

We are just gonna hop right in and get started. My name is Heather Young, and I am the Customer Relations Member Support

Manager... I'm trying to unblur my... oh, that's so much better. Okay, that blurring was bothering me. This is real life, guys, so welcome to real life here with us today. So...

Yes, again, my name is Heather Young, Customer Relations Member Support Manager. We have been homeschooling since my oldest was 4, he's now 17, and in his senior year. My youngest has started her freshman year of high school. So, yeah, that's... that's us, and

I'm just gonna let everybody else introduce themselves as well.

So, which Jessica do you want to go?

The original...

The OG Jessica.

Okay, so my real name is Jessica Migura.

Heh.

I'm customer relations, member support, volunteer specialist, and I do coaching for, like, middle school, high school.

college readiness, but, you know, I can do getting started as well, since I homeschooled all four of my kids all the way through. They're actually all graduated now. The oldest two have families, but,

Anyway, so glad we're here, glad we can encourage and support you. Obviously, we need your prayers as well, as we pray for y'all, but, we can work together on that. But I think it'll be a good, good time together.

Yeah, so my name is Lindsay Hoyle, and I'm the outreach Manager for THSC, and I also get to do some coaching and work with special needs, families that have questions for special needs, and so I also have homeschooled for over 15 years. I have, my oldest is 21, and then

I have one that just graduated last year, and then we have two more kids in the home, so I'll have a junior.

And an 8th grader, so we are still, you know, in the trenches of all of that and enjoying it, and I love working with group leaders across the state, so if you're on here today and you're a group leader, I would love to connect with you, so keep that in mind as well.

Awesome. And we have some, some interns in the background that are helping and will be dropping in some links to share, during the webinar and everything, so, we hope those links are, helpful to... to you guys. So...

Okay, excuse me. So, let me share my screen.

Maybe?

We also have Vicki, who... Is another one of our coaches.

And she...

She is not with us today, she is spending time with her family. Are y'all able to see my screen?

Yes, I see the slide.

Okay.

Perfect. Okay.

So, she is our Spanish specialist, and so if you have anybody that you know that Spanish is their native language, she is our coach that helps

work with, our Spanish community, but anybody in general, really. She's... she's a sweet, and she can help answer a lot of, a lot of homeschooling questions as well. Okay, so we're gonna dive in today to Raising Capable Kids Beyond Academics. What we're wanting to look at is

the heart.

So...

care... so, it is, obviously, we homeschool for various different reasons, right? We homeschool because we want to provide an academic, foundation for our kids, we want a spiritual foundation for our kids, but, you know, it's also about the heart, you know, it's not all about the academics. So...

spiritual development.

for us has been the foundation to our character development as well. And our character development has also been, you know, it just...

feeds right into our academic development. So, all of it just kind of, you know.

it's the building blocks on each other.

at THSC, we have what's called our Homeschool Roadmap, and that is where you can kind of go through different stages of homeschooling, from pre-K through launching your kiddo, you know, from high school. But

What I want to point out from those is that there are specific transition sections

that are in, you know, built in throughout. And the reason is because some of those are some of the most important and pivotal moments. Not...

yes, in academics, but also in your character development, and just a child's development in general. And so, we like to...

Mention those, because those may be times where

it'll be good for dad to come in and just, you know, take alongside, you know, the boys in the family, and foster, you know, that aspect of, you know, life, and building into, you know, the masculinity and the, just...

just growing up, what that means to grow up as a guy. You know, and even, you know, even the... our daughters, you know? I mean, Dad come alongside and help show and model what, you know.

our daughters should be looking for, you know, and a husband. And so, I mean, that may be... that may sound like a stretch, but all of that we model, you know, on our day-to-day, and those pivotal moments are such good times to build in those kinds of things.

Anybody else want to say anything?

on that...

That's great.

Yeah, I agree. I think it's so, so important to make that as a part of your day and your, just growing their character. I'm 100% with that. I think it's been a huge part of our homeschooling journey, is to instill that character development. Spiritual development has always been the first thing. We do Bible every morning, first thing.

You know, not to just check a box, but to help create a healthy habit for the kids that they might.

Right.

Continue on in life, so...

Absolutely.

And just something to keep in mind is that

you know, as your kiddos are getting bigger and growing and, you know, all these things, they develop new skills, right? And they like to try out these new skills.

And so sometimes these skills, they don't know quite how to, use them yet. And so sometimes we have to help guide them

In using them, you know, because independent skills are great, but sometimes, you know, we have to kind of guide

these new skills for them, so that they can build... we can build in those character development traits and the spiritual aspect in all of that.

It doesn't necessarily always mean that they're,

You know, their behaviors that we might see at those times may be just truly they're learning a new skill, and they're trying to figure out how to use that in their day-to-day.

So... And then...

One thing that has been a huge foundation in our family has been service projects, or just serving in general. And so, I like to bring that up because serving really gives our kids and ourselves an opportunity to look outside of ourselves, to see

You know, and to foster that, selflessness that, You know, that...

is good for us to see and help, because a lot of times our society, and we are just naturally focused on what we need to get done, what we need to do, how does that impact me? And these give... these opportunities give our families

That ability to see outside of ourselves.

So, anybody else want to say anything before I move on?

then we have... so, some other things that I want to say, really, some days you just need to be mom and dad.

Some days just require that. And that's okay. Some days, the academics, we have to put to the side. I've done that on many, many days.

And just feed into our kids, and just, okay, you know, we've got big feelings that we're trying to learn how to handle, or whatever the case is, and some days we just need to be mom or dad. Instead of mom, teacher, you know, all the things, we just need to be the parent.

Oh, was somebody's gonna say something?

No.

Oh, okay. I'm just...

Congestion.

No worries.

Bible study and prayer, many times as parents, and I know that, like, when my kiddos were younger, that quiet time was... and it still is important to me, but at that time, because they were so little and they were running all over the place, you know, I was like, I just... I want just a few minutes, right? Just a few minutes alone,

But somebody reminded me that when we are... when our kiddos are seeing us do that, we are modeling to them

how to start our day. We're modeling that foundation.

And so...

My kids now, I... you know, through the years, I got to the point where I was like, that is so true. Okay. And so, it didn't bother me like it used to, but...

So now, I just...

sit out in the living room, and I'm doing my quiet time, and the kids will walk by, and they'll start to talk to me, and I'll look up at them, and they'll look down, they'll go, oh.

Sorry! And then they'll walk off, you know, walk by and go, okay, and then they'll... because they know that I'm spending that time in prayer reading my Bible, and then, you know, once I'm done, I'm like, hey guys, what was it that you needed, or whatever, thanks for, you know, letting me finish my quiet time.

you know, I mean...

If it's an emergency, that's different, right? You know, we gotta take care of things, but it does help to foster that, or model that foundation.

Oh, I'm sorry, I just wanted to add to that, too. I love that your kids are seeing you with your Bible open. A lot of us these days have the Bible on our phone, and there's absolutely nothing wrong with that, but I think there's a real value behind the kids seeing you with your actual Bible open, because you could be on your phone doing

anything, you know, playing a game, and so, to make that impact, truly an impact, I encourage everyone, you know.

teach them how to use their Bible and not just access it from the phone all the time, and really, there's just something about having that Word in your hands to be able to underline it and highlight. So, just wanted to point that out.

Yeah, yeah.

And the other thing is teaching and practicing character traits, habits, and manners. Oh, I skipped one, guys, but they kind of go hand in hand. Conflict resolution skills. Teaching those, you know, you can utilize scripture, you can

Do role-playing situations, games, you can read books that show good, you know, that...

show characters that demonstrate that character... those character traits that you are trying to instill in your kiddos. And sometimes even movies, you could, you know, you could use movies for that, too.

Sometimes we need to just take a step back and breathe, because that's important for all of us, you know? There are days where it just... I mean, we did our Bible, but, you know, we had some, you know, sibling stuff during that time, and then we got started on our schoolwork, and it just was...

Field trips, great way to just kind of break that up for the day, if you're still wanting to, you know, do something that is academic.

like, in focus, but it be lighter, and you can spend time laughing, and playing games, and visiting a park,

Cooking, baking, whatever, you know, sometimes we just need to take a break and breathe.

Because, just like we talked about Bible studies being, you know, a way to model, taking a break also is modeling. It's modeling how do we handle big emotions?

we're modeling how to struggle well, how to solve problems. So, If you think of

Homeschooling, it is more than just the academics.

we're teaching all these different things.

skills.

Yes, definitely life skills. Okay, just wanted to throw out, these are some resources. You can get the homeschool Roadmap, on our website as well.

I think there's a link, and in a second here, I'm gonna stop talking, and then we can start pouring in some links into the chat once I stop sharing, because it did something weird to my other screen. So, I'll share that in a minute. But Parenting with Scripture was a book that I have, and still have, and have used.

A topical guide for teachable moments, and those are specific, you know.

worry. It's, like, topic-based, and then it has scriptures, and it has, discussion questions in there. It's not a lot. It's... it's...

it's very, concise, but it's something that, as parents, it's... we can open it up and go, okay, so here's my guide, now let's open up our Bible and let's read this scripture, you know, and talk about whatever this, you know.

the need is. Kids of Integrity by Focus on the Family Canada,

that is... it's free to access. It's more for younger kiddos, but it's... it is free to access. It's full lessons on character development, and, you know, fruits of the Spirit, and those things, so...

We use that, and I mean, it is...

very in-depth. Like, there's snack ideas, there's craft ideas, there's all kinds of different ideas.

Laying Down the Rails by Simply Charlotte Mason is another one that can be used for several age, you know, a larger age range, but it's really building in those habits and character development that you want, and it's not just your typical character development, like,

you know, hard work, or whatever. It goes into life skills as well, you know, what that looks like. And then not consumed Bible studies is another one that I always like to, suggest, just because

You can cover one, bible Focus, But it...

you have the ability to get the, Bible studies at the different age ranges. So your, your young, young elementary school kiddo, like kindergarten, can be studying the same

focus, as well as your older elementary, your junior high, your high school, and they have a parent one. And so then you come together, and you can then discuss that same Bible focus, but everything has been

Addressed at an appropriate age level.

So... Does anybody have anything else they want to throw in there?

I'm gonna attempt to click on this, and we'll see. Let me know... can y'all see that now?

Yes.

Oh, yay! Okay, so I just wanted to show what this looks like. You know, it's... has all kinds of different lessons on here that you can, utilize, but I just wanted to be able to... to show a little bit of what that

looks like on their website. So.

Now the goal is to get back. Okay, there we go. Alright, so, question and answer time. Alright, I'm gonna stop sharing for the moment, maybe.

So that we can... Okay.

Perfect. Alright.

So, okay.

I'm trying to escape out of my... There we go.

Okay, so I do know that we had several questions that were submitted, so we will try to get to as many as we can possible. And here, I will say, if your questions don't get answered, please reach out to us, because we do want to get those answered.

Okay.

First one, Texas laws for homeschooling. First year of homeschooling, an anxiety of having to complete the year on time, and, they noted that they were, that testing schedules was,

a need. So, I'm not spec... I'm not quite sure exactly what is needed specifically on testing schedules, but we're gonna drop in the chat, our FAQs that cover a lot of homeschool questions.

And a link to our Texas Homeschool Roadmap, just so that y'all have that information there.

Lindsay, do you want to go over the Texas homeschool laws real quick?

Yeah, so in the state of Texas, the homeschool parent is seen as an unaccredited private school where the parent is the administrator, and so,

you know, we're responsible to keep all of those kind of records and everything. Legally, we're required to teach 5 main subjects of reading, grammar, spelling, math, and good citizenship. And so, that changes, you know, as we fluctuate into those high school ages, as we look toward that diploma, but legally speaking, that's what they require.

Yep.

And, you know, when we...

in the homeschool laws, it talks about curriculum being in some kind of visual format. I mean, it's really kind of hard not to be in a visual format. You know, when you've got,

Manipulatives, books, workbooks, all those kinds of things, you know. And we're just, you know.

you're teaching your kiddos where they're at, right? You meet them where they're at, and you continue to further their education. Now.

With the testing schedule, we're not required as homeschool families to take

like the STAR test, because I know that that was another question as well. We're not required to take any kind of state testing to, ensure that we're meeting certain standards. So, testing requirements or testing schedules.

Are going to look different Depending on your homeschool setup, and what works for your family.

So, I mean, I'm sure we've all...

on here done testing in different ways. You can utilize placement tests that come with different curriculum providers to kind of see where your kiddo's at, and you can use that placement test at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the school year if you're just kind of wanting to see a growth through the year.

some families will use the released STAR tests that are online to see, but the one thing that I say about that is I would be careful about it, just because

depending on how you're homeschooling and what you're covering, it could be different from what is on that age, or that grade level, STAR test, if you decide to use that. So, just... just a little side note on that.

I was just gonna say, I dropped in the, the National Norm Assessment Comprehensive list, so that if, you know, parents do decide they want to do that.

I mean, it is kind of good from time to time to do that, to see if there's any learning gaps, or if they're excelling.

But also, just to get them in the habit of doing something that's timed, so when they do get in high school or going to college, they're kind of... had that already underneath their belt, and they don't have to have that anxiety about... well, they may still have it, but, you know, maybe not as much if they've already had that kind of practice of doing a time test. So, anyway, I'll put that in there.

I was also gonna just add, too, I like to give the California Achievement Test, so the CAT test is another way to see that. There's a really great option, you can do it, paper and pencil with, like, the...

Scantron, which is a whole learning experience in itself, or you can do it online, and get results very quickly, you know, depending on what your kids are... maybe their ages. I've done that as young as 3rd grade, all the way up through a senior, just to see

How they were doing, and just as a heads up, I have never shared the results with my kids. It has always been, hey, this is for mom, and I want to know if what I'm doing is

hitting the mark, and so I just want you to do your very best, and we're gonna go get ice cream afterwards, because I know this is not going to be very fun, but I'm proud of you, and I want you to try your hardest. And so, it's been a tool for me, and not a pressure for them, but it has been a great learning experience to test... learn how to take a test.

Yes, and, we have a question on how to access that.

So, if you...

Link not able to... they can't click on that link?

I don't know if it's the nationally normed one, or if it's the CAT test that Lindsay was...

Well, the cat test... the cat test may be on that list. Let me... I'm gonna open mine up and just see. Keep going, I'll look at my lip.

One thing I will say, too, about grades, I know all kids are different, and we're not required to keep grades, just like we're not required to do standardized testing.

But it is a great tool for us as parents, and some kids...

you know, it doesn't bother them. Some kids, it does.

And so...

you know, that goes back to kind of our focus today of, you know, it's not just all about the academics, you know, it's about the heart. And so, you know, this would be...

an opportunity to help kiddos to... to learn that, you know, it's okay. You know, this does not determine your worth, it doesn't determine who you are, you know, and that, you know, because

there is a lot of emphasis on grades and what that means. And so, with homeschooling, we, with our family.

grades.

were really just me teaching our kids a way to kind of go, okay, maybe we need to work on that a little bit more, maybe it's just we don't understand it right now, but

you know, we can keep working on it. It wasn't a, you did bad, or, oh, look how wonderful you're doing, because, you know, so, because sometimes kids will tie

you know, who they are to those grades, so to speak.

So, anyways, just something I wanted to throw out there as well.

And also, the answer to that question is the CAT test is on... That national normed assessment list.

Awesome.

Perfect.

Also, sorry, Heather, I was just gonna jump in. Yeah, go ahead. Those of you who are doing UIL participation in the public school, that CAT test is so quick and easy, not easy in the sense that the test is easy, but it'll test what's needed. It's very, you know, it's not a trickery-type test, it's just...

based on the academics. So, I would highly recommend using that one if you're needing a test score to, have access to UIL.

patient.

Good. Awesome. I had thought of UIL, and then it just... so I'm glad you brought it back up.

Good deal.

Awesome. Okay, next question is, I'm in my first year homeschooling, my... Elementary daughter who has,

a diagnosis of ADHD, what advice or curriculum recommendations would you have to help

keep her on task and learn and understand concepts. So, there's a couple of things that I jotted down here. Lindsay and Jessica, please jump in, if y'all think of something. But Understood.org, if you

go, like, search understood.org, ADHD Accommodations, then that can bring up a list of different accommodations that you can utilize in your day-to-day.

that will allow your kiddo to, access their curriculum in a way that works best for them. And it... it allows you also to keep documentation of what does work.

Because as your kiddos get older, for any kiddo who has, you know, some kind of diagnosis of special needs or whatnot, if you're going to...

when they're going to take things like the SAT or whatnot for college entrance, it's good to have documentation of what accommodations are needed.

And so, this is a great way, you know, to start, by having that list. Kathy Duffy, she reviews a lot of homeschool curriculum, and this would allow you to kind of look and see what might be a good fit for your kiddo.

You know, because... Every kiddo that, you know, regardless of what it is, every kiddo is still so unique.

in who they are and how they learn, that what might work for one kid with ADHD or dyslexia may not work for another kid. And so, being able to figure that out and see these reviews and kind of look at the curriculum.

is... is helpful, because her reviews are pretty in-depth, they're not just, this worked great. It's... it gives you some good, feedback.

And...

there is a link that's gonna go in. The title is 6 Benefits of Short Lessons by Simply Charlotte Mason, and it kind of outlines the...

time frame by age range for how long lessons, you know, it's not a hard and fast rule, like, it has to be this, but it gives you a good idea of, you know.

the length of time that you might be looking at. You can, you know, you can tweak that based on your kiddo, but this at least gives you a starting point to work from.

I love that.

I... I... that was exactly what was going through my mind, is just doing short spurts of lessons with kids with ADHD. They're just... they've got energy, they need to move, and oftentimes they can't multitask everything, so for me, what's worked is doing those short, you know, short lessons with

Maybe multiple breaks, or putting a timer in place and saying, focus on this for me, you've got 6 minutes, you know, at the end of this, we'll do a prize, or, you know, trying to teach... trying to lengthen that, attention span more and more every time.

Absolutely. Yeah, no, and that's... that's...

really a good thing for a lot of kids, just in general, you know? I mean, especially in those younger years, because kids are, you know, they like to move when they're younger, especially. So,

So it could be so, you know, useful in so many different ways. I mean, for our family, when my kiddos were younger,

before we found out we had some different diagnoses going on in our family, we... I just automatically, because I taught special education before we started homeschooling, I automatically just kind of set it up to be sensory, just full of sensory. And so, we would,

You know, kinesthetic learning for sure helps, because, my... My oldest...

he... he needs to move. He just needs to move. And so, we would roll the ball back and forth, and do skip counting the whole, you know, the whole time. You know, I would...

2, 4, 6, 8, so forth. We would...

I had words, and we would put words out and make a sentence that way, instead of always writing it down. Anything that can get them moving.

Which leads me into the next thing that I was going to mention, is I've, some links are gonna be dropped in on some different multi-sensory type curriculum.

that I've used in the past, and that others have used. I haven't used all of these, but, so, like, all about reading, or all about learning. They have reading, spelling, and math. It's very multi-sensory, in that you move tiles, you write, you do all these different things.

And one thing is, you don't have to... you can break a lesson up. If the lesson goes beyond the time frame that you feel is a good

time frame for your, student, you are welcome to break that lesson up.

And that lesson can be,

you know, I've done that on multiple occasions. I've shortened lessons and stopped at a good spot, and then picked back up the next day, because we needed more time on that, and that's okay. So, Matthew C has a lot of manipulatives to it as well, and there's...

some aspects of color coding, using, like, different colors for different things, and so that can be beneficial. Brave Writer, teaching textbooks, Time for Learning.

Right, start math and easy-peasy all-in-one homeschooling. The reason why I put that on there is because their lessons are kind of short. They're pretty, concise.

But it is also a free-to-access online curriculum. So, you... you can print out the worksheets and stuff, but the lessons are online.

But I just wanted to throw out some...

And then also some unit or theme-based curriculum. That might be also good, too, because

There's one called Campfire Curriculum, and that one is different in that it was created by a dad.

Who... the themes are focused around different professions.

for example, a meteorologist. And so, everything you do and learn is

from a meteorologist's perspective, but you're still learning math and science, and you get language arts in there, and all that kind of stuff, so... and they have hands-on activities, so, you know, it might be a, you know, a good fit. But...

you know, the choice is yours. You know, any curriculum can be modified to fit your child's needs.

So... Okay. Anybody want to jump in on that one?

I don't have anything necessarily on that, but I know y'all saw my husband come by, so I just wanted to encourage all you homeschool families that one day you will be empty nesters, and maybe your husband will bring you a drink that says, love on it. And your lunch! I don't know!

Way to go!

I guess they forgot we were having a Q&A today.

It's all good. We do life together, guys.

Yes.

Okay, so the next question was, do students who study from home also have to take the STAR exams in math, English, and science? So, we did mention this earlier, I just wanted to bring it up again. The answer is no, because homeschooling is considered a form of private school. So,

That's a pretty, simple question, or answer there, but

Some families do. Some families will have their kids take the STAR test, but in order to do that.

you have to enroll, and take the STAR test, and then unenroll. So...

You know, it's really up to the homeschool family.

Okay, our next one is about record keeping. How to keep everything organized, you know, just kind of

it can be overwhelming to, try to keep all the records. So, I'm gonna open this up for Jessica and Lindsey to...

To take for a second.

Well, I mean, honestly, Heather, I did a portfolio, I did, I kept progress reports so that when it came, you know, every, you know, 6 weeks or 9 weeks, however, I did the grading. So when it came time to semester, you know, I could do that report card and put those grades on. So I think it's good

To stay organized and grade as often as you can, not only for record-keeping's sake, but so that you can see the progression of your student, and see, you know, if maybe they're falling behind.

Hmm.

So it is good to keep organized. And, you know, once you get started, you will get in a rhythm. You know, it'll get smoother, but I would recommend doing it more regularly as possible. But, you know, portfolio is good. I mean, I kept that for all of my kiddos. You know, it had a sample of their daily work.

had a sample of quizzes, a test, and then at the end of the year, it had her, you know, the final report card, and I had that for each grade,

And that's not something you have to do to legally homeschool, but my oldest went into the Navy, and that was one thing they asked. Do you have a portfolio? And I said, yes, I do. And so I was able, you know, to give them that. And then he also did CLEP testing and things, so I had all that.

You know, inside that portfolio. So I would definitely, you know, recommend, you know, that portfolio. That's a great idea.

But, just like you noted, you know, we do have a tracking

In our, member portal, tracking records for, grades, we had the report card generator, you know, and for high school, the transcript generator, so...

All those are good resources to help you stay... stay organized.

Right. I want... I do want to mention one thing. As in... in our homeschooling laws.

our homeschool laws do not say anything about keeping records. Right. So, it's... it is your, you know, teaching,

Your instruction is bona fide, your curriculum is in some kind of visual format, and you're covering the core top subjects, couldn't get the word out, of reading, math, grammar, spelling, and good citizenship.

So really, record keeping is up to you, and how you do it is up to you. I kept a portfolio.

And that was just what we did. It's changed throughout the years as my kiddos have gotten older. Now they're in high school, and we have the transcript. But your... their work and their notebooks

That's... that's documentation. That's record keeping.

Because that's what they did. I didn't keep everything all the time, you know, I would keep, you know, sample tests or whatever, but if I had something like a workbook, I would take out the scope and sequence, or the table of contents.

Yes.

And I would put that with my samples. Yes. And so then that way, it kind of showed what... and if you haven't started keeping records now, it's okay. Because it's not...

you know, it's not part of our homeschooling laws. It's something that we talk about so that you are... it's to help you know

which way to go with your kiddos. So... and a lot of times, families, especially in elementary school, a lot of families won't actually keep a lot of records, just because, you know, they're so young. Junior high and high school really is, you know, a time where you're going to want to keep those records,

But, like, in our... in your member portals, we do have...

a grading template where you can enter grades, and it kind of keeps that so you don't have to do all the calculations. We have our report card generator, and we have two transcript generators when your kiddos get to high school, one by subject and one by, year.

And we use the transcript by subject, because my kids have... we haven't done things the traditional credit route, and so, like, my daughter

is, like I said, started 9th grade, well.

Co-op did 8, did chemistry last year at a high school level, And...

So, she already has that credit, so...

you know, if I did it by year, I would be like, where do I put it? So we just do it by subject. So...

So, yeah. And, you know, you can keep... there's portfolios, some people keep the physical portfolios, but then also digital portfolios. Yes. And so, you know, I... because, let me tell you, my kids like to build projects, especially my oldest.

He is, like, a project-based kiddo, and so if I kept every project that was done, I would need an entirely new house. Like, we would have two houses, because one would just be for projects.

And I can't keep all those. So, I would take pictures, and I would throw those, you know, in the portfolio, or whatever. So, you know, it's really what works best for you. Another very simple way is a simple spiral notebook.

I mean, I've used that

for a while now, and I've used it for two things. It had dual purpose. It was my record keeping, and it taught my kids how to plan, and how to, I was teaching independence, and so I'd write down what they needed to do for that day, the night before, and then they would check it off as they would go.

And that's how I knew we completed it, you know? Just simple, quick, you know. As they got older.

I started putting in the spiral notebook what they needed to do for the week, and then they put it on their own planner. And I used the spiral notebook for my own accountability, and I would just initial. If I checked it, I initialed it.

So, you know, record keeping can be done in many different ways, as... You can tell.

So...

Anybody else want to throw anything out there?

I agree with y'all. I've done all of the same things that you mentioned. Just practically speaking, I would have just, like, file folders in our filing cabinet, and the things that I wanted to keep, I would just have one of those for each kid, and just put it in there, to keep track of all of those records, and...

you know, I'm on the top, I graded every paper, and so, that's just... I was a school teacher before, too, so it's just in my blood, but, I think that's good for the kids to see where they stand. My oldest is very much, like, wants to know where he stands, and so, you know, your kids need to not only

see the expectation that we put on them, but also see that out of us, that we're gonna... we're gonna work just as hard for them. I think it's important for them to understand that.

Absolutely. And one thing that I meant to mention also is our IEP generator. So, that allows families who have kiddos with special needs to create

IEPs or goals that they might have for their kiddos, and it can also keep track of accommodations with that and everything, so that is just another form of documentation that you guys can, utilize.

But I will say the IEP generator is specific to premium and lifetime members. So, if that's something that you might be interested in doing, and need to get a premium or lifetime, you know, reach out to us. We can help you, figure out how to upgrade, or you can just do that through your member portal.

Okay, I did have another thought, but it's gone, so maybe it'll come back. Another one was about recommendations for helping

kiddos stay organized and on top of things. You know, and, you know, planning for the future beyond high school, so...

that would go into... we kind of already talked about that a tad bit, just with the planners and learning organizational skills, so...

There's a thing called executive functioning skills, and there's, these are things that develop over time, because our kiddos' brains develop over time, especially, the frontal cortex, or the frontal

My brain is not... Low? Lobe. Thank you. I was like, that is not the right word. The frontal lobe. It is developing, and it takes a while to, develop, even after high school, that's still

you know, developing. So, that houses those executive functioning skills, like time management, organization, those kinds of things. So.

Helping your kiddos by...

Teaching them how to plan, how to use a planner, how to... you know, because if you think about it, when your kiddos go, like, if they go to college.

then they're gonna have a syllabus, and they're gonna have to plan that out themselves. And so that's why I went from doing every day, this is what you do, to, here's your week.

Not just your academics, but also extracurriculars, appointments, those kinds of things.

Now you need to figure out how you're going to get that done within the week. Now, I don't just say, here, go. You know, when they first started, I was like, okay, yep. And I would have them kind of plan it out, I would look at it, and we would talk and say, okay, what about this? You know, and think... helping them think through those things.

So yeah, and then... I was just reading my notes, guys. Sorry.

our world of technology right now, you know, Google Calendar, things that kids may encounter in jobs in the future would be

that's something I plan on doing this year with my kids. We're gonna each have a Google Calendar and tasks that they're gonna check off throughout the day that they've completed it. I can put chores on there, we can put

different expectations, but like Heather is saying, put them involved in that... in that.

Planning stage, so let them help you with whatever it is, and...

and also be willing to communicate, hey, this works for me, or this doesn't, let's change this with your older kids, trying to find, ways that work for them, that help them to remember. If your kids

carry a phone, which a lot of your kids probably don't, but some of your older kids that may have a phone, you can set reminders on their phone, you can use,

You know, just use the technology that we're all used to having,

And bringing that into their daily life, and, you know, showing them how to use those tools for good. That phones in themselves are not evil, but if we can use them for good to help us, then that's really what we want to start teaching, so...

Absolutely, and I think there's a good...

Balance between the, you know, the good old paper and pencil kind of aspect, and you learning, you know, needing to learn the technology that, you know.

what we... they will encounter. And so,

I'm kind of that person where I'm like, you need to use the paper and pencil before you can use all of this, so that you can, you know, if this...

technology decides to go wonky for the day, then you have something, you know, you have skills to fall back on, you know. So, kind of like Google Maps, you know, we have the, you know, our phones all the time, but still need to learn how to read a map. So, so yeah, I think I might have interrupted you, Lindsay.

No, that's okay. I was just gonna say, too, though, looking at the kit that was mentioned earlier, that elementary age, ADHD,

student. You know, kids that are struggling with, even focusing on one lesson, you know, we've talked multiple times about having visual calendars and, you know, checklists, or using icons or whatever that you can take off, you know, like Velcro off of that list to say, that's done. Put it in the done bucket.

Those are great ways to help our kids stay organized and allow them to help build that daily routine that we're gonna have. We're gonna do math, reading, history, you know, the

flow of the way the day's gonna look. We're gonna do lunch here, and it does help a kid with some learning disabilities to see.

What their day looks like, so that visual,

Tool is very, very helpful for even just inspiring them to get it done.

That there is an endless fight. Yes.

Yes, because you can work in so much with those visuals, thank you for bringing that up, because Masterbooks has a book called Thrive, and it talks about a lot of those visual, schedules, and it also has ways to keep, yeah, data, and documentation, and

Because when you're... when you look at using a calendar, or a visual schedule, or anything like that, you're actually teaching them more than just how to follow a schedule.

It is teaching chronological order. It is teaching, you know, when

I mean, because some days aren't going to go as planned, or it's going to be different than your normal. And so, teaching that

you know, being able to move icons around, you know, when a day goes... when something goes crazy in your day, then you can utilize that to teach them those skills of flexibility and how to work the calendar physically and visually, in a different way. So...

A lot of life skills in there.

Okay.

How do you deal with perfectionism when your kids expect perfection from themselves and get frustrated over and over again?

This is a younger kiddo learning to read, and how to play piano, but struggles with this on a consistent basis. So...

I will say that this is actually something that we have walked as well, in my family, to some extent, and it looks different for each kiddo, a little bit, how it plays out, you know, but some of the things that came to my mind when I read this was using mistakes

To be able to work on Handling.

emotions, you know, using those, moments, and... Also, Being able to...

if we're learning something new, you know, that gives them the opportunity to, you know, then also learn from, okay, I'm not going to do it right this first time, because I'm just learning it. We all start somewhere, and we have to grow in it.

So...

I'm just reading over my notes. Another thing is reading stories. Sometimes stories in and of itself,

And seeing how a character dealt with something helps

Us and kids relate it to ourselves in some ways, because then we're seeing how they dealt with it, and then we can use that as a way to teach them that same lesson.

jessica, Lindsay, do y'all want to throw anything in there?

Well, I was just thinking when you said that, that Brave Books, I'm not sure if y'all are familiar, you know, those that are part today, are familiar with Brave Books, but they...

focus on patriotic themes, but in those books, it does hint to exactly what you just said about building character on different ideas, but that would be a great way to,

I guess, double dip, you know, patriotic things up for our country, but also character building. Brave Books is... it's pretty amazing. They've got some great books to really, help you as a parent, teach certain things.

And, you know, it's biblically intertwined there, too, so that's a great source, Heather.

And you also might...

I love...

Oh, go ahead.

No, I was just gonna say, I...

I know those of us who are trying to ground our families in Scripture and seeing how, okay, how do we deal with this character issue of feeling like I have to be perfect? We've often gone to Colossians 3.23 about, you know.

work heartily as to the Lord and not to men, and just trying to encourage our kids that the work that you do, the talents that you have, the way you spend your time and your efforts and your talents is for God's glory. So, just trying to help take that.

That burden and that That focus off of self, and putting it on...

how am I honoring God? How am I, serving the Lord through my school day, and through my behavior, and through my, you know, friendships and relationships? If we can

see it in a way that I... I don't have to be perfect, because I'm trusting in the Lord, and so...

Also, also, Lindsay, even as being a parent, you can show your kids that you make mistakes by saying.

can you please forgive me? You know, I just messed up.

Yes.

You know, cause...

Yeah. We're... we have to ask the Heavenly Father to forgive us, we need to ask our kids, and...

You know.

And our idea...

real.

Yeah, our identity is not found in school or, you know, the things that we do. Our identity is in Christ, so constantly... I mean, those conversations, you know, Deuteronomy talks about that, that we're supposed to speak of

the Lord's ways, when we sit, when we stand, when we walk by the way in Deuteronomy 6, 4 through 9, I think. So, we definitely

want that to be a part of our conversations through our homeschooling day, you know, as a way to just encourage them in their relationship with Christ.

Yeah.

Let's see... How many hours a week are recommended for first grade, and which subjects?

A kit... there's a...

I'm just trying to summarize, but I'm not doing a great job summarizing. My child is also enrolled in a Tuesday-Thursday program for first graders. Am I doing too much to also have a curriculum going at home? So.

I like to just start by looking at the Texas homeschool laws and what we're required to do.

You know, anything outside of that, you know.

you, can add other stuff in if you think that whatever the program is on Tuesdays and Thursdays is not,

you know, if it's... if you need more to add to that, to address a skill that maybe is not being addressed as in-depth as you would like for it to be, or you could choose to just do more of the

elective-type ones. It really depends on your kiddo, your family, what the program, you know, involves.

So,

You know, just looking at if it's too much on you to prepare, if it's too much, to fulfill in the day, if it's taking long, long amounts of

a long... hmm, I'm having trouble talking today, guys. A long time to complete, then, you know, maybe look at scaling back.

Or you take what you have and only do half of the problems, like if it's a math or something like that. You can modify it to meet the needs that you have.

And need for your kiddo.

Anybody else want to throw anything in there?

I was just gonna say, Homeeducator.com has a good, guide and competency

For every... for every grade level. So if you're wanting to see maybe what should be covered for that grade level, because I know that was a question about first grade, you can see, you know, what you need to cover. That doesn't tell you you have to do...

15 lessons on... On, nouns, you know, you just need to do...

how many ever lessons on that that gets them that information. So, like you just said earlier, you can accommodate or modify the curriculum.

But that's just a good guide, so you can kind of see.

what competency is needed for that particular grade level. But still, you... to legally homeschool, it's just, you know, reading, grammar, spelling, math, and good citizenship.

But.

But you can always expand on that.

I think Homeeducator.com is a good link to kind of filter Your thoughts?

Absolutely. Absolutely.

You know, and another thing is, sometimes...

for things like, say, history or science, sometimes you can alternate them. Instead of doing them every single day.

Yes.

just do history on Monday and Wednesday, or history on Monday, science on Wednesday, or however it works in your schedule, because I don't know if the

you know, if the program goes all day or just half the day, you know, you can adjust that. And, like, with language arts, there's so much that goes into language arts, right? There's reading, spelling, grammar, writing, all these things, and you can...

Focus on one one day, focus on the other another day, and...

And if that's what works, that's great. You know, because our laws does not set... our laws do not tell us that we have to have a certain set amount of time on each subject, or even in our day. So, you can really do what works best for your kiddos in that.

And someone just dropped a note in the chat that says she does one subject a day.

And it works good for her child.

And some families.

Yes.

Yeah, and some families, and we've kind of done this... we've done a variety of all kinds of different things in our many years, but, you know, you could just focus only on your history curriculum.

And then that's done, and then you focus on your science curriculum, and then that's done. So, you can really tailor it to what meets

your needs.

Yep.

I think that's a great way to look at, with our older kids who are wanting to get dual credits, and Jessica mentioned that earlier on CLEP testing. Once your kids are in high school, that's a really great plan. If you want to knock out the CLEP test as quick as possible, you can focus on one at a time.

ModernStates.org is one that we can put in the chat. They offer free CLEP test preparation, and they offer free CLEP test, coupon codes, and also,

the, testing... the proctor fee of where you go have the testing done can be reimbursed, so you can earn club credits completely free through ModernStates.org, but the.

Now, you tell me.

No, no, actually, we loved it, we earned a lot.

Didn't know that back then.

So, the best thing to do if you're doing that is you're earning high school credit and college credit. So, you put that on the transcript, regardless of whether or not they pass the CLEP, if they are successfully completing the CLEP preparations, give them high school credit for that class.

You know, so a lot of times we would do, like, government, and then go to the next one, we would do History 1,

take a couple months, do, you know, history too, and along with our Bible and maybe some electives on the side, but...

you know, having a high... I just want to say this. Yes, we can do all these things to do maybe one or two subjects a day, but I want to really encourage parents to keep a high standard for their kids. It is amazing what your kids can accomplish.

And you will see, working one-on-one with your child is going... they're gonna complete things quicker, and they're gonna potentially move on and be able to be stretched and challenged higher than they would be in the public school. So, you have this amazing opportunity to

have that high standard, and really push your kid in ways that they would not get in a public school, so...

What a blessing, what a great thing that we're getting to do, you know?

Absolutely, absolutely. So there's a question, Jessica... nope, Lindsey, because your name is Jessica on the screen, so I keep...

It says, so if they pass the test, it counts towards college credit.

The CLEP... yes, if they pass the CLEP, it's a pass-fail, so if they pass...

That CLEP test, it... collegeboard.org, I believe it's .org, they will bank those CLEP credits that are earned.

at that website. So, when my son graduated from high school, and he applied for college at Texas Tech, we went to collegeboard.org, and we had that transcript sent to Texas Tech University, and I had his

high school transcript to send as well, and so they took the clips that he had earned, and they said, we'll accept all... I think there was one that they didn't accept, and so...

he ended up having, basically his whole freshman year done through CLEP testing and some dual credits. So, it is great. If you have a student that's very independent, who can study and read and learn that CLEP material, take that, CLEP test and pass it, man, there's just

that's a huge potential to get a lot of credits for free, so... Yeah. Highly recommend that. And they... we don't... they don't even sponsor THSC, we just want y'all to know. We want y'all to know about these things. So, we love the homeschool community, and we want y'all to be aware.

Absolutely.

Our last question is, how are we preparing our children to become capable, responsible adults, and not just academically successful students? And that's a great question, which really rounds out our

Q&A today. You know, I just jotted down, you know, And...

to... as far as successful, you know, responsible adults, I'm thinking good citizenship. But first and foremost, I'm thinking our spiritual development, our faith foundation.

And then from that, you have your character development service projects, learning habits, manners, social skills, those things, but, you know, good citizenship, we do have what's called the Lone Star Study, and that is teaching, you know, Texas.

M.

citizenship... not citizenship, but Texas government is what I'm looking for. And so, you know, but that government, those civics, those... that... all that stuff can go into there, but also just...

learning to be a good neighbor, and what that looks like, and even in your home, I mean, doing chores, doing, you know, learning how to handle a bank account, you know, learning life skills, you know, and a lot of it, you know.

Just really boils down to that foundation of your faith and the character development.

Because... things are built upon those. So, I don't know if anybody

If y'all want to add anything to that, or...

Yeah, I totally agree. I think that's great, Heather. And also, just giving your kids that opportunity to be creative about their skills and talents that God has given them to say, hey, you're... you're an awesome baseball player. How can you... how can you use this to honor the Lord, and to be a witness to others? And so, give baseball lessons, or go play with your neighbors.

kids and things like that, so helping your kids be creative. My daughter loves to make cinnamon rolls, and so she'll make cinnamon rolls to sell, but she also... we love to take those to our shut-ins from church or our neighbors that are down the street, and so...

Helping them do that and walk it out, and provide the opportunities to do that,

man, teach them how to shake hands, how to say yes ma'am, and no ma'am, and just be a good person in general, but also respectful, you know, respectful to other adults. And it amazes me how many people can tell the difference between a homeschool student and a public school student.

And it's because you're able to pour into your kid all day long. So, I know from experience, I've sent two to college, and man, it flies by, so take advantage of every moment. I think Jessica would agree, too.

Yep.

You know, what a blessing we have for 18 years to pour into our kids.

Well, Lindsay also wanted to say, on the other side of that, I was blessed as a recipient

Of those blessed cinnamon rolls.

That your daughter made.

Martin.

You know, at a time that we were struggling, you know, my mom was in the hospital going through some health issues, she still is, but that truly was a blessing, you know, to our family, that, you know, your daughter took the time to make those, and, you know, you brought those to us, so...

Absolutely.

Thank you for encouraging. That's cool.

Okay, we're gonna wrap up here, because we're one minute past, and so I want to be respectful of everybody's time. It's all good. These are some of our monthly Q&A dates and topics that are coming up.

We also have some upcoming webinars from our events team, and we have Capital Days that are coming up.

We have our convention this year.

And we have our graduations. Now, these are not all of our graduations, these are just some that have information on our website, so we'll add more as we get more. But please, you know, take a second to give us your feedback.

And, we really do appreciate it, because we want to make sure that what we're doing, and what we're... the topics we're discussing are the topics that you guys all need. So...

And that is it, and we hope that you all have a wonderful rest of the day, and rest of the week. So, thank you guys for joining us, and yeah, that's it. Have a great afternoon.

Bye, y'all.

Bye, everybody.