



My
Homeschool
Planning Kit



School Year _____

Yearly Attendance Record

Month	Age	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
July																																		
August			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
September			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
October			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
November			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
December			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
January			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
February			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
March			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
April			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
May			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
June			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Where Do I Begin?

Determining Your Homeschool Style

Am I the one leading the direction of our studies or is my child? Meaning, will you be the one deciding what your child learns, or will they be deciding?

I'm leading

How Much Time per day do I want my child to be doing their schoolwork?

I think a quality education can be given in less time per day than a traditional school day.

I don't mind spending 8 hrs at home for my child's schooling, as long as they are learning the most they can.

Would I rather mix & match homeschool styles or have full immersion in one style?

I want the benefits of sticking to one style.

Charlotte Mason

Someone else is leading my child & making all the decisions, often including class time & what's taught.

My child is leading

Do I want to follow a curriculum or wing it?.

Curriculum

Wing It.

Unit Studies

Am I able & willing to immerse my child in an environment full of educational activities at all times?

Absolutely

Montessori

I don't want to change our entire home environment

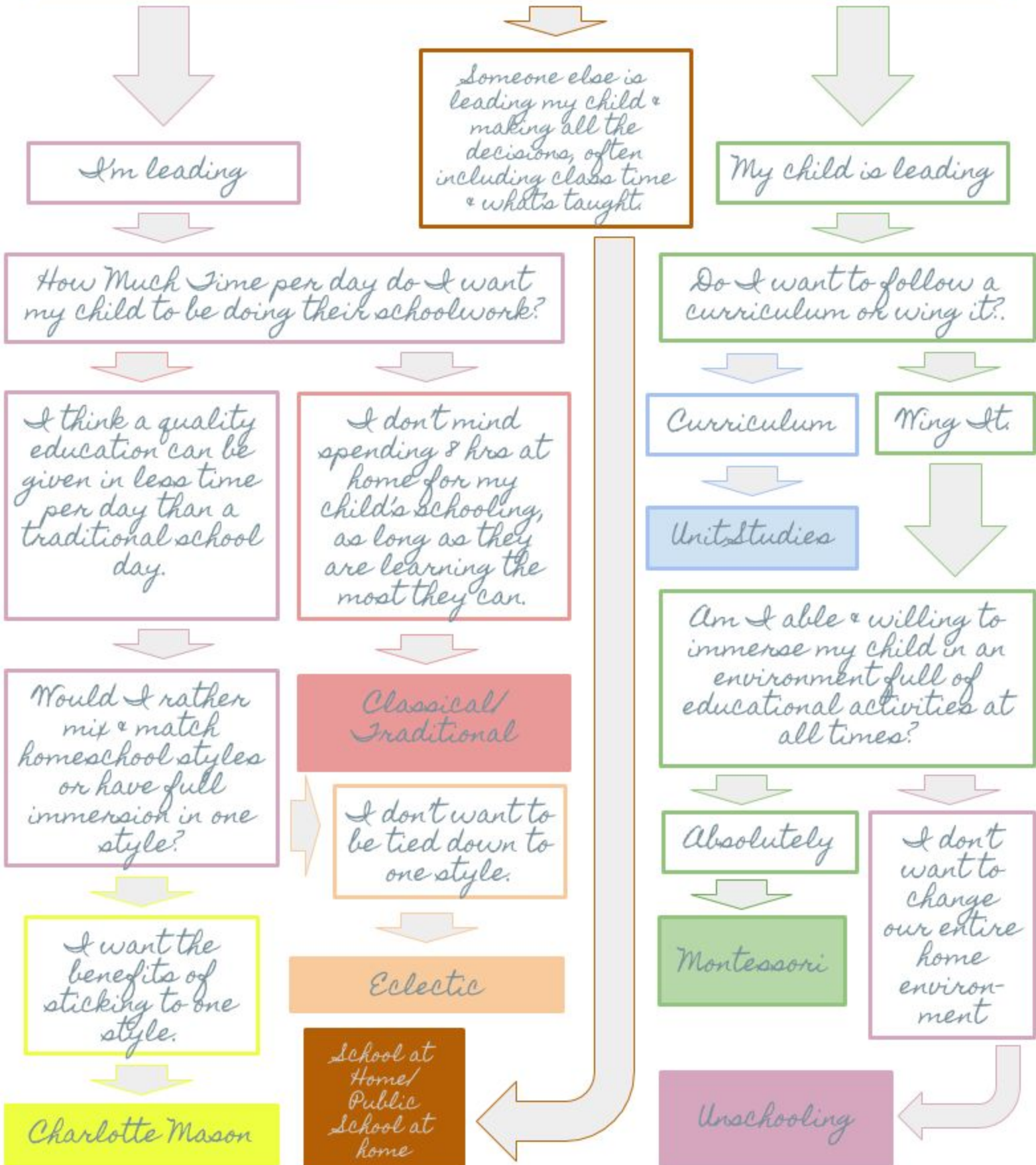
Unschooling

Classical/ Traditional

I don't want to be tied down to one style.

Eclectic

School at Home/
Public School at home



Learning About Your Homeschool Style

Parent Directed

Classical/Traditional

Uses "Great Books," or "all-time-classics" as the foundation. Teaches using a Trivium (three levels of learning - lower levels learn facts & data, middle levels learn critical thinking & logic, then high school levels learn rhetoric & self-expression). Teaches in historical order. Very rigorous teaching method. Time consuming, but thorough and reliable. Time tested as effective. Gons of reading required by student

Parent Directed

Charlotte Mason

Students learn through reading or listening to "living books" (books that form an emotional connection with a topic). Christian-based. Short study periods broken up with nature walks, nature journals, history portfolios, & lots of practice observing, memorizing, and narrating (retelling events). Easy to incorporate parts of Classical & Unit Study styles. Lots of Read Alouds & Oral Narration. Time Tested as effective.

Parent Directed

Eclectic - aka Relaxed Homeschooling Method

Mixes classical & Charlotte Mason approaches to homeschooling. Typically not tied to a curriculum, but curriculums do exist for this style. Offers flexibility for different types of activities & homeschool styles. Many available resources online, but can present the problem of too many options. If done correctly, can have best of both worlds if done incorrectly, can end up with the worst of both worlds.

School Program Directed

School at Home - aka Traditional School

Same as public or private school, but done at home. Conventional. Can be done completely by parent, or by using online public or (paid) private online schools. Locked into pre-chosen curriculum. Parent & students do not choose class times for online options - inconvenient & rigorous. Burn out common. Time consuming. Short term friendly. Formal standards. Not flexible. High teacher to student ratios.

Student Directed

Unit Studies

Subjects overlap for full immersion in a single topic. For example, study Egypt in History & Geography, study Exodus for Reading class, learn about pyramids & triangles in Math, etc. Can be a style of homeschooling, or a tool to use with other styles. As a homeschool style, students typically choose the topic of the Unit Study, so learning is sporadic. As a tool, parents can use unit studies to dive deeper into important topics.

Student Directed

Montessori

Humanistic - child's interests are more important than a learning order. Learning gaps common. Elementary focused. Requires training. Uses tactile experiences in environment to facilitate learning. Requires many educational activities to explore within environment to work. When done correctly, can allow the genius to develop naturally in your child. Special needs friendly. Adaptable. Time tested as effective.

Student Directed

Unschooling

Student centered, free form teaching. Unconventional. The idea is to give your child as many experiences with a topic as possible. Student picks topics of interest. Reading, Writing, & Arithmetic are the only progression subjects. Teacher helps facilitate student interests & expand on those interests by adding experiences instead of actually teaching. Learning gaps common. Rejects time-tested methods of learning.

Curriculum & Resources for Each Style

Classical

- Great Books List by Wise-Bauer
- ClassicalCurriculum.com
- VeritasPress.com
- Classical Conversations Curricula
- BJU Press (Bob Jones University)

- Great Books of the Western World by Alder & Van Doren
- PeacetillPress.com
- Tapestry of Grace Curriculum
- An Old-Fashioned Education

Charlotte Mason

- AmblesideOnline.org
- SimplyCharlotteMason.com
- CharlotteMasonHomeschooling.com
- Living Books Press
- FreedomHomeschooling.com - Free Curriculum Resources

- Masterbook's Curricula
- Gather Round Homeschool (Unit Studies)
- Charlotte Mason Education, by Catherine Levison

Eclectic

- Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool (allinonehomeschool.com)
- EclecticHomeschool.org
- Eclectic-Homeschool.com - Reading List
- TheHomeschoolMom.com - Eclectic Method

- Genesis Curriculum
- TheGreatCourses.com
- AZZ Homes Cool

School at Home

- Abeka books
- Saxon Curricula
- Rod & Staff Bible Based Curricula
- Apologia Online Academy

- Sonlight Curriculum
- Institute for Excellence in Writing
- K12.com

Unit Studies

- Gather Round Homeschool
- HomeHearts
- UnitStudies.com
- DIY Homeschooler - Free Unit Studies

- Project-based Homeschooling: Mentoring Self-Directed Learners, by Lori Pickert
- What is a Unit Study? Link below:

<https://www.crosswalk.com/print/11608238/>

Montessori

- American Montessori Society
- International Montessori Index
- Living Montessori Now
- Montessori-Pierson Publishing Company

- Michael Olaf - Montessori Store
- EdVid - Montessori Education Videos
- JMJ Publishing & Livable Learning

Unschooling

- The Master List of Unschooling Resources
- Unschoolers.com
- Thomas Jefferson Education
- JohnHoltENS.com - List of Unschooler Blogs

Other Things to Consider

Now that you know your homeschool style, let's start narrowing down options for curriculum.

How many students will I be teaching?

If you are teaching multiple students across multiple grade levels, you should consider using a curriculum that allows you to teach all of your students the same lessons in everything at one time, but at their own level. Think "One-Room Schoolhouse" style. You can't do this with each student's Math, Language Arts, and Reading, of course, but you can certainly do this with History & Social Studies, Science, and electives such as Art, PE, Health, & Music. Unit studies are great for this, but can leave a gap in content. Curriculum like My Father's World (Charlotte Mason style), Tapestry of Grace (Classical), & Gather Round Homeschool (Unit Studies) weave this concept into their curriculum flawlessly. They have samples on their websites to see examples of how this is done.

Do I want to use online sources for teaching or offline only?

Your homeschool style is different than the method of delivery. Whether you want to utilize online options and resources or do everything using physical books does not change your homeschool style. These options are just different methods of delivering the content to your child. You can find online and offline options for each homeschool style.

If you want your child to learn offline, there are still many options of workbooks and printables that you can print for your child to use. Even if you prefer using offline materials only, don't discount the usefulness of using the internet to get your resources. You can find TONS of *free* workbooks & resources for offline use at freedomhomeschooling.com. Dadsworksheets.com has thousands of worksheets, many of them free to print off. And thisreadingmama.com has a great free reading program, unit studies, and other resources that are wonderful for teaching Pre-K to Kindergarten.

How involved in my child's education do I want to be?

Choosing actual curriculum can be pricey, but you'll want a curriculum that's already laid out for you if you would prefer your child work more independently. Easy Peasy All-In-One Homeschool is an excellent option for first time homeschoolers and homeschoolers who want or need their child to be able to work independently, because of, well... life.

We started our homeschool with My Father's World when I was only schooling one child, then tried Tapestry of Grace, which was wonderful, but the Classic method was way too rigorous for me to keep up with. We then went to Easy Peasy when I started schooling my second child. We've been homeschooling for 7 years, and have utilized the ease of using Easy Peasy for the last 2+ years, as we moved several times, had many marital issues to work through, and I was working on and off. Now we are branching out to try other options. As much as I love that my children can work independently, I want to be more involved in their schooling now that life has started to slow down more. Try homeschooling with a guide first (a curriculum that's already laid out for you), then try piecing your own together to find what suits your family best.

Here are our personal curriculum choices for this coming school year. We will be using Easy Peasy's book list for Early American History to do Read Alouds as our History Curriculum. We will devote about 1 hr daily to Gather Round for Science & Unit Studies, just to add some more hands-on flavor to our homeschool. We will use Easy Peasy's offline Reading books, because the lessons are already laid out for them, day by day. This will also cut down on the cost of buying each book individually. We will be using All About Spelling for our spelling curriculum - I love how this program teaches Spelling using a hands-on, logical approach! We will be using Genesis Curriculum for Bible, Mathematics, Language Arts, & Handwriting. Genesis Curriculum was created by the same lady who created Easy Peasy, but with a higher focus on Bible and completely offline! And we will be using Easy Peasy online for Computer, Art, Music, PE/Health, & Critical Thinking. My two oldest will also be doing "Shop Class" with daddy twice a week after he gets home from work (Daddy's idea). :)

We decided to mix and match to better meet our family's needs. Your family's needs will always be changing with new decisions, new responsibilities and new seasons, so be sure to choose an option that will suit your family for the coming season of life. And don't forget to PRAY, because only God Knows EVERYTHING you'll be taking on in each coming season! He'll never steer you wrong- don't leave Him out of the decision.

Free All-In-One Curriculum Options

List from FreedomHomeschooling.com

Classical

An Old-Fashioned Education (K-12th) -

Includes every subject except math & science- recommendations included for these subjects. 40-week schedule planned out for you.

oldfashionededucation.com

Charlotte Mason

Ambleside Online (K-12th) -

Includes every subject except math, which is available for purchase from their website. 36-week schedule is planned out for you.

amblesideonline.org

Freedom Homeschooling (1st-8th) -

Includes every subject. Each grade level includes one course that requires real books to be bought or borrowed. No schedule is provided. Also includes recommendations for free curriculum by subject on website.

freedomhomeschooling.com/free-christian-homeschool-curriculum/

Eclectic

**Easy Peasy All-In-One Homeschool (Pre-K-8th) -*

Includes every subject. Downloadable workbooks are available for some subjects. 180 day (36-week) schedule is planned out for you.

allinonehomeschool.com

**Easy Peasy All-In-One High School (9th-12th) -*

Includes every subject. 180 day (36-week) schedule is planned out for you, including suggestions for AP, CLEP, & DSST dual-college credit options.

allinonehighschool.com

Traditional

Plain and Not So Plain (1st-9th) -

Includes math, language arts & cursive writing. No schedule provided.

plainandnotsoplain.com/free-schooling-resources/

Key: * = Highly Recommend for perfect combination of ease of use, coupled with high quality of education provided.

Planning Your Homeschool Year

The number of days and hours you choose to school highly depends on the laws in your state.

Before you make a decision on which days and hours you plan to school, go to HSLDA's website (Home School Legal Defense Association) (hsllda.com) and find out what the laws are for your state. In Indiana, we are required to keep an attendance log of 180 days of instruction per year. In other states, there are certain subjects and certain hour requirements. Make sure whatever plan you make meets your state's homeschool regulations.

How many days do I want to do school?

If your state requires 180 days of instruction per year, how would you like to split up your days? Look at the calendars for the upcoming school year. Which weeks would you want to completely take off? Do you already have plans for vacations scheduled? Does your family always have TONS of plans around the holidays? Plan your school days around these things.

Do you want to take summer break? How many weeks? Mark these days on your calendar somehow to help you keep track.

Do I want to take Christmas break, fall, break, or spring break? Mark these days on your calendar to keep track.

When all of your "not-doing-school" days are marked off, take the number of days your state requires (example: Indiana requires 180 days) and divide it by the number of school days you'd like to do each week (example 5 days/week). This will tell you how many weeks you will have to do school through the year if you choose to do school that number of days per week. So, in our example, if I have to do school 180 days per year to be within my state's laws, and I want to do school 5 days a week, then I take 180 divided by 5 and I'll get 36. So if I do school 5 days a week, I'll need to make sure I block out time for 36 weeks of school to be completed throughout the school year on my calendar.

If I know that most weeks I will only be able to devote 3 days a week to homeschooling, I can try dividing 180 by 3, but I will get 60. There are only 52 weeks in a year, so I know that if I choose this option, I'll be doing less school days per week, but I'll be doing it the entire year. I also know that there will have to be 8 weeks that I do 4 days instead of 3 days per week to make up the difference. But I will have the whole year to choose from to make sure those 8 days get covered. This will also mean no summer, Christmas, fall, or spring breaks, but many choose this option anyway, because they still have 4 days off most weeks to plan around all of those things.

If I want to do school 4 days each week, I'll need to schedule 45 school weeks out of 52 total weeks in the year. So I'll have 7 weeks of cushion for days off and scheduled breaks if I choose this route. This is what we do, as it's a good happy-medium. It gives us cushion for scheduled days we somehow missed, and also allows for short breaks periodically throughout the year, for those weeks when life is just too much. But every family's needs are different. Do what you think will work best for you and your family.

Indiana's school year is from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next. Keep your state's laws in mind when you're scheduling your days. If you live in Indiana, and you choose 3 days/week you'll need to start July 1 to get all of your days in.

Planning Your Homeschool Year

Now that you have chosen your curriculum, and you know how many days each week you plan on doing school, you can start meshing the two together to get your general year plan.

One Subject at a Time

Take a look at one of your main subjects to start. How many lessons are provided for the entire year? If there are 180 lessons, that's great! You can do one lesson for each school day.

Some subjects may only have 36 lessons, typically to be done once weekly on a 5 day school week. You could choose to do one every 5th day of school to keep it spread out if you chose a 3 or 4 day school week. Another option would be to do one lesson a week on a certain day (i.e. every Friday) until they are all completed, then just be done with that subject for the year.

Look at each subject and figure out how many times per week you plan to do each subject. Decide what works best for your family and write it on the next sheet to keep track of your thoughts and plans. Make sure you write it in pencil so you can make changes as you go - and as needed, in case you need to tweak your plan throughout the year. Or you can type it in the "General Homeschool Year Plan" sheet, & edit as needed.

Loop & Block Scheduling

Some homeschools choose to do Loop Scheduling or Block Scheduling. What this means is that they alternate what they do on different days. For example, one day we could choose to do two lessons of Language Arts, two History lessons, and one Math lesson. On the next day we would do two Reading lessons, two Science lessons, and one Math lesson. So "Loop One" or "Block One" would be Language Arts, History, Math and "Loop Two" or "Block Two" would be Reading, Science, and Math. Note that on the days where the subjects were only scheduled once every other day, two lessons were completed, so the student stays on "schedule". Some parents also use loop or block scheduling for only a certain part of their school routine, i.e. rotating "starting activities" for the beginning of each school day.

This could be an option for those who work or have other responsibilities on certain days of the week. You could make one loop easier and plan it for two days a week, on the days you have less time to spend on schooling. Another option would be to "double up" or plan to just do two days of lessons the day before or after the busy day to make up the time without trying to do loops or blocks. The advantage of Loop/Block Scheduling is that there are less subjects/day to focus on.

This is a great option for children who have trouble switching gears between subjects.

Planning Your Homeschool Year

Year Round Homeschooling

Planning for year-round homeschooling does NOT mean you are focused on school 100% of the time. What it means is that instead of having extremely LONG breaks that seem like they are ages away from each other, you schedule smaller, shorter breaks throughout the entire year. It's exactly the opposite of what it sounds like. Basically, you are taking into account that doing school all the time can cause burn-out- for you AND your children- and taking steps to prevent it by adding more scheduled breaks more often.

Different people decide to do year-round homeschooling in different ways. One option we've already discussed, which is planning for a very short school week, such as 3 days weekly, and having 4 days off each week. Other options include doing a 5 day school week for only 6 weeks, then taking a week (or three) off to recuperate, catch up on housework, do projects together, or just generally enjoy each other as a family- without the added stress of completing schoolwork.

Additional Tips & Things to Avoid

One of the biggest hurdles for me when I started homeschooling was realizing that I had been "institutionalized". What I mean by this is that because I went to public school all of my school years, I was conditioned to believe that school is supposed to "look" a certain way. You know the idea- desks, textbooks, worksheets, & chalkboards. I thought that teaching my children meant them sitting quietly in a set-apart room, at their own desks, with me standing in front of them teaching using our wall-painted chalkboard. The truth is that while it's not like it *didn't* work - it *did* get the job done - I've since realized that there are better ways.

It's okay if my child colors or plays with play-doh while I'm teaching. Seriously active students, and especially boys, can actually learn better if their hands are quietly active while they listen. It can help some students retain information better. My idea that they should sit down and be still was not something I *needed* to achieve 100% to be able to properly teach them. Instead, I had to learn how to accommodate their needs individually. In my household with 3 young boys, that meant letting go of the idea that they had to sit 100% still and providing hands-on manipulatives that aren't distracting for them to work on while they're listening instead. Each student is different, and learns differently- as a homeschooler, you can accommodate and maximize these differences to give your child a more individualized educational experience.

If you find yourself getting frustrated with specific behaviors, try letting go of the idea that it needs to be done a specific way and start playing with ideas of how it can be done differently to accommodate that child. For toddlers, it could mean letting them take the lead in their learning. Instead of trying to lead them, follow their lead. ThisReadingMama.com has tons of examples of how to do this with your toddler. For younger children, it could mean finding a more hands-on approach to teaching a topic- especially math! For older children, it could mean giving them more choices on how to complete their schoolwork each week. It could mean letting them choose which subjects get done which days. One example of this could be to set a more general time frame for work to be completed. Deciding that everything has to be done by Friday at 3:00pm, and then checking in on them to see where they're at at that time, could eliminate some of the daily battles with older children.

For us, this meant ditching the desks and utilizing the kitchen table. They still *have* desks so they have a place to focus when they're working independently, but they usually choose not to use them. It meant ditching hand-raising (it sounds silly in retrospect) and just sitting next to them teaching them each on their level. It meant ditching the idea that certain topics are always taught in certain grade levels, and combining certain subjects as "family subjects" that we all can do together. Instead of covering certain topics in certain grades, we rotate through those topics, each at their own level, as a family. It meant more hands-on activities, outdoor experiences, & read alouds... and less worksheets. Your homeschool does *not* have to look like public school- and in a lot of situations, you can have better experiences if it doesn't.

General Homeschool Year Plan

Mathematics

Bible

Reading

Language Arts

Spelling

History

Science

Weekly Electives

Handwriting

Notes

Setting a School Routine

Now that you've decided what your days will look like, it's time to put it on paper. Now is when you ask the question - what do I want my homeschool day to look like? Hopefully you've kept this in mind when choosing your curriculum as well - choosing the right curriculum can make or break your whole idea of what you want your school day to look like.

When we made the choice to use Tapestry of Grace, not realizing that it was a much heavier workload than I was willing to put into it, it broke me. I had to stop schooling altogether for several weeks and take it to prayer. The problem I was having was that it was a Classical curriculum, which I thought sounded wonderful! But the reality was that a Classical style of homeschooling was NOT for me. I also didn't take into consideration that I was about to have a new baby, and I had no idea that my husband and I would soon be separated for a time in that season. I almost gave up homeschooling altogether, even after about 5 years of "successful" homeschooling at that time, because I couldn't do it. I needed a more Eclectic style so I could tailor it to our family's needs. Now we are branching out even more to include more of Charlotte Mason's methods of homeschooling. Our homeschool is always changing as time goes on, and yours will too as you figure out what works for your family and what doesn't.

When trying to set up a homeschool routine, the **KEY** is to keep it simple. Don't put a time frame on things, necessarily, like a schedule. You could set a timer if you only want to devote a certain amount of time to certain activities, but I believe a "routine" is healthier than a "schedule" because it allows freedom for human error. I'm wonderful at making plans, schedules, & routines, but not so great with follow through. You may want to have time frame goals, but don't make it rigid, or too full, or you'll be muddling through, racing against the clock each day. That is NOT the way to live & will only create chaos & feelings of failure.

Having a "routine" instead of a schedule has drastically helped me to organize our days. Woke up an hour late? That's okay, we're on a routine, not a schedule. We'll still get the same things done, in the same general order. It may not be at the exact same time every day, but that's okay. I do have generalized times in my mind of when to serve meals, etc, and I don't move those times regardless of where we are in the routine. I personally do this because I can be such a hot mess that sometimes we will literally be hours behind what my "plan" is, and I can't make my children wait hours upon hours to eat. But instead of calling it a day and giving up, having a routine helps to encourage me. The goal each day is progress, not perfection. If you are moving forward and making progress every day, you can step back and call your day successful - even if all of your goals weren't met. This is a key phrase that I learned from a very dear friend of mine, who drilled it into my head for years - Progress, not Perfection. And I'm glad she did.

Sample School Routine

- 9:00 am - Snack Time & Bible Read Aloud
- Gather Round Homeschool & 1 hour
- Play Based School with Daniel while Older Children do Reading & Language Arts Independently
- 12:00 pm - Lunch Break
- Lunch Clean-Up
- Lay Daniel down for Naptime
- All About Spelling
- History Read Aloud
- Math with Older Boys
- Rotating Electives - Music, Computer, Art, PE & Thinking

This is an example of our homeschool routine. I plan on starting around 9 in the morning after we've eaten breakfast and done a few chores. I have a huge block in my Daily Routine from 9 am - 3 pm devoted to homeschooling. That's 3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the afternoon. I do **NOT** expect it to take 3 hours to do the things on my routine list, but I wanted to make sure I had lots of extra time to make sure there's room for error. Doing it this way, I will be excited when it doesn't take the full three hours of each blocked out time frame to complete everything... And on the days it does take three hours, I won't feel like a failure - there's time for that. Most of the activities listed above are also hands-on and low-stress activities, to make the day more enjoyable for everyone. I need my day to be relaxed to survive! I also made sure the activities my toddler can easily participate in were scheduled during the morning and I fully utilized his naptime to complete other activities... You know, to minimize the terror a toddler can do in those focused times!

When I used Easy Peasy, my children could work mostly independently, so I was able to do housework while they worked on most of their schoolwork. I was available to help answer questions, though. My older boys were in 1st and 3rd grade when I did it this way. I still had to help my 1st grader quite a bit in between tasks, but it enabled me to do more at home. We did Easy Peasy's History, Science, Art, & PE together, doing read alouds, oral narration, and activities together as a family. Some days, I was even able to take naps!

My School Routine

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

Planning High School

High school is one of those things that varies by state, so check your state laws before you begin. It might be helpful to find a facebook group for homeschooling high school in your state to get started. You can ask all kinds of questions and get a better understanding there. Also, hsllda.com has TONS of information about how to overcome the hurdles that come from homeschooling high school. Don't neglect this extensive resource!

In Indiana, each individual homeschool issues their own diploma. Diplomas are not issued by the state, but a diploma from your homeschool is just as legitimate legally as one from a typical high school is. It is illegal for colleges or workplaces to say that a diploma issued from your homeschool is invalid... But sometimes they do. In situations like these, it's good to have HSLDA on your side. Or you could plan around it and avoid the issue altogether.

I think we all want to give our children as many opportunities as possible to show colleges and employers that the things our children learned in high school in our homeschool are legitimately above and beyond what the public schools offer. You can show this legitimacy in a few different ways. One option is to have your child take the GED when you believe they're ready. The downfall to this option is the negative connotation that comes with GED's. Also, it could cause a college to question whether or not your student was able to complete high school, which are questions we probably don't want colleges asking themselves about your student. Many parents try to enter their child into high school for just their senior year, and this is a big mistake, too, as high schools do NOT have to accept homeschool credits. It CAN be done, but it often includes lots of testing and finals to prove your child knows the material covered for those "missed" high school courses to get your school to comply. If you want your child to have a state school issued diploma, your best bet might be to find an accredited homeschool program that issues state diplomas. Some states will issue a state issued diploma if you meet certain criteria, but most don't. You'll have to look into your state's regulations to see if this is an option for you.

A better option is to have your student take standardized tests, AP courses, and the SAT. Most colleges will look at a child's test scores to determine entrance than anything else. I got accepted into college based on my SAT score more than anything else, and I know this was the case for many of my friends as well. My acceptance letters came before I was ever finished with high school!

In addition to taking the SAT, it would be a good idea to have them take AP courses, and as many CLEP & DSST tests as they can. Some colleges will accept AP Courses, CLEP & DSST tests as college credits - you'll have to reach out to the colleges your child is considering and see what their requirements are, what they'll accept, etc, before you make these decisions. Whether the college accepts these as college credit or not, it will certainly add weight to your child's grades and serve as proof that they were educated properly and deserve a spot in their program. Even if they aren't college-bound, it's a good idea to set them up well in case they change their mind later in life.

Planning High School

AP Central (apcentral.collegeboard.org) offers lots of AP exams that you can use to help your high schooler start getting those credits. It's like dual-credit courses in a typical high school, except you can prepare at home.

Another option would be to enroll your student in dual-enrollment classes at your local college. This might be more pricey than using CLEP, DSST, and AP exams, but it may be worth it to you to know that your child is learning what they're supposed to without the hassle of helping them prepare.

Other online options to receive online credit for college courses taken in high school include Saylor.org, Ed4Credit, and Study.com, if you'd like to look into those.

Your child might be interested in volunteering, or even finding someone local in the field they'd like to study or work in and asking if they could be an apprentice or intern with them to learn more about what the job is like. They could do this for high school credit - you could include it on their transcript.

Your child might want to do a home economics class and further their knowledge in baking or sewing for a credit in high school.

If you choose to make your own diploma for your student upon graduation, you can find resources to buy homeschool diplomas at HSLDA.org and AcademicExcellence.com

You'll want to make sure you are keeping very good records for your child's high school years, so you can provide proof whenever anything is in question, especially for potential colleges and workplaces. You can find more information on this at homehighschoolhelp.com. They have sample transcripts, etc, on their site, too. Don't wait until your child's junior or senior year to get their records together. Save your sanity and do it from the beginning of high school.

If your child is college-bound, your student should be taking the PSAT their 10th grade year, and the SAT their 11th grade year. Some colleges will also accept the ACT but the SAT is more commonly accepted. If you think your student could do better on the SAT, you can always retake it during their senior year after another year of preparation. You should have your child start preparing for the PSAT and SAT in 9th grade as part of their curriculum to ensure their success. You can find free SAT prep materials online. You should be sending out college applications at the beginning of your child's senior year, along with their SAT scores and high school transcripts thus far. Don't forget to start researching scholarships your student could attain early on, too. This could help tremendously with your student's college costs. You'll want to do several - they can definitely add up! And there are scholarships for just about anything you can think of!

The sample high school planner on the next page was made based off of doing all 4 years of high school using Easy Peasy. Many of the courses there are created to give your child a good foundation to work toward different AP, CLEP, & DSST tests. You can have your child take the class, and then use the suggested study resources to help your student finish preparing and take the tests before the next school year starts to get their credits in. They have links to the resources your student will need to study to prepare for each test. I love how it's already set up for us, so we don't have to go searching around everywhere on the internet trying to find the resources we need for the correct tests. That work is already done.

Sample High School Planner

Ninth Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep
Geometry (will need to complete Algebra I in 8th grade)	Both	1		-PSAT Prep -SAT Prep
Literature & Composition (will need to complete English 8 in 8th grade)	Both	1		CLEP- Analyzing & Interpreting Literature
Spanish I	Both	1		CLEP- Spanish (take after Spanish III)
Bible I	Both	1		
World History	Both	1		-AP World History *additional resources needed to take test
Biology w Lab	Both	1		CLEP- Biology
PEIHealth I	Both	1/2		
Foundations	Both	1		-DSSST- Principles of Public Speaking

Tenth Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep
Algebra II	Both	1		-CLEP- College Algebra -CLEP - College Mathematics
British Literature	Both	1		-CLEP - English Literature -SAT Prep
Spanish II	Both	1		CLEP- Spanish (take after Spanish III)
Bible II	Both	1		
Early American History	Both	1		-CLEP- History of the U.S. I -AP American History (take after Modern History)
Earth Science w Lab	Both	1		-AP Environmental Science -CLEP Natural Sciences *extra resources needed to prepare for 2 above tests
PEIHealth II	Both	1/2		
Art Appreciation	1st Only	1/2		
Music Appreciation	2nd Only	1/2		

Eleventh Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep
Trigonometry	1st Only	1/2		SAT Practice
Pre-Calculus	2nd Only	1/2		SAT Practice
American Literature	Both	1		
Bible III	Both	1		
Comparative Government	Both	1		-CLEP- American Government *will need some additional prep
Chemistry w/ Lab	Both	1		
PEIHealth III	Both	1/2		
Spanish III	Both	1		CLEP- Spanish

Twelfth Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep
Calculus	Both	1		-CLEP- Calculus -AP Calculus BC
Advanced Literature & Composition	Both	1		
Bible IV	Both	1		
Modern American History	Both	1		-CLEP - History of the U.S. II -AP American History
Physics w/ Lab	Both	1		AP Physics B
PEIHealth IV	Both	1/2		

Notes: Typically a course is considered 1 credit if the child completes the class the entire year, usually 180 days. A course is considered 1/2 credit if the child only completes it for half of the year, or not completed daily.

High School Planner

Ninth Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep

Tenth Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep

Eleventh Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep

Twelfth Grade

Subject	Semester	Credit	Final Grade	Test Prep

Notes: Typically a course is considered 1 credit if the child completes the class the entire year, usually 180 days. A course is considered 1/2 credit if the child only completes it for half of the year, or is not completed daily. This may vary by state.

Simple High School Planner

Ninth Grade

Subject	Semester	Final Grade	Credit

Tenth Grade

Subject	Semester	Final Grade	Credit

Eleventh Grade

Subject	Semester	Final Grade	Credit

Twelfth Grade

Subject	Semester	Final Grade	Credit

Notes

Week _____

Weekly Planner

Child's Name _____

Mathematics

Bible

Reading

Language Arts

Spelling

History

Science

Weekly Electives

Handwriting

Notes

Week _____

Weekly Supplies Needed

Mathematics

Bible

Reading

Language Arts

Spelling

History

Science

Weekly Electives

Handwriting

Notes

Week _____

Daily Planner

Child's Name _____

Mathematics

Bible

Reading

Language Arts

Spelling

History

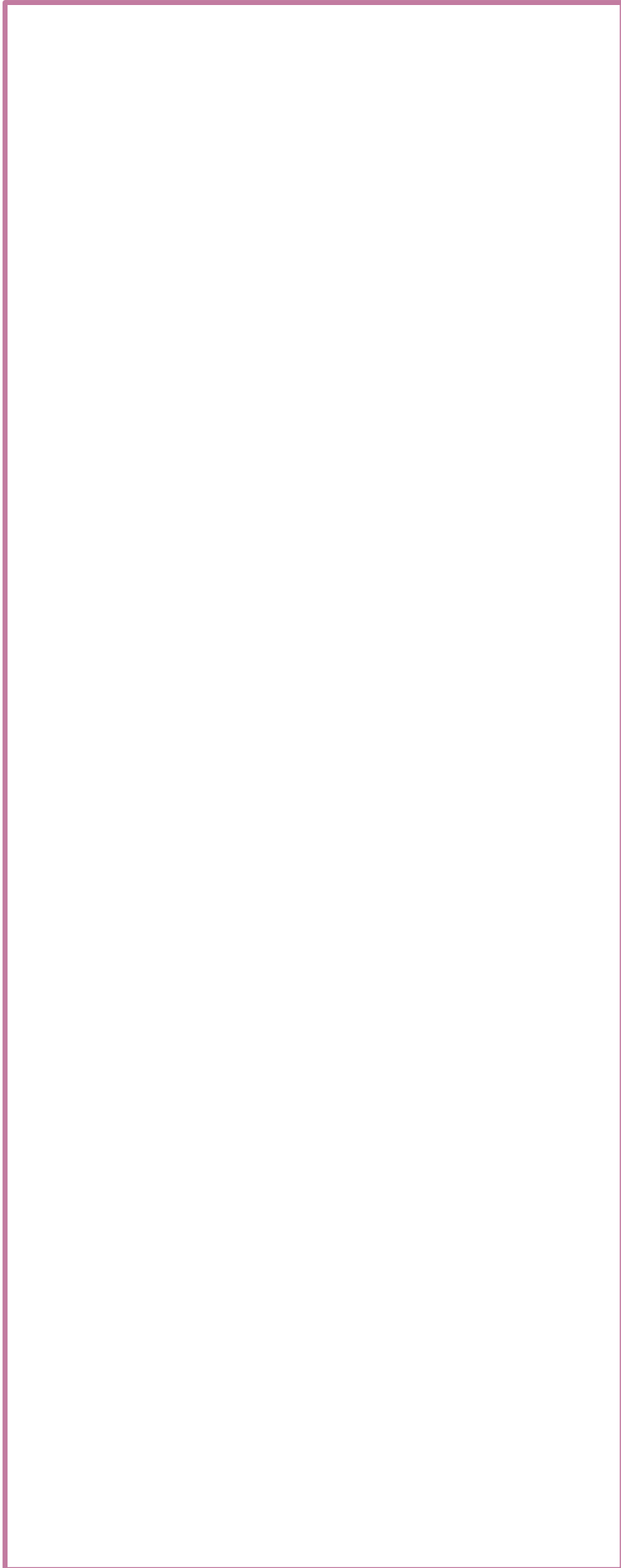
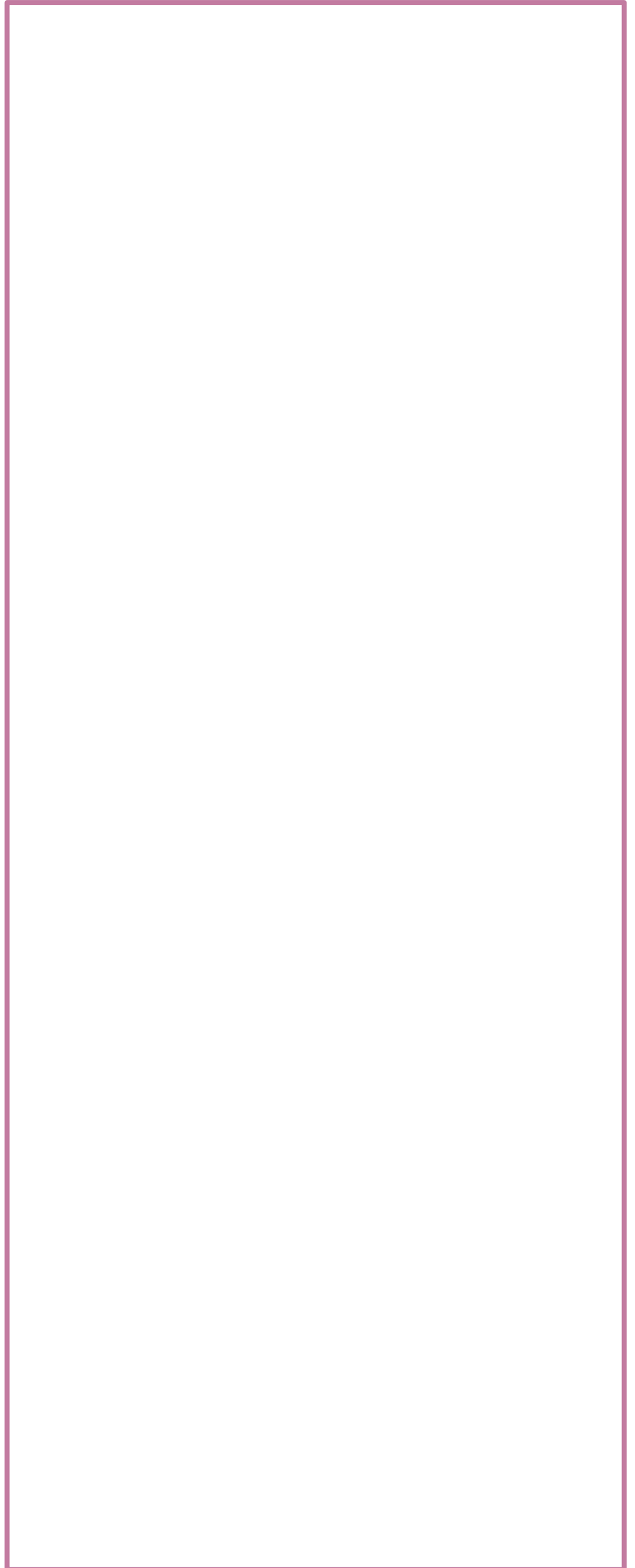
Science

Weekly Electives

Handwriting

Notes

Master Field Trip Ideas List

A large, empty rectangular box with a dark red border, intended for listing field trip ideas.A second large, empty rectangular box with a dark red border, identical to the first one, for listing field trip ideas.

Field Trip Planner

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____

Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Field Trip Planner

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____
Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

Location: _____
Address: _____

Date Going: _____
Hours of Event: _____
Drive Time: _____
Gas Money Needed: _____
Cost of Admission: _____
Meals Needed: _____

Plan for Meals: _____
Lodging: _____

Notes: _____

