

Jessica Migura (00:25.555)

you

Heather Young (00:53.578)

So that is just a little bit about me. I'm going to let our coaches dive in and start introducing themselves as well. So Vicki, why don't you introduce yourself?

Vicky Garcia (01:08.104)

Yes, so hi, my name is Vicky Garcia. I'm the customer relations and Spanish member support specialist here at THSC. I am a homeschool mom of three and we're a bilingual household. We've homeschooled for the past 12 years and we're excited to graduate our oldest student this year.

And well, I'm always happy to encourage parents in their homeschool journey. We're glad you're here.

Heather Young (01:39.669)

Lindsay.

Lindsey Hoyle (01:42.068)

So I'm Lindsay Hoyle. I'm the special needs specialist for THSC and I have four kids. We actually kind of have a mix of things going on. Our oldest child is 20 and in college graduated from doing homeschool all the way through. Our next oldest son is actually in the public school so he wanted to do his junior and senior year in school and then our two younger kids are homeschooling at home.

and participating in the UIL to be able to go to the school and participate in that. So we're very grateful for that opportunity.

Heather Young (02:19.008)

and Jessica.

Jessica Migura (02:22.633)

Hello, my name is Jessica McGurra. My husband and I have four kiddos. They are all graduated homeschool. The oldest two have families of their own, so we do have five grandkids. The younger two are both in college. One's at GCU and one is at McClennan and Waco. definitely we homeschool for probably a little over 25 years, loved it. So definitely glad to continue to help, you know.

help the homeschool community. And so for THSC, I am a member support volunteer specialist. So we just love, you know, helping coach other families and supporting you guys and happy to be here today to assist how we can with your high school questions.

Heather Young (03:07.776)

Absolutely and just like everybody else we are homeschooling ourselves and so we are living life as we homeschool and Work and all the things so we are right there in the trenches with all of you. So, alright, we are going to dive in Here, let me get my slideshow going

Heather Young (03:36.499)

All right.

Okay, so we are going to talk about graduation clarity for Texas homeschool families.

Heather Young (03:47.942)

Okay, so we have two transcript options available for our members. We have our traditional by grade and then we have by subject. So the benefits of by grade level would be it's easy to transition maybe if you are pulling your kiddos from public school and trying to merge a public school in a home school transcript together. And then our by subject is also

One an option that we have and the benefits of that we have flexibility there's creativity and Those that have students with special needs this may also be one that is appealing because of the way that you can put the credits on there by subject versus by the grade that they completed that course or even if you have a child who may have Completed a course in junior high that was a high school liberal

high school level course, then this may also be a more suitable option for you.

Heather Young (04:56.138)

Class titles, Jessica, would you like to kind of give us a rundown of our class titles and how we put those on our transcripts?

Jessica Migura (05:07.539)

Yeah, so specifically with the one, the transcript that we have by subject, I mean, I would definitely keep it, you know, as simple as that first bullet point says, simple, relevant and common to those fields. So if it's English, basically for those four courses, the credits that are needed, just put English one, English two, English three, and English four. So you're not specifically diving into

what the scope and sequence is for that particular subject matter. Because they know what is going to be expected if you say English 1, 2, 3, or 4. The colleges will. They'll have an understanding of that. And then, of course, for your math, you're going to have up to four credits with that. So basically just algebra 1, algebra 2, geometry, and then a fourth, advanced math. And that could be anything that you select, like consumer math or anything of that nature.

So these examples over here to the right on the slide are just good for you to kind of review and look at, but there are samples even on the transcripts in the member portal. So it does kind of give you help and tips when you're walking through that. But you know, the simple that you put

it, the better. You don't have to put in, you know, what you covered. Just keep it like that. I mean, if you want to add, you can, but it's not necessary. That's not expected, so.

Heather Young (06:38.184)

Anybody else have anything to add for this specific slide?

Heather Young (06:44.704)

All right, I think we're good. Okay, so what about college test results, service hours, dual credit, internships, those types of things that you might want to actually highlight that your student did during their high school years. These are great to add to a transcript, but they're not necessarily required. So placement on your transcript though would be kind of under your transcript towards the left-hand side.

you know, just to kind of a quick simple blurb of what those are. Anybody else want to add to that specific topic?

Jessica Migura (07:21.064)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (07:30.237)

just add with the dual credit because a couple of my kids have done dual credit. And so down there at the bottom left hand side, put, you know, dual credit classes at such and such college. But up in the class, the subject, the fields, I just put, you know, history. I still made it simple. that that because you don't

have to designate like the curriculum you chose or if you outsourced it. So that is not necessarily within those subject fields to put that, but if you want to notate down there at the bottom, you know that they took dual credit, you can because whenever they go on to college, they're going to get that a transcript from the dual credit college anyway. So they're going to have that information. Yeah, but I put internships and volunteerships.

It just kind of helps your students stand out and those test results like you said Heather, know, homeschool families aren't required to take standardized tests, but sometimes those are good just to drop down in there. If they took a standardized test or if they took that TSI, which is an entrance exam for dual credit, you know, you can put those test results down there. I think that's a great idea.

Lindsey Hoyle (08:50.416)

So I was gonna just mention the same thing as Jessica and what we did more so were CLEP credits. So one way that we notated that was just where those subject, you know, on the subject line or underneath the grade level where they earned that CLEP toward maybe American government and we would name it American government and then next to in parentheses maybe put CLEP in parentheses and then list it listed those CLEP.

Jessica Migura (08:56.07)  
Mm-hmm. Right.

Jessica Migura (09:10.547)  
Mm-hmm.

Lindsey Hoyle (09:19.088)  
credits down at the bottom. So again, it's the same process that club credit is banked at the college board.org I think is the website. And so then that's a transcript that you send with them to college.

Jessica Migura (09:25.406)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (09:36.064)  
Okay, so filling in the transcript blanks. We get questions often about some of these blanks that we need to fill in when we are working through those transcripts. Your school, you want to make sure that you are recognizing that it is a home school that your student is graduating from. Reason being is when a school or an employer

goes to verify where that school is or that the child graduated from that school, it could be confusing when they're trying to find, know, for example, Young Academy, Young Academy, I can't think of anything else to go with that. So Young Academy it is. They may not be able to find that one specifically. So it helps to minimize on that confusion that

Jessica Migura (10:23.859)  
Mm-mm. Yep.

Heather Young (10:33.514)  
Homeschool you graduated the child has graduated from homeschool. So It helps to Minimize that confusion and then your students name and Social Security number that that's optional. It's or upon request Your your address date of birth phone number graduation date Entering the courses that they've completed their letter grade and the great thing about our transcripts is that

Jessica Migura (10:38.887)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (11:03.644)  
it will populate the credit and the GPA and all that. You don't have to calculate that stuff. And like we said, you can add the test scores, any volunteer or internships, awards that may make your students stand out. And the signature is your signature.

Jessica Migura (11:08.21)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (11:25.5)

You as the parent, you are the teacher, the administrator, the counselor, you know, all the things. So that is your signature that is on the transcript. And like I said, the social security number is optional or upon request. I'm just gonna throw this out to our coaches to see if they have anything else to add.

Jessica Migura (11:30.867)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (11:50.875)

I the only thing I would just emphasize is the social security number because you may not want to put that on the transcript for it to go out to everybody. So but if you get selected or if your student gets accepted and they need that then you can plug that in. But I think it's just kind of a safeguard. So that's kind of why we say upon request.

You can put that verbiage in that field on the transcript, just put in there upon request. So that that way, again, if your student gets accepted, can give that information to them. this way, it's just kind of a safeguard that everybody won't have that information out, who you're applying for.

Heather Young (12:36.416)

Absolutely. Keeping important information confidential. Okay, and some of our final tips. A lot of times we will get asked questions about an official versus an unofficial transcript. And so when you think of an official transcript, you are thinking about the transcripts where the envelope has been sealed and it has not been opened. And so that is what

Colleges employers that is what they're looking for with those official transcripts One way to do that would be to go and get it notarized You can go to your bank that kind of a thing, you know place or if you I mean There's lots of places you can get it notarized but you can seal it right there with the notary and so then you have your official transcript and It's good to have multiples of them

Jessica Migura (13:19.081)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (13:35.294)

both official and unofficial because we receive questions about or we hear situations in which the transcripts and diplomas have been lost, whether that's through a move, a fire, a flood. I mean, there's various different reasons or why they have been lost, but it's good to have multiples of both.

and for them to not all be in the same place. So that could be, you know, given to an aunt or uncle, the child has some, and to have them on digital copies as well, not just physical, so that it

can be accessed in different ways. Jessica, I know that you keep yours, and you've done this for a while, and so if you wanna talk a little bit about how you keep yours and then,

Jessica Migura (14:16.178)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (14:32.306)

Anybody else can also chime in on that as well.

Jessica Migura (14:36.617)

Well, mean, basically kind of what you said. I mean, I have a safety deposit box that has all my kids' school records in, because we had a storm that came through the house one time, and it kind of damaged a lot. Computers and everything. I thought, man, I've got to do something. So I did safety deposit box, but know, iCloud, hard drive, have printed copies. Those are all safeguards, as well as, unfortunately,

Like you said, we've had people call in. Sometimes mom and dad have passed away. And so the kids need to know where these things are. And so I'm just making sure that there's definitely different places that you have them and that they can have access to. Like one of my daughters has access to my safety deposit box just in case. Who knows what can happen? But also I just want to go back to the official or unofficial.

I don't know that you really have to, is my understanding, don't have to have it notarized because really it's official, right? If you as a parent have done that and some colleges may not ask for it to be notarized. But like you said, Heather, I went ahead and had mine notarized because it's not hard to do. It's not necessarily inconvenient and I just went ahead and did that. So.

Heather Young (15:37.439)

It is.

Jessica Migura (15:55.677)

But either way, our transcripts and diplomas are official, since we as a parents are that administrator, facilitator. So when we sign it, that's showing that our kid has completed. But yeah, it's definitely not a problem to get that notarization. So I don't know that you need to feel uneasy about having to do that. It's just a little extra.

Heather Young (16:15.018)

Mm-hmm.

Yeah, and I'm glad that you brought that up because when I'm talking official versus unofficial, I'm talking about it from the viewpoint of the college or an employee. But in the state of Texas, it is an official transcript. Your homeschool transcript and diploma is an official transcript and

diploma. So it's more of the verbiage that is used outside. I just wanna make sure that that is clear.

Jessica Migura (16:23.753)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (16:27.207)

Right. Yes. Right.

Jessica Migura (16:33.565)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (16:43.655)

Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (16:47.646)

because I don't want to have confusion. So that is a great point to bring up. Anybody else want to add to that part before we move forward?

Jessica Migura (16:49.565)

Right. Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (17:01.166)

I just wanted to say just in the note of official, I just wanted to add the Texas Education Code 51.9241. And that's so that those that are listening would be more satisfied with this code. And again, I'll repeat it, Texas Education Code 51.9241.

where it states that Texas law recognizes graduation from a homeschool program as being equivalent to graduation from a public high school. So that's why we double emphasize and let you know that this is an official transcript or an official document for your student when you as the parent are the one who signs the diploma. So that is.

Lindsey Hoyle (17:56.529)

was wanting to add to Heather that some of the people that we do have calling in at times have their child goes and maybe is taught by someone else or they attend another homeschool group or a co-op or a micro school and that person may claim to provide a transcript for their child to take on which is not the official transcript. I feel like oftentimes we're

Heather Young (18:04.99)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (18:09.641)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (18:12.946)

Okay.

Jessica Migura (18:19.881)

All right. Well, that's good.

Lindsey Hoyle (18:23.984)

trying to educate our parents on the fact that they, like we've said many times, are the official administrator. So parents, it is your responsibility to create the transcript and to create the diploma and your signature is what makes it official. Again, it's just understanding that you, that is part of that responsibility as a homeschool parent. So just want to make sure everybody understands that no one else will create that for you.

Jessica Migura (18:48.04)

Thank

Lindsey Hoyle (18:52.944)

to come from mom and dad or the legal guardian, whoever's teaching.

Heather Young (18:57.066)

Right, and on that note, us as parents with homeschooling, we are the ones that determine when the child has met criteria for graduation. With that, many do follow the TEA credit guidelines because of the path that maybe their child is seeking for after high school. But we're not, homeschooling families, we're not required

to necessarily follow that, but it's good to look at where is your child going to go after high school. And that will help you as you're planning those years, you know, what they're going to need for math and language, know, English and sciences, all the things. just something to keep in mind. But you as the parent determine when your child is ready for graduation.

Okay. go ahead. Yeah.

Jessica Migura (19:59.483)

Heather? I was just going to ask a question. Lindsay, and so you brought up the fact that if the parent has outsourced it and they get a transcript or a poor card from those that they outsourced it, so what they would do is just take those classes and those grades and put it onto their transcript like in the member portal, right? And then put those classes there, put that grade there, and then award the credit, right? So that would be that way to

Lindsey Hoyle (20:26.448)

Absolutely. Yes, that's the exact conversation I had with a parent just the other day. So just encouraging them that you don't have to do every single part of the education. If you outsource any of that, it's okay. But you do, even if you have a child coming from public school, you're

going to add those public school credits to your transcript. So your final transcript is the official transcript. Yeah, great point.

Jessica Migura (20:29.021)  
Mm-hmm. Okay.

Jessica Migura (20:40.209)  
Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (20:50.471)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (20:53.344)  
Yeah, for example, my son attends a micro school twice a week, but then he also takes ASL at another location. And so all of those, even though he's receiving that instruction by somebody else, all of those, because I am still the overseer of his education, so it will go on his transcript regardless of where he received that. And my signature will be on that transcript.

Jessica Migura (20:58.727)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (21:22.972)  
So just as an example, right.

Jessica Migura (21:25.523)  
Just like Dill Credit, just like Dill Credit or the clap or anything like that. yeah.

Heather Young (21:28.734)  
Right, yeah.

Lindsey Hoyle (21:29.904)  
Yeah, even from a standpoint of the special needs aspect of things, know, kids that are maybe attending a church where they're in a choir, in a youth choir, or, you know, they're doing 4-H activities on the side. Those are all things that we can compile and put on that transcript to take maybe a PE credit or an elective credit. So be creative. Your kids are, you know, the things that they're doing don't have to...

Jessica Migura (21:34.11)  
Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (21:41.107)  
Yeah.

Jessica Migura (21:49.15)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (21:54.237)

Yeah.

Lindsey Hoyle (21:57.385)

you know, just consists of those school hours that can be anything that they're bringing in.

Heather Young (22:01.898)

Exactly,

Jessica Migura (22:03.175)

or like music in the band at church, know, that can be, know, where they're practicing during the week and, you know, participating on Sundays. So that can definitely be used. That's good.

Heather Young (22:06.783)

Mm-hmm.

Lindsey Hoyle (22:07.813)

Yeah.

Heather Young (22:13.216)

Absolutely. And for example, mean, they can be interest-led as well. My son taught himself how to do stop motion. And so in that, he was able to show me his progression and he was using the vocabulary, showing me how to do it. You I would see the projects, the end results. And so that's self-led learning.

Jessica Migura (22:41.097)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (22:43.22)

And that's another example. Yeah, yeah, especially depending on what they're going into. I electives can, they don't just have to be anything. They can really be geared towards what their interests are and what their post high school goals might be. So, you can really tailor those high school years. And then another example is at our church, our,

Jessica Migura (22:44.167)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (22:48.211)

That's a great elective class. Awesome.

Heather Young (23:12.604)

youth and I mean even all the way through elementary, but they teach specifically apologetics at church. And so that's one way that I've been able to also bring in apologetics as a credit because they're getting it on a regular basis. We're having those discussions. And so it's not something that I'm necessarily always doing like in a formal way where I have a workbook or anything like that.

Jessica Migura (23:20.872)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (23:31.623)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (23:42.356)

So it doesn't have to be textbook or workbook specific in order for it to be considered a credit. Yeah, so those are just some great, examples. And going back to what Lindsay said in regards to families who have kiddos that might have some special needs and even kiddos in general, mean, you do not, you don't need to put the curriculum on

the transcript specifically. You also don't have to put the grade level at which the child is working on. You simply put English 1. They did their English, they worked on their grade level, and you put English 1. And for students who, say, took a class in junior high but was a high school credit, you also just simply put that class.

You don't have to put necessarily what grade level that they did it in, especially if you're choosing the transcript option where it's by subject versus by grade. So these options really can help you tailor that transcript to fit your homeschool and the way that y'all are home, know, the way that you see fit, the way that works for your family, your kiddos.

Jessica Migura (24:42.493)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (25:05.993)

All right, that's good.

Heather Young (25:06.624)

Anybody else want to comment on any of that?

Heather Young (25:14.334)

All right, I'm sure something will come up to our minds here in a minute that we're going, yes, let me add this. I do want to say that, actually something did just come up. Your curriculum does not have to be accredited in order for it to be put on your transcript. So accreditation is not necessarily the curriculum.

Jessica Migura (25:37.873)

Absolutely.

Heather Young (25:42.6)

It is more of the program in which has been accredited that makes something accredited. But your curriculum that you use to go on your homeschool transcript does not have to be accredited in order for your child to receive a credit in that course. And anybody who is wanting legislative updates about different things like class ranking and that kind of stuff, this website right here, [thsc.org](http://thsc.org) backslash advocacy.

Jessica Migura (25:58.749)

Mm-hmm. Yep.

Heather Young (26:12.2)

You can go to that website and get tons of updates on regards to, you know, TIFA, but also our just different other legislative bills and updates that have come through since our last legislative session. That is a great resource for you to look at in regards to that.

Okay, anybody else have anything before I move on? All right.

Jessica Migura (26:42.323)

Well, I was just going to reiterate to where you're talking about accredited because by definition in the state of Texas, homeschool is looked at as an unaccredited private school. So if someone's telling you you have to use, know, when you're, if you're withdrawn from public school and they say, you have to use an accredited program, that's not true. Because by definition in the state of Texas, again, you know, homeschool is looked at as an unaccredited private school. So you can choose the curriculum that you want for your family.

Heather Young (26:51.21)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (27:06.432)

Correct.

Heather Young (27:11.092)

Yes, absolutely. So we just wanted to also throw out some examples. This is an example by grade level. So you can see ninth grade, 10th grade, 11th and 12th how the course names are simple. They are typical and common to what you would see on any transcript. And the credit number, the grades, and then the grade points.

all of that is calculated for you so you don't have to, like I said, calculate that GPA, but this is an example by grade level. And then we have our example by subject, so you don't have to necessarily worry about when the child took what course. So there's that example as well.

which I will say this is the one that we're using because my kiddos did take, you know, they did have a high school credit their eighth grade year. And so it's just made that a lot easier. Plus we've also kind of done our sciences in a different order, you know, so it does, and our history. So it does help you to really tailor that homeschooling experience for your family.

Jessica Migura (28:05.534)  
Yeah.

Jessica Migura (28:12.328)  
Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (28:28.967)  
Right. I agree.

Heather Young (28:30.13)  
Okay, we wanted to let y'all know there is the Patrick Henry College Scholarship and this is, this website is where you can go to learn more about those available scholarships. So we just wanted to let y'all know about this since, well, we are talking about transcripts. So why not throw out some information about that? Because even if you're just getting into the high school years or your kiddos in their last year, it's always good to have

some information on scholarships. Plus, I will let you know, during some college visits with my son in the fall, we were told that a lot of times families are not applying for scholarships, even though they are available. And so I just want to encourage y'all to really look at those scholarships and what is available out there for you.

Jessica Migura (29:02.214)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (29:27.784)  
Okay, here are our graduations. have several. We have Fort Worth, New Braunfels, Brownwood, Dallas, Grapevine area, one in the East Texas Longview area, two in San Antonio, and one in the Woodlands. That is at the end of our last day of our annual convention. So you can go to our events page to learn more about that and to register for those.

Jessica Migura (29:57.703)  
And Heather, before you move on from the graduations, I just want to point out it's really kind of exciting to see how many graduations there are because I can remember THSC started with two and then it was four and now it's just growing and growing because I think the homeschool community is growing and the need is greater. so I think it's just kind of exciting to see how, you know, THSC is really, you know, having this available to families that

Heather Young (30:15.274)  
Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (30:25.661)

You know that want it. You know, not all kiddos want to have this big celebration, but I think it's great that this opportunity is out there so.

Heather Young (30:29.855)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (30:33.674)

Yep. And we are all right there with you because Jessica graduated one last year. I'm graduating. I'm graduating my first next year. And then we have Vicki, who's graduating one this year and Lindsay, is it next year?

Jessica Migura (30:41.245)

Yep, my last baby.

Lindsey Hoyle (30:57.132)

Well, we had one graduate two years ago and then we have one graduating from the public school this year. So then we'll have two more after that. So we'll be coming up.

Heather Young (31:07.166)

Yes, that's right. Awesome. Yeah, it goes fast. goes fast. But it is. It's very exciting to see this in the the graduation ceremony. You know, they walk in and their robes and it is like a graduation ceremony and the parents get to hand. You get to hand your child their diploma as they cross the stage. So it is. It's a momentous occasion for

Lindsey Hoyle (31:13.891)

Yep.

Heather Young (31:37.064)

everybody involved.

Jessica Migura (31:39.015)

Yes, absolutely.

Heather Young (31:40.8)

We have some of our monthly Q &A dates and topics coming up. For March 25th, we're going to, the topic is growing together in a bilingual homeschool. Then on the 29th, we're going to specifically talk about homeschooling, you know, for families that have special needs students and just kind of finding the calm and tailoring that education for your child. And then,

Right before we go into our convention, we are going to talk about navigating the convention and the exhibit hall. So those are exciting events that are coming up. We have upcoming webinars, Raising Calm Kids in an Overstimulating World with Angela O'Dell. That will be with

our events team. So you can go to the events page and register for that. It's March 19th. And then...

We also have our leader summit that is coming up both in DFW and in Houston. Those are great ways for leaders to get connected. So if you are a leader or if you know a leader, let them know that we have these events available for them. And then also our convention coming at the end of May here in the Woodlands. And I say here in the Woodlands because I'm very close to it. We work all over the state of Texas. So, all right, so.

Before we close out, do want to get to some of our questions that have been submitted. I'm going to stop sharing for a minute and we are going to talk about those.

Heather Young (33:27.762)

All right, we have a member who, which maybe like a lot of you, are starting those high school years. So where do you start planning for those four years of courses, figuring out the curriculum and finding out requirements? That's the question, or those are the questions, because there is more than one. So let's get started with just, how do we get started on planning?

Jessica Migura (33:50.473)

you

Jessica Migura (33:57.693)

Well, I have a high school checkoff list that I kind of have put together and I kind of go by. mainly the first thing, you just want to make sure that you're homeschooling according to law, really. I mean, even THSC, that's one of the first things they want to make sure that you're doing is that you're aware of that, which is those are those basic things, you know, that you're teaching, you know, reading, grammar, spelling, math and good citizenship.

You're using something that's visual and then you're homeschooling in bona fide manner. But I'm sure all you ladies, since we all have students that have been in high school, we have some feedback to give. But definitely I'll point out that one. But I guess the main thing, the next one is just making sure you know how your student wants to learn or can learn or does learn best if you haven't already done that. And then also if you want to be the one teaching or if you want to outsource that.

I think those are the things, good basic things to get started, but I won't comment too much, because I know that everybody else has some inputs. I'll let y'all give your feedback.

Lindsey Hoyle (35:08.528)

was just going to add the things that we did was to, like you were saying Jessica, look at our individual kid and how they learn. And so my oldest one was able and self motivated to do the CLEP testing and the dual credit. So we knew we could push him in that direction and we were

able to find some ways to do that. If anybody's interested in the CLEP testing realm of things, you can certainly email us and I can send some more information about that.

Jessica Migura (35:21.202)

Mm-hmm.

Lindsey Hoyle (35:38.245)

But one of mine may not be college bound and that's okay. So a lot of what we're doing for his high school, current high school credits is gonna be more functional things like learning that consumer math, learning the things that are gonna be beneficial for his future and also pointing him toward transitioning maybe into a vocational program or work at some point. college may be in the future, but I'm able to...

Jessica Migura (35:52.72)

Mm-hmm.

Lindsey Hoyle (36:08.112)

create curriculum that's just for him, the things that will be helpful for him. I do a mix of curriculums. I like to pick what works best for my kids. like Saxon math. I like to do a lot of literature-based learning. And so we've just done a whole lot of things. I love that I have the freedom to pick what works best for our kids.

Heather Young (36:29.216)

Mm-hmm.

Absolutely.

And one thing that I have done with our high school years is we, my oldest loves to work with his hands. And so instead of the traditional, which there is absolutely nothing wrong with that because it works for some kiddos, right? Where you read the textbook and then maybe answer the questions and then maybe do a project or whatever. We flipped it and we did the projects.

And then from that, while he's doing the projects, he was having to learn what like building, you know, an animal cell and a plant cell. He built those before I gave or we had any kind of instruction, but he learned that way because he likes to learn by doing. And so from that, then he presented to me and he had to make, you know, he had to use the vocabulary. He had to be able to explain what he built and what all the different parts were.

Jessica Migura (37:20.873)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (37:32.096)

Another example is in our co-op that we have, we switched chemistry. So chemistry we did from a very functional real world application.

Method or Avenue. I don't know what you want to call it, but that's how we did it and so the kids did different projects to where they looked at chemistry based on what their interests are. So one was going to be She was to do cosmetology and work with you know hair and all that kind of stuff and so she taught us about the chemistry of your hair and how

you know, coloring it and perms, all that can affect the chemistry of your hair. Whereas my kiddo, one of my kiddos did a presentation on the effects of music on your brain chemistry. And so we just a variety of different ways. So you can have that traditional or you can be as creative as you need to be. It really is what

Jessica Migura (38:46.611)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (38:47.316)  
you know, how your kiddos learn best and looking at your routine, like your daily life. Do you work? Is it part-time, full-time? You know, what does that look like? What is your budget? You know, there's lots of ways to work around all of that. So those might be some things that you want to look at too as you're going into those high school years trying to plan how that's going to be from year to year. So, yeah, anybody?

else want to throw anything in there?

Vicky Garcia (39:20.172)  
just want to add something that has helped me a lot is going on. You already mentioned this, Heather, the TEA or Texas Education website. sometimes I just have to see someone else's, know, in order to spark my own creativity. So what I do is the TEA website has.

the side-by-side program for high school. So you can see how they, it's a chart and I'm a visual learner. So I like to see, language arts and how you call or how to name those subjects. Like you already mentioned that English one, two, three, and just, you can see this big chart.

Jessica Migura (39:54.601)  
Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (40:15.79)  
Again, it's called side by side comparison, let me see, side by side comparison graduation program options. You can again find it in the TEA website. And another thing that I find it very helpful is there again in the TEA website, there's a section there that it's called Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development.

and career and technical education. And you can go there and find a list, a long list of different things that you can do with your students such as I love, you know, the how they name this big list I'm seeing here, floral design, food processing, things that you would not usually think that,

Jessica Migura (40:46.249)

Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (41:15.212)

You know, sometimes, like you already mentioned, that they have interests, like one of my children have this interest in planting a garden. And right here, they have this course, Greenhouse Operation and Production, and then One Credit. And if you go into that specific search, they give you a list of different things that,

Heather Young (41:33.566)

Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (41:44.143)

the student would be learning on that course. If you don't want to, you know, think and so what do I do? My student has this interest and instead of you doing the legwork and finding things, I you can look at this list and like okay and start thinking. I'm sure things will come up and say hey, I like this. You don't have to follow everything there, but for sure it gives you an idea, a head start.

So, yeah.

Jessica Migura (42:16.101)

And actually, I think I want to just add also a great resource, Vicki, even besides that is our homeschool convention. Because if you register and you come to homeschool convention, I mean, we have hundreds of exhibitors in there with all different kinds of curriculum. I mean, they're going to have seminars where you can sit through and listen to. But also in the exhibit hall, I mean, you can go around and talk to the curriculum provider and even, you know, take a deeper dive into what they're offering.

Heather Young (42:28.736)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (42:45.865)

But that's going to give you a great resource to find out maybe what would be a curriculum that would be best fitted for each of your students. So if you have multiple kids, you don't have to use the same for each one. So I would definitely recommend coming to convention. It's a great way to get hands on with your curriculum to touch it and talk to somebody specifically. So you can just be, I guess, build a little bit of confidence in what you are purchasing or choosing.

Heather Young (42:55.582)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (43:15.38)

Right.

Jessica Migura (43:15.857)

So that's another great resource as well as that TEA that you just recommended, Vicki. Convention is great for those resources.

Heather Young (43:24.402)

And there's two that I can think of that just that we, like my kids have, there's a food science curriculum that my daughter just totally took to from convention a couple of years ago. And now she's so into food science and is looking at that for her future. But I would never have thought about it if I hadn't seen it at the convention.

Jessica Migura (43:34.825)

Mm-hmm.

Jessica Migura (43:39.623)

Right.

Jessica Migura (43:45.513)

Hmm.

Heather Young (43:54.644)

And now she knows more about cooking than I will ever know about cooking. And she's like, mom, we need to blah, blah, blah. And I'm like, I have no idea what that means. So, so she knows a whole lot more about it than I do. And then there's another one that we, that was there last year. It's degree free and they, they also have podcasts. And so degree free is another way for families to kind of look at how do I plan out this?

these four years because they're looking at five different ways that you can in five different directions that you can go in after high school. And so kind of looking at that, you know, are you interested in the college route? Are you wanting to be an entrepreneur, a trade? Like, I mean, there's all these different paths. so that was just one thing that kind of helped us look at, you know, different avenues as well for our kiddos. So, but you're right.

Convention is a great way to get experience and be introduced to different things. Go ahead, Vicki.

Vicky Garcia (45:03.576)

Yes, I just wanted to mention this as well because I experienced this. Sometimes if you get to have a student that is not very, you know, he just, he's not showing the spark about high school courses. What I found was to let them see this plan. A lot of times they, because they don't see the end, they don't have a vision for it. But.

What parents can do to help them is to show them the plan. I mean, that doesn't necessarily means that they're going to do exactly what somebody else is, somebody else planned, but they can talk to the student and say, look, this is how it looks like. This is how, you know, high school courses look like. So what do you think? And let them get involved.

Heather Young (45:49.074)  
Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (46:02.474)  
in the choices that they make, you see. So yeah.

Heather Young (46:06.56)

And that makes me think another aspect of high school in general is just, it's a huge transition time. There's a lot of transitions, not just academically, but also just in their character development and their social development. There's so many different transitions that are being made in this time from semester to semester and year to year. It's just, there's a lot. And so,

revisiting that each year is a good way to be able to tune into those different transitions that are happening from year to year. so, you know, whereas like in ninth grade, they may be totally fine with how things have always been, but then 10th grade, they may be like, no, I'm ready to, you know, take some courses with, you know, others and I'm interested in this or I want, you know, so.

Keep in mind those transitions during this time of high school. Okay, anything else on that topic? Because we have another question that I wanna throw out there. Okay. We have a few questions. How to pick the right curriculum? Is workbook curriculum better than online curriculum?

how do we know when the child is ready to go to the next grade? And what to do when your child or you do not understand the lesson? So those are our last, what is that, four questions? Those are our last questions that we're gonna cover. One thing that I want to mention is that with the curriculum,

The right curriculum is what is gonna work best for your family and your kiddo. It's not a one size fits all. We can give you suggestions, we can point you to resources, but you are their parent, you know them better than we do. We know what worked for our kids, and we want to encourage you to find what works best for your kids. So there's a...

Heather Young (48:25.246)

resource Kathy Duffy review that is a great place that you can go and kind of read about different types of curriculum It's not just a quick, you know review either. It's a good a good in-depth review. So that's one way that you can look at that if you have a Home school store near you you can go there But that's just what I wanted to let y'all know

And that even goes with workbook versus online. It really boils down to what is going to be best for your kids and how much do you want them online versus doing paper, pencil, hands-on project, that kind of a thing. that's what I wanted to throw out, but I'm going to open it up for the rest of the team to kind of add to it.

Heather Young (49:24.852)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (49:46.024)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (50:14.534)  
It's life.

Heather Young (50:56.725)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (52:24.32)  
And that's part of that transition too, during that time. As they're transitioning and getting older, their cognitive skills are growing, all these different things are growing, and part of those transitional needs is taking ownership in whatever way is appropriate for that child to take ownership of their education.

Lindsey Hoyle (52:51.823)  
wanted to add to you just from the special needs standpoint. I think a lot of our parents, the ones that I've talked to recently, have kids that maybe they have a very severe disability and they're working on honestly even in the high school age range they may still be back on pre-k kindergarten level because of their severe disability. one thing that we always want to encourage parents, you teach your child where they're

Find a curriculum that works good for them. If it's a life skills situation, then you teach them life skills. Teach them through their day. How to have hygiene skills. How to sit and eat a meal. Sometimes it's very basic for some families. so just as a homeschool mom or parent, knowing that looking at curriculum, don't let yourself get overwhelmed.

you know, sometimes we feel like we have to push our child so far beyond where they're even at because of what we've heard on the legal standpoint or from what other moms are doing. And so I would highly suggest, I think Heather mentioned it a while ago, go to Mardel's, go to another Christian bookstore or a school bookstore, curriculum store, and you thumb through all the workbooks that you see so that you can get a feel for what it is. If you're not able to go to convention or you're...

you know, the other end of the state or budget-wise you can't get there. Go and look at those products and see what works best for your child. And so I just, we hear from these families, we

know that we have a lot of families with special needs kids that are not on grade level. And so, you know, please reach out to us, contact us if you have questions in regards to that.

Heather Young (54:37.29)

And I'm just gonna, just to piggyback off of that, I mean, a lot of those basic skills that you're, you know, even if you're still working, say on a pre-KK level, they're basic life and even vocational skills. And so what you're doing is still important for your kids. So don't think that it's not. And don't think that you're not doing what they need because you are.

you're giving them a good foundation and that's what they need. that and then I just wanted to touch on how do we know if a child is ready to go to the next grade? That can be done in a variety of ways. We're getting close to our time so I'm gonna try to wrap this up real quick but wanna make sure to answer this question.

The curriculum providers have different placement tests that you can utilize those to kind of see. You can give them that placement test beginning, middle, and end of the year to just kind of see their progress. Or some families use what I call the retired star test. You're not required to give that, but they utilize those that we can access online to kind of help see.

what, where your child is at, but you know that where your kiddo is at. And so, and it could just be that when you get the majority of the curriculum completed, you feel that your child's ready to go to the next grade. There's a variety of different ways to kind of, to determine that. And then lastly, what to do when your child and your parent don't understand a lesson. So,

There's gonna be times that you're like, I don't know how to help you with this But there's there's Khan Academy that has videos that you can utilize YouTube, you know now with all things online It's good to be careful and kind of screen that beforehand. But You know, there's things like math antics that could help with you know math type of Like skills or lessons there's homeschool pop

Heather Young (56:58.922)

for younger years, so there's a variety of different ways. Or there's, you you could reach out to your community and see if there's anybody in your community that has the ability to help. So there's a variety of different ways, and it's okay if you don't. I mean, it is okay, and it's okay to say, I'm not sure, but we're gonna find out. Because then that's teaching your kiddo other skills, such as how to research, how to find things out. So even in that, your,

they're still learning a skill. okay, any last comments because we are right at the time. So we are gonna wrap up here, but just wanted to give a second for everybody if there's something that somebody wanted to say.

Heather Young (58:06.922)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (58:18.784)  
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (58:31.807)  
Yes.

Heather Young (58:35.444)  
Yes, yeah. And if somebody wants to grab that link, if they all can drop that in the chat, that is our feedback link. And we do appreciate any feedback that you have because it is important to us. We want to make sure that we are providing all the resources that you might need, you know, because you're doing the hard work.

here, you're working with your kiddos and that's what we're here for. We're here to guide you because you are already doing the hard part. So it's a hard part sometimes, but it is very rewarding. And so we just encourage y'all to keep up doing what you're doing and we are here for y'all. So, and that's it. That's a wrap for today. Thank you all for attending and we hope you guys have a blessed rest of your day.

Bye everybody.