

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SERVE AS YOUR FAMILY'S OPTION 3 ACCOUNTABILITY ASSOCIATION.
-OUR PASSION IS TO ENCOURAGE, EDUCATE, AND EQUIP YOU AS AN ADMINISTRATOR WHILE SUPPORTING AND GUIDING YOU AS A TEACHER.

GO THROUGH ALL OF THE LINKS, VIDEO WEBINARS, AND BLOG ARTICLES WHILE KEEPING A RUNNING LIST OF QUESTIONS THAT NEED CONFIRMATION OR FURTHER EXPLANATION. THEN EMAIL THOSE QUESTIONS TO US- NEVER HESITATE TO REACH OUT WITH ANY **QUESTIONS** OR QUANDARIES. WE WILL ALWAYS BE JUST AN EMAIL AWAY, SERVING AT THE SPEED OF LIFE.
[KATIE@FAITHFULSCHOLARS.COM](mailto:katie@faithfulscholars.com) *(make katie@faithfulscholars.com a VIP or ruled to 'always allow to inbox' so you do not miss any responses, updates, digests, or reminders)*

OUR **WEEKLY DIGEST** COMES THROUGH EMAIL DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR. IF IT IS NOT SHOWING UP IN YOUR EMAIL, PLEASE CHECK SPAM, PROMOTIONS, ETC BOXES. IF IT STILL DOES NOT SHOW UP, REACH OUT TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR PREFERRED EMAIL ADDRESS INPUT. THE FAITHFUL SCHOLARS' DIGEST CONTAINS EVENTS, CLASSES, REMINDERS, UPDATES, AND MORE

-IF YOU ARE **JUST BEGINNING**, THOSE QUEASY FEELINGS WILL DISSIPATE AS THE YEAR GETS UNDERWAY. BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE LINKED DAILY RHYTHM SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE.

---CLASSES DO NOT NEED TO BE TEXTBOOK/CLASSROOM DRIVEN--

IN FACT, UNTIL GRADE 3 FOR GIRLS AND GRADE 4 FOR BOYS, WHEN A CHILD NATURALLY BEGINS TO UNDERSTAND COMPOSITION THROUGH PREVIOUS (HOPEFULLY EXCESSIVE READING), IT IS BEST TO USE TEXTS/WORKBOOKS FOR (ONLY) MATH AND READING/PHONICS WHILE THE REST IS TAUGHT THROUGH HANDS-ON, STORIES, EXPLORE/DISCOVER, READ ALOUD, LIFE, ETC.

IMAGINE IF WE APPROACHED TEACHING LESSONS AS WE DO TEACHING A GAME LIKE BASEBALL...

MATH BEGINS TO BE WORKBOOK AND TEXTBOOK LED, BUT YOU ARE STILL THE MAIN TEACHER UNPACKING, EXPLAINING, WORKING ALONGSIDE UNTIL MASTERY IS INDICATED. FOR A POSSIBLE DYSLEXIC OR PROCESSING STUDENT, THIS WILL TAKE MANY APPROACHES UNTIL THEY CAN TEACH YOU/ANOTHER THE CONCEPTS. THESE STUDENTS ALSO NEED TO USE WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING ON A REGULAR BASIS.

READING SELECT BOOKS THAT ARE AT READING LEVEL, BELOW LEVEL, AND ABOVE LEVEL (ESPECIALLY FOR READ-ALOUDS- THE ABOVE LEVEL) IF YOU WANT TO NATURALLY CREATE WONDERFUL WRITERS WITHOUT MUCH EFFORT. IT WILL ALSO IMPROVE SPELLING CAPABILITIES.

SCIENCE CAN CONTINUE TO BE EXPLORE/DISCOVER/OBSERVE/SKETCH/READ ALOUD OR HANDS-ON AND EXPLORATION AS PER THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CHIL(REN), BUT YOU SHOULD ALSO ADD IN (AT LEAST) REFERENCE BOOKS. I STILL DO NOT SUGGEST TEXTBOOK-LED SCIENCE AT THIS TIME. LESSONS SHOULD NOT BE BASED UPON MASTERY BUT ON SATIATING CURIOSITY.

HISTORY IS STILL BEST READ ALOUD, BUT ADDING IN SEVERAL TEXTS/BOOKS THAT YOUR STUDENT(S) CAN USE TO LEARN BEYOND WHAT YOU HAVE INTRODUCED. THEN YOU CAN DISCUSS AND GET EXCITED OVER THE EXTRA LESSON THEY BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION (AND TEACH YOU). AS WITH SCIENCE, LESSONS SHOULD NOT BE BASED UPON MASTERY BUT ON SATIATING CURIOSITY. MANY VIEW POINTS CREATES A WORLD VIEW.

OUR FAVORITE BOOKS, METHODS, CURRICULUM

based upon richness, price, time-efficiency, beauty, efficiency

MATH—SINGAPORE (TEACHES THE ‘HOW’ AND THE ‘WHY’), LIFE OF FRED, MAMMOTH MATH, GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL

READING—SELECT CLASSIC LITERATURE AND PENGUIN ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

-- READ ALOUD WITH TELL-BACK/NARRATION BY MISTY SPINELLI

SPELLING --SPELLING RULES by ACADEMIC ASSOCIATES

SEQUENTIAL SPELLING

CORRECT SPELLING ONE OR TWO WORDS AT A TIME. DO NOT MAKE IT OVERWHELMING AS SPELLING, FOR MANY OF US, IS A LIFE LONG PURSUIT. BE GENTLE AND SEE THE LONG VIEW RATHER THAN FOLDING TO THE PRESSURE OF YOUR FRIEND’S EXCELLENT SPELLER.

SCIENCE- EXPLORE/DISCOVER WITH OBSERVATION & SKETCHBOOK REFERENCE BOOKS

-LIVING BOOKS SUCH AS COMSTOCK’S NATURE HANDBOOK, MADAM HOW AND LADY WHY, THE WATER BABIES, AND OTHER CHARLOTTE MASON OR CLASSICAL ED MATERIALS

SOCIAL STUDIES (WE CALL IT HISTORY)— ANY HISTORICAL FICTION BOOK

-A CHILD’S HISTORY OF THE WORLD BY HILYER

- -S.W. BAUER IS GOOD FOR MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

--CHILD DRAWS SOMETHING FROM WITHIN TEXT READ ALOUD

---YOU WRITE A BLIP ABOUT THE DRAWING AS YOU BUILD YOUR OWN S.S. BOOK

TECHNOLOGY OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED A FEEDING TUBE. THE INFORMATION IS THERE AND CAN BE PUT INSIDE ONE’S BRAIN, BUT THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP, TRUE UNDERSTANDING, NOR LOVE OF THE INFORMATION GAINED. **SCREEN-LED LEARNING IS PRE-ORDERED MATERIAL LEADING TO PRE-ORDERED ANSWERS THAT WON’T CHANGE WITH QUESTIONING AND IMAGINATION, THUS ELIMINATING THE USE OF QUESTIONING AND IMAGINATION.**

USE TECHNOLOGY AS A ‘SECOND LESSON’ AND YOUR CHILDREN (SONS IN PARTICULAR) WILL DO ‘SECOND LESSONS’ ALL DAY LONG. IT CAN BE A TIME FILLER AND A BREAK FOR YOU TO GET OTHER WORK DONE IF YOU ARE STILL NEEDING TO BE ‘EYES ON’.

IF YOU STRICTLY USED LITERATURE TOWARD THE SAME END WITH ZERO OPTION FOR TECH TIME, YOU WILL HAVE MUCH LESS ARGUMENT, ZERO POLICING FOR SAFETY/SNEAKING, AND, AS RESEARCH CONTINUES TO SUPPORT, WE AVOID LIMITING OUR CHILDREN’S MINDS THROUGH PLAYTIME RATHER THAN SCREEN TIME.

CONSIDER THE RESEARCH SHOWING THAT **LARGE MUSCLE PLAY** CONNECTS AS MANY NEUROLOGICAL PATHWAYS AS A WORKSHEET. NOW THEY ARE SAYING TECH DOES NOT ALLOW THE BRAIN TO FULLY DEVELOP. IT IS NOT THE TECH, IT IS THE LACK OF MOVEMENT. YOUR CHILDREN, IF TAUGHT HOW TO LEARN, CAN TEACH THEMSELVES ANY SUBJECT AT ANY TIME, BUT THEY WILL OUTGROW THE DAYS OF CHILDHOOD BEFORE YOU BLINK. LET THEM CLIMB!! FORCE THEM OUTSIDE!! PUT YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS BUILDING A STRONG SPIRIT, MIND, AND BODY RATHER THAN JUST GETTING A PIECE OF QUIET.

WHEN YOU COME UPON THE **DAYS THAT FEEL LIKE YOU ARE FAILING**, TAKE THE DAY OFF, AND OBSERVE ALL OF THE 'PLAYING' YOUR CHILDREN DO THAT IS, IN FACT, TRUE AND REAL LEARNING. **BUT**, WE FEEL ILL-EQUIPPED FEARING THAT WE ARE FALLING SHORT WHEN WE DO NOT GO FULL THROTTLE DAY IN AND DAY OUT.

WHY DO WE EXPECT THAT OF OURSELVES? DO NOT EXPECT MORE OF YOUR SPOUSE/CHILDREN.

THE REAL WORLD DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT OF US. LEARN TO ACCEPT THE EBB AND FLOW OF HOMESCHOOL AS WE DO WITH THE STATE OF ALL THINGS IN OUR LIVES. *When* it is on fire, we attend to it. *When* it is way out of order, we attend to it. *When* it is going along fairly well, we enjoy the flow.

SEEKING RHYTHM IS EVERY HOMESCHOOLERS CONSTANT HOLY GRAIL. WE FIND IT ONLY TO LOSE IT AS SOMETHING ELSE REQUIRES THAT WE BOUNCE OUT OF ROUTINE. MULTIPLY THAT OCCURRENCE BY THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN YOU HAVE, -DON'T FORGET TO ADD IN YOURSELF, YOUR SPOUSE, AND ANY PETS, --AND FOCUS ON SKELETAL OUTLINES, SKELETAL PLANS, AND **LOTS OF FLEXIBILITY** THAT ALLOWS LIFE AND LEARNING TO WEAVE TOGETHER WITH JOY AND PEACE.

LAUGH AT YOURSELF AND THE SITUATIONS THAT WILL COME ALONG TO CAUSE A PERFECT DAY TO DERAIL. GO WITH THE FLOW AND DISCOVER THAT GOD'S NEW PLAN FOR YOUR DAY IS EQUALLY, IF NOT MORE, RICH IN LEARNING. TRYING TO FIGHT BACK TO 'THE ORDER OF YOUR PLANNED DAY' WILL DRAIN YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN FROM THE JOY OF LEARNING. SCRAPPING THE DAY IN A HUFF WILL DO THE SAME. IT IS A JOURNEY RATHER THAN A POINT-TO-POINT RACE.