HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is an option in King George County. Homeschooling regulations are governed by the <u>Virginia Department of Education</u> to ensure regular, thorough instruction is occurring throughout the year in studies usually taught to public school children of the same age (English, math, science, social studies, art, music, health and physical education).

Parents choosing to home school their children must file a <u>Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction</u> <u>form</u> with the King George School Board Office. This form must be filed each year a student is home schooled.

King George County Public School Home Instruction Contact

The Central Office contact for Home Instruction and Compulsory Attendance information is the Supervisor of Guidance and Social Work Services at 540-775-5833 ext 8614 School Board Office.

TYPES OF HOMESCHOOLING

Classical Homeschooling

The goal of the classical approach is to teach individuals how to learn for themselves. The five tools of learning known as the *Trivium* are reason, record, research, relate, and rhetoric. All the tools come together in the rhetoric stage with communication as the primary focus.

Multiple Intelligences

This idea developed by Howard Gardner and Harvard University's Project Zero states that everyone is intelligent in his or her own way and that learning is easiest and most effective when it uses a person's strength rather than weakness. Most successful homeschoolers naturally emphasize their children's strengths and automatically tailor their teaching to match their child's learning style.

Montessori Method

The Montessori Method emphasizes error-less learning in which children learn at their own pace to develop their full potential. The Montessori homeschool curriculum emphasizes beauty and avoids things that are confusing or cluttered. Learning material is kept well-organized and ready to use. Although Montessori materials are available for high school students, most homeschoolers use the Montessori Method for younger children.

School-at-Home

Most families follow the school-at-home approach which comes with textbooks, study schedules, grades, and record keeping. Also School-at-home is the style most often portrayed in the media because it is so easy to understand and can be accompanied by a photo of the children studying around the kitchen table. But this is also the most expensive method and the style with the highest burnout rate. Because this option requires much more work on the part of the teacher/parent and provides

lessons which may not be tailored to meet an individual child's needs, it has the greatest burnout rate of homeschooling options.

Distance Learning/Internet Homeschooling

Online curriculum programs, public and private distance learning, and homeschool support academies are available via the internet. Depending upon the program or tutors, expert advice and resources may be found to assist the parent with homeschooling their children.

Unit Studies

This type of home schooling involves teaching everything within the spectrum of a unit. For example, while studying the topic of the Titanic, students might read about or do activities involving ice, flotation, naval history. They may do math activities to figure the square footage of space on the ship, weight of the passengers total compared to capability of the lifeboats, they study deep sea exploration, read about the history of the time, write a fictional story about a child on the ship, study social stratification at the time or discuss the increase in immigration to the US at the time, its reasons and implications.... on and on. Lots of the instruction is ACTION based not just workbooks. The advantage here is "killing several birds with one stone" and it can be easier to teach multiple grades simultaneously.

HOMESCHOOL REGULATIONS AND FORMS

Virginia Department of Education

Fredericksburg City Public Schools

Colonial Beach County Public Schools

Spotsylvania Public Schools

Westmoreland Public Schools

HOME SCHOOL RESOURCES

Virginia Homeschoolers Association

Home School Legal Defense Association

Homeschool World

Homeschool.com

K-12 Online Homeschooling

Homeschool Association for the Military Families

Homeschooling Today magazine

The National Home Education Network

Homeschool Central

The WorldWide Independent Distance Education Academy (WorldWide IDEA)

Home School Mentor

You Can Homeschool

Tutor.Com

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