

Considering High School at Home?

By Beth Rockwell

Maybe you've heard these comments or even uttered them yourself: "Oh, we'll just home school until grade eight and then send him to high school."

"I can't see myself teaching high school."

The thought of teaching your children at home during the high school years can be quite daunting. In my case, I felt it was like starting all over again. We had home educated our three children from kindergarten to grade eight and the idea of doing high school at home filled me with anxiety. What if I didn't choose precisely the right courses and curriculum? What, if after these next four years, they were not acceptable to the post-secondary schools of their choice? Would they be missing out on the legitimate extra-curricular options that a high school can tender?

I remember fussing over these questions one day while I was glancing at an on-line home schooling magazine that I receive. In it I read Proverbs 3: 5 & 6. These especially familiar words I had committed to memory and taken to heart for myself several years before. However, as I read them that day they took on a whole new meaning. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." God said to me, "I can direct his (your son, Adam's) steps too – you don't need to fuss over it. I'm leading him, trust Me."

With the assurance that I was freed from the responsibility of managing the minutia of my son's life, I was able to concentrate on setting up a customized program for him to cross the threshold into high school at home. We would like to encourage you through this collection of articles and information about home educating teens to consider whether this very possible and rewarding endeavor could work for your family. We will provide you with reasons to home school through high school, resources to utilize in your unique setting, and an overview of solid record keeping to ensure that colleges and universities will welcome an application from your student.

OCHEC is interested in helping you in this next leg of the home schooling journey. Each year as part of our annual convention, we offer a youth conference. We are sponsors of the newly formed CYWAL camp (Christian Youth Worldview and Leadership), a week-long summer camp geared toward Christian leadership development

among older teens, being held in southwestern Ontario. OCHEC will continue to monitor and influence the home school admissions policies of colleges and universities in Canada. It is our goal to encourage you to consider this option and to try to help take some of the anxiety out of the decision by providing you with comprehensive and accurate information.

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