

DaySpring Academy and High School

Enrollment Handbook

*What does education often do? It makes a straight-cut ditch of a free, meandering brook.
~~ Henry David Thoreau*

I do not intend to tiptoe through this life only to arrive safely at death.

**• Knowledge • Truth • Honor • Freedom •
Family-Based Home Education**

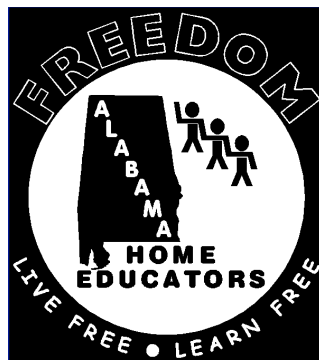
*Learning is a wide brush of knowledge that colors whomever it touches,
however much at the moment, on an infinite canvas of mind.*

Learning should be enlightenment not indoctrination.

58 Tambourine Lane Decatur, AL 35603 (256) 353-2592

www.dsacademy.org

dayspringacademy@att.net



Quite often I have seen in correspondence columns inquiries from anxious parents asking if they ought to let a child go to others because of 'the advantages she will have which I cannot provide' -- such as a first-class education. I always long to cry out, 'Don't let the child go.'

Her own home, her own people, love and the security of belonging

-- what does the best education in the world mean against that?

~~ Agatha Christie

PHILOSOPHY OF LEARNING

We, at DaySpring Academy, have many opinions about family based home education. For many of us, years of experience and research helped form those opinions. We always encourage parents to examine closely their own learning philosophy and what they believe about children and learning.

Often, because we ourselves come from a public school mentality, we see school as something we do to our children. We can actually have a hard time accepting that learning is something our children do for themselves. As parents, we should provide resources, and opportunities for learning as well as being an example of ever pursuing information to our children. Children pursue learning as naturally as they breathe or talk.

*"Hitherto the plans of the educationalists have achieved very little of what they attempted and indeed we may well thank the beneficent obstinacy of real mothers, real nurses, and above all, real children for preserving the human race in such sanity as it still possess."
~~ CS Lewis.*

There is a difference in teaching and learning. Learning is a very personal endeavor that each person approaches differently. To believe that anyone, and especially children, cannot "learn" unless they are "taught" is simply wrong. Smiley faces, gold stars, grades, extra points do nothing to foster true learning but do help a child play the system.

Children begin a journey called learning the minute they are born and will continue for all their life. They begin with a curiosity, interest and a zeal to know new things, and given freedom and encouragement they find their own paths. A path no one else may understand. Learning is like a puzzle. Each person puts a puzzle together differently. Some start with corner pieces, some match colors, some make faces or figures, some work in to out and some go out to the inside. Everyone approaches this differently and often we cannot see how anyone can do it any other way.

For children, learning is like that. They follow tangents and rabbit paths and often see connections we fail to understand. We cannot do this for them because when we insist on 'teaching' children 'stuff', they can get lost on this trail not of their own creation and thus become forever dependent on others' road signs.

We must give our children confidence, trust, respect and love. They will and can learn the rest.

We believe learning must be more than rote memorization and test taking skills (though these may have their merit at times). It must be relevant to the whole child -- the intellectual, physical, spiritual sides. It must be a family based education because no one else knows the child enough to be trusted with such a task - certainly not strangers and certainly not a government.

"I am beginning to suspect all elaborate and special systems of education. They seem to me to be built upon the supposition that every child is a kind of idiot who must be taught to think. Whereas, if the child is left to himself, he will think more and better, if less showily. Let him go and come freely, let him touch real things and combine his impressions for himself, instead of sitting indoors at a little round table, while a sweet-voiced teacher suggests that he build a stone wall with his wooden blocks, or make a rainbow out of strips of coloured paper, or plant straw trees in bead flower-pots. Such teaching fills the mind with artificial associations that must be got rid of, before the child can develop independent ideas out of actual experience."
~~ Anne Sullivan

ALABAMA STATE LAW ON EDUCATION AND CHURCH SCHOOLS

Please read

16-1-11. Private schools to register and report. All private schools or institutions of any kind having a school in connection therewith, **except church schools as defined in Section 16-28-1**, shall register annually on or before October 10 with the department of education and shall report on uniform blanks furnished by the state superintendent of education, giving such statistics as relate to the number of pupils, the number of instructors, enrollment, attendance, course of study, length of term, cost of tuition, funds, value of property and the general condition of the school. (School Code 1927, Section 599; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 547.)

16-28-1. Private School. (A) The term "private school" as used in this chapter, shall mean and only include such schools as hold a certificate issued by the state superintendent of education, showing that such school conforms to the following requirements: (1)The instruction in such schools shall be by persons holding certificates issued by the state superintendent of education; (2) Instruction shall be offered in the several branches of study required to be taught in the public schools of this state; (3) The English language shall be used in giving instructions; (4) A register of attendance shall be kept which clearly indicates every absence of each child from such school for a half day or more during each school day of the school year; **(B) The term church school, as used in this chapter, shall mean and only include such schools as offer instruction in grades K-12, or any combination thereof including the kindergarten, elementary, or secondary level and are operated as a ministry of a local church, group of churches, denomination, and/or association of churches of a nonprofit basis which do not receive any state or federal funding. (School Code 1927, Section 302; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 299.)**

16-28-3. Ages of children required to attend school. Every child between **the ages of seven and 16 years shall be required to attend public school, private school, church school, or be instructed by a competent private tutor for the entire length of the school term in every scholastic year except that every child attending a church school as defined in 16-28-1 is exempt from the requirements of this section, provided such child complies with enrollment and reporting procedure specified in Section 16-28-7, Code of Alabama 1975.** Admission to public school shall be on an individual basis on the application of the parents, legal custodian or guardian of the child to the local board of education at the beginning of each school year, under such rules and regulations as the board may prescribe. (School Code 1927, Section 301; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 297; Acts 1956, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 117, p.446, Section 3.)

16-28-7. Report of enrollment. At the end of the fifth day from the opening of the public school, the principal teacher of each public school, private school, and each private tutor, **but not church school**, shall report on forms prescribed by the state superintendent of education to the county superintendent of education.....
The enrollment and attendance of a child in a church school shall be filled with the local public school superintendent by the parent, guardian or other person in charge or control of the child on a form provided by the superintendent or his agent which shall be countersigned by the administrator of the church school and returned to the public school superintendent by the parent. Should said child cease attendance at a church school, the parent, guardian, or other person in charge or control of the child shall by prior consent at the time of enrollment direct the church school to notify the local public school superintendent or his agent that said child no longer is in attendance at a church school. (School Code 1927, Section 309; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 306.)

16-28-8. Reports required must be furnished. All school officers, including those in private schools, or private tutors, **but not those in church schools**, in this state, offering instruction to pupils within the compulsory attendance ages, shall make and furnish all reports they may be required by the state superintendent of education and by the county superintendent of education or by the board of education of any city with reference to the workings of this chapter. **The principal teacher of each public school, private school, church school, and each private tutor shall keep an attendance register showing the enrollment of the school and every absence of each enrolled child from school for a half day or more during each school day of the year. (School Code 1927, Section 310; Code 1940, T. 52, Section 307.)**

There is only one Education, and it has only one goal: the freedom of the mind.

Anything that needs an adjective, be it civics education, or socialist education, or Christian education, or whatever-you-like education, is not education, and it has some different goal. The very existence of modified "educations" is testimony to the fact that their proponents cannot bring about what they want in a mind that is free. An "education" that cannot do its work in a free mind, and so must "teach" by homily and precept in the service of these feelings and attitudes and beliefs rather than those, is pure and unmistakable tyranny.

~~ Richard Mitchell, The Underground Grammarian, September 1982

DEALING WITH TRUANT/ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

If a truant or attendance officer comes to your door asking about your child's enrollment:

1. First ask them if they have checked with the County/City super's office for the legal copy of your CSEF. If they have not, suggest they get in touch with that office as this is where the law says the forms go.
2. If they insist, show them a copy of your CSEF and ask them if you need to send one to the super's office.
3. If they ask for more than this legal form, give them my name and number and explain that I am the administrator of the school and all questions can be directed to me.
4. Call the BOE super's office and ask them if they have a copy of your CSEF. If they do, ask why the truant officer does not check with them before harassing families.
5. There is no law allowing them to ask for anything other than the CSEF. Demand all other requests be sent to you in writing with a copy to me.
6. Always ask for ID and a business card and a name.

Make sure you have read the law and know what is legally required by you, the parent, and to what extent government schooling personnel can ask for information. Please do not give up your legal rights without seriously considering the ramifications including the possibility that DSA can no longer help if you create serious legal issues.

If the superintendent's office calls wanting a copy, ask them if they have checked their files for your CSEF. Let them know the date you enrolled and if you mailed it or dropped it off. If they are unable to find a copy, you can fax or mail them a copy of your form.

Please keep your CSEF in a safe place.

The local schools, including all teachers, counselors and principals are NOT legally entitled to a copy of the CSEF. They only receive a RSR in order to send the students records to the new school. There is absolutely NOTHING school personnel can demand, ask for or require. Remember that any school policy is THEIR policy, not DSA and since you are enrolling elsewhere, you are not under their policies anymore. They cannot ask for DSA's paperwork, handbook or anything else. Please be respectful but firm with any requests they have.

HOMESCHOOLING VS GOVERNMENT SCHOOLING

As you plan your educational goals and buy curriculum, please remember one important thing. Homeschooling is NOT public schooling -- nor do we want it to be. Grade levels, grade testing, textbooks and teaching plans simply do not work well in the home. One-on-one learning, and hands-on child-led learning is the home education way. Public school grade level skills do not apply to those who homeschool, as we believe learning is lifelong and at the individual child's pace. To place requirements that are invented by people with a vested interest in prolonging a child's stay in the system for 12 years is quite ridiculous at best and damaging at worst. We don't want our children on the same "schedule" as those in government schools because we know that does NOT work. It produces children who hate learning and cannot learn on their own, and divides the family. Take some time off if you are bringing your child home from PS. Spend time talking and going places. Don't jump right in to a curriculum. Don't allow others who don't understand homeschooling to criticize your choices or pressure you into evaluating learning the same as a public school.

When taking a child out of PS, there is always a need for time away from academics. You need to concentrate on building a relationship first with them. Things may even look worse before they get better—this is ALL normal and ok. Please bear with the changes and don't give up.

*Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.
So throw off the bowlines.
Sail away from the safe harbor.
Catch the trade winds in your sails.
Explore. Dream. Discover.
~~ Mark Twain*

I suppose it is because nearly all children go to school nowadays and have things arranged for them that they seem so forlornly unable to produce their own ideas.
~~ Agatha Christie

TO ENROLL, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES.

IF PAPERWORK IS SIGNED AND DATED

1. Read the guidelines and policies form (GPF)
2. Fill out the FIF, CSEF, RSR, and Enrollment Transmittal form. Make sure you sign and date all areas, and your signature and date should be within 2 weeks of the date signed by the school.
3. Make 2 copies of the original CSEF- one is for you, one is to be sent to the local BOE. Send the RSR to the last school attended.
4. Send in the FIF, CSEF, and Enrollment Transmittal Form, with the enrollment fee.
5. Please send all paperwork within 2 weeks of date signed by DSA. If you have paperwork signed prior to that, call before completing or sending it in.
6. Send a SASE for the verification of forms sent back to you.

IF PAPERWORK HAS BEEN DOWNLOADED FROM ONLINE AND/OR IS NOT SIGNED

1. Read the guidelines and policies form (GPF)
2. Fill out FIF, CSEF, RSR and Enrollment Transmittal form, signing and dating all areas.
3. Send in all 4 forms, the enrollment fee, and a SASE
4. If you are enrolling in the middle of the school year, please do not delaying sending papers. At a minimum, DSA should receive paperwork within 2 weeks of the date signed. If you delay completing the enrollment process after withdrawing your child, your child is truant and there is no defense with which DaySpring can help.

REQUIREMENTS TO ENROLL IN DSA

1. Fill out proper forms and send them to DSA
2. The enrollment fee is per family and covers all children enrolled at the time of initial enrollment; it is due when enrolling (even during the middle of the school year. There is no pro-rated fee and no refund for any reason once the check is cashed.
3. You must inform the school if the child has been expelled or suspended. There may be extra costs and additional requirements.
4. You are expected to check the DaySpring Message Board online monthly and are responsible for the information posted there. If you do not have internet access at home, or cannot access it at a friend or relative's home, we suggest the use of local public libraries.
5. If a partial enrollment is processed, leaving one or more of the children in public school, an additional fee is due if you later decide to remove them from public school and add them to the family enrollment. See the fee schedule for "extra child" enrollment fees.

BOOK/CURRICULUM ORDERING

Please remember that DSA will not order books for you. You MUST ask for help if you need it. Parents are responsible for ordering whatever books are needed. Refer to the list of catalogs to call for. ROCK Solid catalog has the Alpha Omega workbooks at a great low price. Call them at 800.705.3452 or www.rocksolidinc.com

PLEASE READ:

Keep your copy of the CSEF in a safe place. Keep with your CSEF the enrollment acceptance letter that you will receive from me when your enrollment is complete.

It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom.
~~ Einstein

I don't want my children fed or clothed by the state, but I would prefer that to their being educated by the state.
~~ Max Victor Belz

MESSAGE BOARD

In October 2004, DSA chose to maintain a message board rather than the email or postal newsletter we have used in the past. All field trips, activities, conferences will be listed and updated frequently at the message board:

<http://dayspring.evecommunity.com/eve>

You are responsible for checking this web site often to find out the latest events and announcements. Please email the activities directors, Cherie Scogin and Judy Twigg, to get on their personal email lists so they can keep you informed of all trips and activities.

DSA DOES NOT REQUIRE

1. A Statement of Faith
2. Membership in HSLDA
3. Personal meeting or classes before enrollment or during the school year
4. Approval of curriculum or methods of education
5. Keeping of hours each day
6. Exit exams or testing of any type except for those choosing Advanced College Prep diploma program.

DSA OFFERS

1. Legal Church School offering a family-based education program
2. Administrative support
3. Official transcript for graduating seniors, no fee if requested at the time of graduation, (a fee for all other transcripts)
4. Information on parent-administered tests and high school SAT/ACT/PSAT
5. Local co-op classes and field trips (where interest warrants)
6. School Message Board and Online support—web pages, links, email lists

ATTENDANCE REPORTS/PROGRESS REPORTS

These reports are not required each year. Since our belief is that learning happens 365 days a year and no student is absent from learning, then no reports are sent in to prove days of attending school or to account for absence. There is more to learning than academics. As long as a child is enrolled in DSA, this is our policy.

If a child leaves DSA, then reports accounting for 140 to 185 days of "academic" attendance each year will need to be sent to me along with transcript information. See Transcript Request forms, available online at

<http://www.dsacademy.org/forms.html>

RE-ENROLLING

Each year a family must fill out and send in the re-enrollment form, including the fee for the upcoming school year. Re-enrollments not postmarked in a timely manner require an additional fee. Information regarding current deadlines and re-enrollment fees are included in the Fee Schedule. You will need to check the message board in May and June, at the end of each DSA school year, for any changes in fees and/or exact deadlines. The re-enrollment form can be downloaded from <http://www.dsacademy.org/forms.html>.

TRANSCRIPTS

What are these and who needs them?

A transcript is a form that lists all the subjects and grades a student has finished. This form follows a student to a new school or to a college. Since we encourage home education through high school, a transcript will be prepared for a graduating senior who needs one for college for no charge (if diploma fee is paid); these must be requested in a timely manner and according to the guidelines on the Transcript Request Form.

A student going back into public school or transferring to a private/church school, either in state or out, will need a transcript of all work accomplished during their enrollment with DSA.

We will create a transcript using the information prepared and certified by the parent on the Transcript Request Form and will send the transcript to the parent, not the new school. Fees apply and are based on time of year requested and amount of advance notice. Current fees are listed in the fee schedule but are subject to change. Any changes will be reflected on the Transcript Request Forms that are required in order to have a transcript prepared. If you do not pay the fees, give the notice required, (typically two to three weeks, if no Rush fee is paid), and submit the appropriate Transcript Request Form, I will not send a transcript but only previous schools paperwork (if not previously returned to the parent) and a letter from DSA stating no work is validated or recorded.

No transcripts will be completed without the appropriate Transcript Request Form. THE forms are on the website and can be downloaded.

Please help the transition to go smoothly by abiding by these guidelines.

If a child is unenrolled and then a parent wants to re-enroll that child, the "extra child" fee will apply even if other children in the family are still enrolled.

Graduating Senior Transcripts:

To get a transcript for a graduating senior, you must send me reports for each high school year with grades/subjects/credits even if you voluntarily turned in reports in previous years. Please keep excellent records of all work. Use the appropriate Transcript Request Form. (download the forms from the website)

Transcripts for Transferring Students:

To have a transcript made for a student going to another school, you must send me subjects and grades, student name, parent name, DOB and attendance. The work must be for a full 6 weeks of school. Anything less than 6 weeks will result in a non validated letter or pass/fail mark to the new school. Use the appropriate Transcript Request Form. (download the forms from the website)

*To go against the dominant thinking of your friends,
of most of the people you see every day,
is perhaps the most difficult act of heroism you can have.
~~Terence Hanbury White*

LEARNING SUGGESTIONS

ELEMENTARY AGES

1. IF you need grades use: Pass/Fail, E--excellent, S--satisfactory.
2. Be careful about using too much structure and doing too many subjects.
3. Use more hands on activities to teach concepts.
4. A general rule of thumb is K-2 about 1 hour a day, 3-4th about 1-2 hours, 5-6th about 2 hours.
5. Plan a 3 to 4-day academic week.
6. Read aloud every day. Poetry, classical stories, biographies and informative type books
7. Have plenty of games on hand, both board and computer
8. Be alert to stress and back off.
9. Buy student-oriented books
10. Focus on the 3 main subjects—reading, writing and math.
11. Let kids WIGGLE and move and sing and talk and BE KIDS!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. Begin high school subjects if reading ability is good.
2. Use letter number grades OR A for mastery, B for Complete Understanding and C for comprehension.
3. Continue hands-on for life skills.
4. Allow subjects to take more than a year or even less than a year.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Keep a daily/weekly journal with the things you feel your child has accomplished such as books read, projects completed, games, field trips etc.
2. Plan field trips to go along with a child's interest
3. Don't buy expensive curriculum right away.
4. For a child under stress coming out of the government schools, allow some deschooling time, even a few months is not unreasonable.
5. Make sure the goals set are your goals and not the government school's goals. We do not want to copy failure and neglect.

**I never teach my pupil; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.
Albert Einstein**

TESTING INFO

Call these companies for brochures. You can order a test, administer at home and send the test back to these companies for grading. They will send you a report.

Bayside School Service 800.723.3057

Christian Liberty Academy 847.259.8736

Hewitt Educational Resources 360.835.8708

I recommend Hewitt's PASS test designed specially for Home Educated Students.

School days, I believe, are the unhappiest in the whole span of human existence.
They are full of dull, unintelligible tasks, new and unpleasant ordinances,
brutal violations of common sense and common decency.

~~ H.L. Mencken (1880-1956)

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

High school students will be working towards a diploma from DSA. There are many ways to earn credits.

1. Traditional Textbook
2. Portfolio credits
3. Essay Credits or Research
4. Life Experiences and work/apprentice opportunities

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS*

Standard Diploma: 22 credits

English/History/Math/Science -- 3 credits each; Technical/Work/Life Skills --10 electives credits

Academic Diploma: 24 credits

Math/History/Science/English -- 4 credits each; Required Subjects: Algebra 1, Biology, US History, and World History; 8 electives

Advanced College Prep: 26 credits

Math/History/Science/English -- 4 credits each; Required Subjects: Alg1, Alg2, Geometry, Biology, US and World History, ½ credit each Government and Economics, (these are required history credits) minimum composite ACT/SAT Score 16; 10 electives

Highly Recommended: Foreign Language, Chemistry, Basic Computer Skills, Literature

Some possible electives (not a complete list)

Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, Consumer Math, Business Math, Drafting, CAD, Elementary Statistics, Accounting, General Math, Basic Math, Grammar, Composition, Business English, Vocabulary, Creative Writing, Literature, World History, Ancient Civilizations, Religion, Bible, Geography, Social Studies, Sociology, Economics, Government, Military History, European History, Aviation History, America History, Earth Science, Biology Pathology, Anatomy Physical Science, General Science, Anatomy, nutrition, Child Care, Parenting Skills, Home Ec, Sewing, Culinary Studies, Maternal Studies, Human Behavior, Criminal Justice, Ecology, Psychology, Chemistry, Word Processing, Computer Programming, SAT/ACT Prep, Wilderness Survival, Environment Study, Photography, Native American Studies, Fine Arts, Music Theory, Music Classes, Theater, Speech, Financial Management, CPR/First Aid, PE, Sign language, Latin Studies, Woodworking, Automotive, Volunteering, Shop, and participation in choirs, bands, sports teams clubs and organizations.

UAB has an excellent high school program. Work can be done online, correspondence, satellite and internet. Please call them for a catalog of subjects and costs. 205 348 9278. Most community colleges also have dual enrollment programs available.

DSA offers a complete and in depth book on High School Information. The book is \$20 and will be a great benefit to you. Contact me for info.

College Entrance:

In order for a student to enroll in a Jr/Community College from non-accredited schools such as DSA, the following are options:

A diploma and an ACT score of 16 composite or SAT Test.(Alabama Colleges want an ACT); or

A diploma and an Alabama Exit Exam Score; or

A GED score; or

Take the ASSET test for the Ability to Benefit program and pass. (check with individual 4 year colleges on their requirements.

Drivers License/ Permit Info and Work Permit Info:

Information is included in the High School Information Packet referenced below.

***IMPORTANT!!**

Information regarding diploma requirements, subject requirements, college requirements, etc. is subject to change due to policy changes made by the State Department of Education and the State College Board. DSA makes every effort to incorporate these changes; however, if your child is particularly determined to attend a specific college, you should contact that college in advance to check on requirements. This is particularly important for 4-year colleges that are not bound by State College Board policies.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION PACKET

Please download this packet from the web site when your child begins "high school level" work. Because of changing policies by state agencies, you will need to **download this package again just prior to the final high school year** to ensure that you are on track with current diploma requirements.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. To provide clear and factual information about home education to families in Alabama.
2. Encourage and support each family in their decision to home educate
3. To advocate for parental independence in their educational choices
4. To provide guidelines to help a student achieve their goal whether college, vo-tech, apprenticeship or personal business.
5. To minister to families coming out of the government schools. Helping parents once again become responsible and in control of their own children.
6. To offer a legal church school with a home education ministry to all families regardless of personal beliefs.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

DSA is a ministry of the church meetings we have in our home and with others. We believe a church is a group of people who come together for spiritual growth in the manner of study, worship, prayer and comfort. We do not believe the church is a physical building nor a specific denomination or even a specific spiritual belief. We do not ask or require any family to have our beliefs or any particular beliefs about GOD nor to attend any worship services in any way. We respect and defend each family's personal convictions and we ask that every family in DSA also respect others.

STEPS TO HOME EDUCATION

1. Research and choose a church school
2. Research all your educational options
3. Find a support group online/locally
4. Find a method that best suits you and your family
5. Refuse to listen to negative conversation
6. Enjoy your children daily
7. Encourage others to leave the Government school
8. Be vocal about your home education choice to others
9. Be flexible and willing to change methods at anytime
10. Let your children see you learning new things also

CHARLOTTE MASON INFORMATION

If you have questions or would like information on the Charlotte Mason method, call me for information on local contacts.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

We now have a mom who can help you in assessing and developing a plan of education for your child with learning challenges in the autistic spectrum. She has worked with and has experience with autistic children. Check the Message Board for contact information for Cherie Scogin. She is also a HSing mom. Please remember to ask about the consult fee.

BEGINNING HOME EDUCATION

If you are just starting out with DSA, you might be confused about how to get started. Here are some guidelines and ideas that will greatly help you.

1. Think about deschooling for a few weeks to months—depending on the situation and the child. Often Children need time to de-stress from public school.
2. Call and order many catalogs to get a good scope of what's out there.
3. Find a local support group and go to park days.
4. Join the email list with other home educators.
5. Go to educationalfreedom.com and learn more about parental freedoms.
6. Don't be unrealistic in your goals.

I EDUCATE NOT BY LESSONS, BUT BY GOING ABOUT MY BUSINESS
~~SOCRATES

RECORD KEEPING

Each family chooses how they want to keep records of a child's work. Some keep a weekly journal with academics, field trips, projects and other educational tidbits recorded for later grading. Some use a pre-packaged curriculum. Even some home educators have come to the place where they realize their children learn all the time in ways not even recordable and therefore accept that learning is closely intertwined with life. So choose a style that fits your family.

DISMISSAL FROM DSA

1. Failure to pay fees or a bounced check not cleared up
2. Failure to inform me of a new address or phone number.
3. Conduct that puts DSA in jeopardy or legal trouble
4. Child/parent involved in illegal activities
5. Child moving to another parent's home without informing DSA
6. Parent not having full legal custody OR spouse not agreeing to Home education
7. Disagreements on DSA policies.
8. Parents not being honest about problems going on that may have a bearing on legal issues/custody issues/truancy issues

If I were asked to enumerate ten educational stupidities,
the giving of grades would head the list...
If I can't give a child a better reason for studying than a grade on a report card,
I ought to lock my desk and go home and stay there.
~~Dorothy De Zouche

DaySpring Academy -- Official Statement on Public school and Education

The goals of the public education system have never been to educate our children. Whether or not a child ever learns is irrelevant; whether the child has attended enough days to allow the system to profit from daily attendance proceeds is the only matter of legal importance or consideration.

Public school policies have become increasingly arbitrary, ambiguous, and discriminatory. These standards were not enacted for the mutual benefit of the school and the student/families, but written solely for the benefit of the school system. Frequently, the State will have one set of guidelines and the counties another; the counties one set of rules and each school yet a different set. As our personal philosophical stands against government intrusion into the educational arena have increased, we have noticed greater amounts of energy and time being spent trying to "prove" that home education is a legitimate way of learning, as well as educating officials of the legality of home education as set forth by Alabama Law.

During my 23 years in Home Education, with 11 of those years being spent as Dayspring Academy's administrator, I have routinely interacted with State officials, the superintendents of numerous school boards, school counselors, judges and truant officers. As I believe that DSA is a legal church school as defined by the laws of Alabama as well as my own personal religious/spiritual beliefs, I have always tried to maintain a professional and courteous relationship in any school interaction. However, recent repetitive events have caused me and the other members of DSA to reevaluate the morality of continuing to interact with the public education system other than what is required by law.

We cannot, in good conscience, be an active participant in re-enrolling a child in a system that is cruel and remorseless in the damage that it daily inflicts on people. We cannot, in faith, accept and ignore such blatant abuse to another human being, even if it is being perpetrated in the form or name of "education." Finally, as a point of conviction, DSA will no longer inquire into and attempt to know the changing, ever-shifting policies regarding students returning to public school with regard to grade placement testing, semester testing or requirements for graduation for the State, all counties, and any individual public schools.

After much prayer and thought, we, Dayspring Academy, will no longer mediate between the public school system and parents, beyond that which is ethically and morally compelling, in order to return any student to a government school. What follows is a summarization of our educational philosophy regarding public schools and DSA policy regarding DSA or potential DSA students returning to public school.

If you think your child will be returning to the government system at any point, you are still welcome to enroll with DSA. We support your right to make all decisions regarding the parenting of your child, including the placement in the government school setting; however, it has always been **the parent's responsibility**, not DSA's, to know the particular requirements of the State, your county of enrollment, and the school with which you wish to enroll/reenroll. We suggest the following if reenrollment is a possibility:

1. Contact the Alabama State Board of Education. Ask for a written copy of their policies pertaining to students enrolling/re-enrolling or transferring from non-accredited schools to the public schools in Alabama.
2. Go to your local superintendent's office, as well as to the school in which you intend to reenroll your child, and inquire as to whether they follow the state guidelines or if they have their own policies regarding the same. Get their policy in writing and signed by someone in authority.

As with all things, we are continually growing in our beliefs about education, in our commitment to all things that are good, true, honorable, and that best uphold the family's responsibilities to their child. We strive to avoid involvement in anything directly opposing our own beliefs that the government has no place in the education of our children. Though our society encourages people to not make firm political stands, we can and will be active in our daily position regarding the necessity of the separation of the state and education, which will be reflected in DSA policies.

Educational Philosophy of Dayspring Academy Regarding Public Schools.

1. We do not believe public schools are safe or fit places for children to spend most of their day. Children need guidance and supervision from adults who love and care about them individually and should not be left in the care of strangers for any length of time.
2. No longer can we, for any reason, accept that the public school system and all of its incumbent participants have the best interest and well being of any child at the core of their organization.
3. We do not see that the public education system has demonstrated any interest in improving educational levels, nor any desire to make a better learning environment, nor even any truthful attempts at working with parents. Increasingly, the public school system has become political in power and profit-oriented in nature, with our children being their lucrative pawns.
4. We are morally opposed to the exploitation of children by compulsory attendance laws. Therefore we support the abolishment of this law which does nothing to foster learning but instead condemns a child to be in institutional settings for 12 years of their life without their consent.
5. We are ethically opposed to a system that demands parents prove a child has learned through home education, but the public school is never asked to prove their way works.
6. We are strongly opposed to strangers indoctrinating children with secular/religious/anti-religious propaganda that conflicts with the family's own personal beliefs.
7. We strongly believe it is the parents' responsibility to direct the education of their own child and we will not usurp this responsibility by working with the system around the parents

DSA Recommendations for Parents Regarding Students Returning to Public School

It is up to each parent to personally research options when interacting with your local public schools and gathering information pertaining to possible future re-enrollment. We hope the DSA policies listed below will help you to make a more fully informed decision.

1. All records held by DSA belong to the parent/guardian of the student. Any public school records sent to DSA will be held in file until the parents request them, in writing, and send proper postage to cover the mailing fees.(\$5 minimum)
2. When the child graduates from DSA, a diploma is provided for a fee. If the diploma fee is paid and a transcript is requested in accordance with guidelines, an official transcript will be made at no additional charge. It will be sent to whomever the parent requests (colleges, the military, or employers).
3. If a child transfers to the public school before graduation, official transcripts will be made and sent to the parent along with all previous records. We will no longer send records directly to the public schools or other church schools. Fees are applicable and completion of Transcript Request Forms is required.
4. Parents are responsible for knowing all requirements, both state and local, for a child re-entering the public school from a non-accredited school.
5. A student must complete a full 6 weeks of work and parents must turn in the applicable Transcript Request Forms (including the attendance forms included at the non high-school level) BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has less than this amount of time with DSA or does not turn in the required reports, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified.
6. All fees must be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent. A minimum 2-week notice is advised.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY!!!!

1. Enrollment is open to all families who would like to enroll in our home education program. We do not discriminate against race, religion, or geographic location
2. Families are enrolling in DSA's family-based home education program. Their home is a satellite classroom of DSA. Parents work with the administrator to provide the best educational method for their child. DSA staff or any of the volunteering parents are not responsible for the supervision of your children during co-op classes, field trips or other activities sponsored by DSA.
3. DSA supports traditional, eclectic, unschooling methods or any variation. We encourage parents to take full responsibility for their family's educational needs by researching all avenues on how their own child learns and becoming fully acquainted with all legal aspects.
4. Please remember your children are enrolled in a church school according to the laws of AL.
5. Enrollment fee is per family and the full fee is charged at enrollment regardless what month you enroll. Re-enrollment fees are due each year according to the time-frames posted on the message board, but generally in August. Fees are non-refundable if parents decide not to keep a child in DSA or if DSA un-enrolls a family for any reason. Please do not ask for a reduced fee.
6. We provide curriculum counseling and help *IF A PARENT ASKS*, information on record keeping, a personal file at the school, testing information and an official school transcript when requested according to the transcript request guidelines.
7. Parents enrolling in mid-year must complete all forms within 2 weeks of signature date
8. A re-enrollment form is required each year after the initial enrollment year. Please fill out the form to re-enroll
9. Please keep DSA updated on new address and phone numbers. If we cannot contact you, we will dismiss you from DSA.
10. **DSA is not accredited** and no guarantee is being made that the government schools will accept subjects/credits the student has finished without possible testing. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure student is meeting requirements for re-entry into public school or entry into college. Colleges can have additional requirements for a non-accredited diploma.
11. If you leave DSA, you must fill out the request for transcript form and send in with the proper fee.
12. If you are enrolling an extra child during the school year, see the Fee Schedule for the additional fee amount required.

ACCREDITATION

Many times parents ask if we are accredited. We are not ---and we are not seeking to be accredited. We are a church school, which places us free of state regulation that has plagued the government school system. An accreditation requires information about class size, subjects taught by certain experts, a number of fire exits, and a lot of things home educators do not encounter since we are not mass educating. Since we support the parents' right to educate their child, we do not want the government telling us how to set up our school or how to evaluate a child's learning.

There are programs available to home educators to enroll in an accrediting program, but since they are not on the list of "approved" agencies by the State BOE, it has little benefit. Also, a parent can use an accredited correspondence school in conjunction with a church school.

We are also not a private school, which again is regulated by the state. We are a church school working under the church school law. Please read the law to help educate yourself on this very important aspect of home education.

When you want to teach children to think, you begin by treating them seriously when they are little, giving them responsibilities, talking the them candidly, providing privacy and solitude for them, and making them readers and thinkers of significant thoughts from the beginning. That's if you want to teach them to think.
~~Bertrand Russell

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.
~~ Robert Maynard Hutchins

TOP PICKS

CATALOGS

ROCK Solid	1 800 705 3452	www.rocksolidinc.com
Timberdoodle	1 360 426 0672	www.timberdoodle.com
Greenleaf Press	1 615 449 1617	www.greenleafpress.com
Institute for Math Mania	1 800 NUMERAL	
Book Peddler	1 440 284 6654	www.the-book-peddler.com
Beautiful Feet Books	1 800 889 1978	www.bfbooks.com
Rainbow Resource	1 888 841 3456	www.rainbowresource.com
Common Sense Press	1 352 475 5757	www.cspress.com
Lifetime Books	1 863 676 6311	http://www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com
Tobins Lab	1 540 937 7173	www.tobinslab.com
Chinaberry Book Service	1 800 776 2242	www.chinaberry.com
Bluestocking Press	1 530 622 8586	www.bluestockingpress.com
Dover Publications 31 E 2 nd St Mineola NY 11501	fax: 516-742-6953	http://store.doverpublications.com
FUNN news/FUN books	1 888 386 7020	www.fun-books.com

MAGAZINES

Homeschooling Today Magazine PO Box 1608 Dept. SH Ft. Collins, CO 80522-1608	http://www.homeschooltoday.com
The Eclectic Homeschool PO Box 736 Bellevue NE	www.eho.org
Home Ed Magazine PO Box 1083 Tonasket WA 98855	http://www.homeedmag.com/index.html
Homeschool Digest PO Box 374 Covert Mi 49043	http://www.homeschooldigest.com

WEB PAGES

HEART -- Home Educators of Alabama Round Table
www.alabamahomeschooling.com

Eclectic Homeschooling Online
www.eho.org

www.unschooling.com

Alliance for Intellectual Freedom in Education
www.mainstream.net/nhpolitics/thinker.html

Classical Christian Homeschooling
<http://www.classical-homeschooling.org>

Educational Freedom
www.educationalfreedom.com

If you are able to get online, there are several articles written by me that were originally in HELM magazine. Also, several great articles by Cathy Henderson. If this is your first year of home education, please go to the school web page and read her article "Sharing the Journey". It will give you a lot of inspiration and encouragement along the way. The articles can be found at www.dsacademy.org.

Also check out educationalfreedom.com and alabamahomeschooling.com for more info.

ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATOR

I have 9 children from age 23 down to 9. We have been home educating for 23 years—since 1983 when our first child was born. We chose to home educate for many reasons.

1. We didn't want to send our kids to a government school for the greater part of the day.
2. We didn't want to entrust our children 's emotional, physical, spiritual and mental safety to strangers or a system based on attendance and not education.
3. We wanted to provide a protected childhood and a strong upbringing in our own faith.
4. We wanted our children with us every day and all day.
5. We wanted to make sure our children obtained an excellent education tailored just for them as individuals.

Home Education fits our family perfectly.

We are mostly eclectic schoolers with some unschooling thrown in and occasionally traditional methods for the older ones.

DSA SCHOOL HOURS

Please call me on Monday and Thursdays from 12-4pm. These are days I will try and be in the office. Remember I am also a homeschooling mom and a homebirth midwife, so I am not always home even on those days. Please leave a message and I will try and call you back. If you don't hear from me, call again.

Email disappears in the cyber black hole, regular mail is often sent out of country first and sometimes I plain forget. So please be patient! Don't call expecting something the next day. Be persistent in calling me.

The school is closed for a period of 4 to 6 weeks during the summer while a tremendous backlog of end-of-year and beginning-of-year paperwork is processed. This period of time will generally begin on Graduation Date and run through the end of June, but is subject to change. Specific times each year will be posted on the DaySpring Message Board. The office is closed infrequently at other times of the year for various reasons and these temporary absences will be announced on the DaySpring Message board.

DSA STAFF

PLEASE NOTE: Staff contact information for local area coordinators changes frequently for a variety of reasons, especially e-mail addresses. Due to the issues involved with frequent changes, this information is no longer included in the enrollment packet. It can be found on the DaySpring Message Board where changes are more easily accomplished. The DaySpring Message Board is accessed at www.better-thinking.net/dayspring

FEES – Effective 5/15/06

ENROLLMENT FEES

No Pro-Rated Fees are Available. All Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Fees are Non-Refundable.

Enrollment Fee – due at time of enrollment.	\$95 year/per family
Re-Enrollment Fee -- (postmarked May to August 31 st)	\$75 year/per family
Late Re-Enrollment fee (postmarked Sept 1 st or later) for families re-enrolling	\$95
Enrollment Addition -- Adding a child during the middle of the year or after initial enrollment	\$20

TRANSCRIPT FEES

***No Transcripts will be completed without Transcript Request Form.
Fees are subject to change. Always download a current Transcript Request Form for detailed
and most current information regarding Fees and time-frames.***

Transcript Request Form postmarked July 30 th to May 15 th During school year.	\$25
Transcript Request Form (leaving DSA at end of school year), postmarked May 15 to July 30 Transcripts will not be sent out when DSA is closed Graduation Date June 15 th – July 15 th . See Transcript Request Form for details related to time of receipt and processing.	\$15 per student \$10 if enrolled in HS reporting online
Transcript Rush Fee: 1. Postmarked July 16 st – May 14 th – processed within 2 weeks from receipt; or 2. Postmarked May 1 st through May 10 th -- processed within one week from receipt; or 3. Postmarked May 11 th through June 1 – processed first week of June.	Add \$10 to total

OTHER FEES

HighSchool Handbook	\$20
Record returns requests or copy requests	\$5 minimum

Regarding the actual hard copy enrollment forms:

1. If you have obtained older forms from some source, **please download or request new forms.**
2. **Do NOT use** any Church School Enrollment Form or Request for School Records **Form that has printed out as more than one page.** Each of the four forms are separate, and on one single printed page. We cannot submit a CSEF or RSR form that has split into more than one page.
3. Forms may be obtained online and are listed on the forms page:
www.dsacademy.org/forms.html
under the heading "Enrollment Forms".

For your convenience, the urls for the 4 forms are also listed below.

CSEF -- Church School Enrollment form: **<http://www.dsacademy.org/csef.pdf>**

RSR -- Request for School Records form: **<http://www.dsacademy.org/rsr.pdf>**

FIF -- Family Information form: **<http://www.dsacademy.org/fif.pdf>**

Enrollment Transmittal form: **<http://www.dsacademy.org/transmittal.pdf>**

The forms accessed online are in pdf format -- the same format as this enrollment packet. If you open the files and get blank pages, please reboot your computer and then access the forms again. This cures this problem most of the time.

If you open those forms and they do not print correctly -- on one page each -- you may request them be sent to you by mail or e-mail attachment. E-mail is preferred.

Due to the differences in printer and programs, if you also open forms sent to you attached to e-mail, and they do not print correctly, do NOT use and contact us to make other arrangements. Each form is on a separate page, and should be no more than one page each.

4. When requesting forms by e-mail, use the following procedure:
 - a. Subject line: DaySpring enrollment forms needed by e-mail
 - b. Some people have trouble printing only one form. In making your request, be specific in naming which of the four forms you need, or whether you need all four.
 - c. Send the e-mail to me at **dayspringacademy@att.net**.
 - d. If there is no response from me within 72 hours, please re-send the request.

And **CONGRATULATIONS** for taking this step toward taking the full responsibility -- and the authority -- for making the educational decisions involved in raising your children.

All men who have turned out worth anything have had the chief hand in their own education.
~~Sir Walter Scott