the elementary or secondary level. The teacher shall submit a written evaluation to the school superintendent.
- b. The pupil shall take any nationally normed student achievement test used by the district and administered by a certified teacher. Such test results shall be reported to the school superintendent.
- c. The pupil shall take a state assessment test. Such test results shall be reported to the school superintendent.
- d. The pupil shall be evaluated by an individual holding a valid active license pursuant to the provisions of S.490.003 (3) or (78). Such results shall be reported to the school superintendent.
- e. The pupil shall be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the school superintendent of the district in which the pupil resides and the pupil's parent or guardian. Such results shall be reported to the superintendent.

The school superintendent shall review and accept the results of the annual evaluation of the pupil in a home education program. If the pupil does not demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate with his ability, the superintendent shall notify the parent, in writing, that such progress has not been achieved. The parent shall have one year from the date of receipt of the written notification to provide remedial instruction to the pupil. At the end of the one year probationary period, the pupil shall be re-evaluated as specified in this subparagraph. Continuation in a home education program shall be contingent upon the pupil demonstrating educational progress commensurate with his ability at the end of the probationary period.

Sample Letter of Intent

Date:

To: (name of current), Superintendent of Schools
Home Education program
School Board of Brevard County
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

Dear (insert Name),

This letter is to inform you of our intent as parents to establish and maintain a home education program for our children. Those enrolled in our program include:

1. Jane Doe
100 Main Street
Cocoa, FL 32922
Date of Birth June 1, 1984
2. John Doe
100 Main Street
Cocoa, FL 32922
Date of Birth June 1, 1994

Sincerely,

Sally Doe

(This letter should only be sent when the child is entering a home education program. It is not to be sent at the beginning of each year. Younger children need to be added as they come of age.)

Sample Letter of Termination

Date:

To: (name of current), Superintendent of Schools
Home Education program
School Board of Brevard County
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

Dear (insert Name),

This letter is to inform you that the home education program for the following children has been terminated.

1. Jane Doe
100 Main Street
Cocoa, FL 32922
Date of Birth June 1, 1984
2. John Doe
100 Main Street
Cocoa, FL 32922
Date of Birth June 1, 1994

Sincerely,

Sally Doe

(This letter should only be sent when the child is entering a formal schooling situation, either public or private, or is moving outside of Brevard County. It is not to be sent at the end of each year.)

Sample of Written Evaluation Form

WRITTEN EVALUATION FORM

Upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the pupil named below, I have found that the pupil has demonstrated progress at a level commensurate with his/her ability and is ready to be promoted to the next level.

Signature of Florida Certified Teacher/Evaluator

Certification Number

Date of Expiration

Pupil's Name: _____

Pupil's Birthdate: _____

Pupil's Address: _____

Pupil's Parents: _____

Evaluation Date: _____

Tips for Building and Maintaining Your Portfolio

According to Florida State Laws (S.232.01 and S.232.02), a student enrolled in the Home Education Program is required to build and maintain a progressive portfolio of the student's work. Below are suggestions that may help you in deciding what to include in your portfolio. Your portfolio must be kept for at least two years after the year of instruction has ended. Portfolios are required by Christian Heritage Academy as well as the Brevard Co. School Superintendent.

- IDENTIFIER - A title page of some design containing child's name, age, grade/level, and date.
- PERMANENT LEGAL RECORD - This includes the birth certificate and Social Security number. Bob Jones University Press offers a printed folder with spaces for all pertinent information. Use pencil and update as necessary.
- HEALTH RECORDS - Immunizations, health concerns such as surgeries, disabilities, diseases and history. Ask your doctor for a form or update from their files including dates and signatures.
- TESTING AND EVALUATION REPORT - Originals or copies of year-end testing or evaluation showing compliance with law. Also include your own tests and personal evaluations in child's records. (These more personal evaluations may be taken out before showing portfolio to authorities for the sake of privacy but are important for you to keep.)
- JOURNAL OR LESSON PLANS - A record of what has been taught and the basic sequence in which it was taught. Be able to record the objectives of the lessons and not just page numbers of texts. Journals are diaries kept as the learning occurs.

- ATTENDANCE LOG - The law requires a minimum of 180 days instruction for public and private schools.

- SAMPLES - Don't keep everything! Only keep what is noteworthy as far as progress made: tests, artwork, book reports, creative writing, etc. Showing work that is less than perfect will help build credibility as well as showing true progress when compared to better work done later. Use photos (especially of 3-dimensional projects and experiments), recordings, and your own creativity!

- BOOKS READ AND BOOKS READ TO - This is not required but can be impressive (and encouraging to look upon at year's end)! Let student keep his own logs.

- CURRICULUM DATA - What textbooks or resources were used for instruction. Include author(s), publisher, copyright or edition, and (for your own reference) the supplier.

- EXTRACURRICULAR - Record in some form extracurricular instruction, field trips, science fairs, community or ministry work, church or organization involvement, athletics, etc. Get these signed and dated where other leaders have been involved.

- AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS - Trophies, ribbons, certificates, etc. Photos work nicely for unwieldy awards as long as the child is in the picture with it! Group shots are also nice.

YOUR PORTFOLIO CAN BE WHATEVER
YOU WANT IT TO BE.

Do include enough information and be neat enough to build an impression of integrity should you be called on to present it.

Note: You may want to see *Lifetime Books and Gifts*, BJU Press, and *Christian*

Life Workshops for planning forms designed especially for homeschooling families. They include forms for all of the above.

RESOURCE LISTING

The resources below may be available in your library or local Christian bookstore.

The Right Choice, Chris Klicka (senior counsel with HSLDA). Why, how, and lots, lots more!

The Christian Home School, Gregg Harris (Christian Life Workshops). Specifically Christian oriented with more reasons to Homeschool.

The Homeschooling Father, Michael Farris (founder HSLDA). Father of nine speaks from experience!

For the Children's Sake, Susan Schaeffer Macaulary, daughter of Francis and Edith Schaeffer. Summarizes Charlotte Mason's philosophy of education. Part of a trilogy.

Books Children Love, Elizabeth Wilson. Wonderful listing by categories of "real" or "living" books following C. Mason's philosophy of education. Second part of the trilogy.

Teaching Children, Diana Lopez. General scope and sequence for grades K-6 using above philosophy. Third part of the trilogy.

Mary Pride's Big Book of Home Learning, Mary Pride. Actually 4 volumes: *Getting Started*, *Preschool/Kindergarten*, *Elementary and High School*, and *Extracurricular*. These are all excellent curriculum summary guides.

The Survivor's Guide to Homeschooling, Luanne Shackelford. Mother of 7 and pastor's wife shares sample schedules and experiences. Relaxing and fun!

How to Home School, Gayle Graham. Another HS mom shares refreshingly basic homeschooling tips and forms - "deprogrammer" with lots more!

Going Home to School, Davis. Another mind-broadening perspective on the reasons to Homeschool.

The Home School Curriculum Manual, Cathy Duffy. Two volumes: *Elementary and Jr./SR High*. More detailed study of learning styles and how to plan and buy curriculum to fit each child's needs, includes curriculum analysis.

The Home School Manual, Ted Wade. Research and more factual information on the why's and how's of homeschooling, includes resources.

The Hurried Child, Dr. David Elkind. Psychologist's common-sense findings concerning children's development.

Home-Spun Schools, Home-Style Teaching, Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore. One of many vital books by these authors describing the effect of early education and the promising aspects of Homeschool.

Homeschool-related magazines, catalogs, etc.:

Home School Enrichment Magazine, P.O. Box 163, Pekin, IL 61555, 1-800-558-9523, \$17.95/yr. Your subscription includes six bi-monthly issues, access to extra *HSEPlus* supplements, complete craft projects and home school unit studies, and much more!
<http://homeschoolenrichment.com/magazine/>

Homeschooling Today Magazine, P. O. Box 436, Barker, TX, 77413, (281) 579-0033, \$21.99/yr. Bi-monthly magazine specializing in unit studies. Includes unit study plans, how-to information, edifying articles, literature and beautiful ART!
<http://homeschooltoday.com/subscribe/>

Home School Digest, Wisdom's Gate, Dept W5, P.O Box 374, Covert, MI, 49043, \$18/yr. The quarterly journal for family discipleship. <http://homeschooldigest.com/>

Lifetime Books and Gifts, 3900 Chalet Suzanne Lane., Lake Wales, FL, 33853, (863) 676-6311, Bob and Tina Farewell, <http://www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com>. ***The 2000 Always Incomplete Resource Guide*** is available to be downloaded and viewed using Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can download the Resource Guide and browse through it just as you would with a printed copy. The 400 page Guide is now available online or in CD form only.

Brevard Christian Home Educators and Christian Heritage Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.