

## Beyond The Homeschool Years

CONTINUED FROM PG 13

### Same Yet Different

Three repeated themes of faithful and interested parents accepting the challenge to be the educational supervisors for their children. Introducing them to the world, each family used other resources to fill in any gaps in the parent's abilities to teach.

Each student was awarded a homeschool graduation diploma at graduation. Their parents used available resources to challenge and find interests for their teenagers, making the educational years interesting and valuable. These former students do not claim that Icelandic unit studies, A.C.S. Lewis trilogy or a private art class was the "perfect" action that propelled each into a college and a career. The time parents invested laying foundations during the homeschooling years, the work that continued through their high school years, that combination is what launched responsible adults. Community College coursework was available during the high school years. Action was taken and permitted by the supervising parents when the student exhibited interest in a course or study that wasn't available at home. These decisions can happen in any grade, the important answer is that these choices were made by parents with their teenagers to stay on the homeschool path through high school.

Can you homeschool a teenager? Well, the short answer is yes. My usual response is answer this question: Did you teach your child to use modern bathroom facilities? If you can convince an

often-non-verbal, self-centered little person to use a bathroom successfully, I'm confident you can supervise that individual through high school. Combinations of home, public and private classes, and ease of online college coursework have changed the high school landscape. The beauty of homeschooling is the personalization, the individual tailoring for each student that parents control - isn't that one reason we chose homeschooling?

A homeschool diploma printed by parents is legitimate proof of a high school education and is used by graduates for admission to community colleges, private and public universities. Employers accept parent issued diplomas. Educate yourselves on the state code for graduation goals and your rights to classes. We haven't paid a penny for college classes our son takes as a high school student.

It is my hope that as you read these stories you were inspired to plan, research, discuss, question and commit to supervising your children all the way to a high school graduation. Our son graduates in May and often wears his Carlson Academy t-shirts around the house while studying his online classes. He plans to participate in the NICHE May graduation ceremony and our family will celebrate his achievement. Another unique story to be shared with others. And, we haven't been on this path alone.



I'll see you further on down the homeschool path, Readers!

*Laura Carlson is an Iowa born, raised, and educated writer living in central Iowa. She is a graduate of Iowa State University and has worked as a dishwasher, website developer, and addictions therapist. Her motto is "Life: Live It."*

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