



CAPE
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF
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AN OPEN LETTER TO GRANDPARENTS

Dear Grandparents,

It seems like yesterday you were changing their diapers, and now they are parents, caring for the most amazing grandchildren in the history of the universe!

We know that trusting your children to make good decisions for your grandchildren can be a challenge! If your children have decided to home school, or are considering home education, you may be very concerned. Home education sounds like a wild new idea to many, and your concern is sincere. We respect your opinion, so there are several misconceptions about home-based education we would like to clear up for you.

These parents can't spell (or calculate, discuss the Civil War or the European Union, punctuate a sentence, etc.)! How can they possibly pass on what they don't have? This question has been thoroughly studied. In government schools, the level of parental education, income, and the student's race all consistently predict performance. Amazingly, none predict the success of a home schooled student—individualized attention, commitment, and love overcome limitations. Parents learn right along with their children and establish a pattern of life-long learning for the family. Tutoring, co-ops, videos, satellites, and on-line learning can all be used to supplement when necessary.

Public schools were good enough for me! Things have changed significantly—not just since the last generation, but in the last few years. It is not the same system.

My grandchildren will never learn to get along with other kids. There are significant numbers of home scholars who have graduated into the “real world” of college, marriage, and careers. The National Home Education Research Institute among many others has carefully studied them, and the results are fabulous. Socialized wisely by loving families, home schooled children get along with other kids of all ages and with adults (a useful skill for the rest of their lives!) better than children accustomed to age-segregated classrooms. They are less peer-dependent and generally more confident. Look at it this way. If you wanted to teach a child table manners, would you do it at your table, or send him to a school cafeteria?

My grandchildren won't be able to get into a decent college. When modern home schooling emerged 20 years ago, many universities were cautious. Today, home schooled students are actively recruited because of their high test scores, independent study skills, and above-average maturity levels.

Scholarships--both academic and athletic are available, and some are reserved specifically for home educated students.

This is very weird – we don't know anybody who was home schooled! It may sound a little weird, but consider these home schoolers you *may* have heard of:

- *Presidents* - George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt (Yes, The Rushmore Four!) James Madison, John Quincy Adams, Franklin D. Roosevelt
- *Preachers & Missionaries* - John & Charles Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, William Carey, Dwight L. Moody, John Newton, Hudson Taylor
- *Authors* - Mark Twain, George Bernard Shaw, Charles Dickens, C.S. Lewis
- *Scientists, Economists, Businessmen* - Blaise Pascal, Booker T. Washington, Thomas Edison, Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Carnegie, John Stuart Mill
- *Famous Women* - Abigail Adams, Martha Washington, Florence Nightingale, Phyllis Wheatley, Pearl S. Buck

There will be many more added to this list as the modern home education movement grows up.

Grandparents, you can make a huge difference! Your opinion matters so much that we are writing this letter, asking for your blessing. Please carefully research home schooling, discuss your concerns and reservations candidly, pray, and then, please trust your children. The Lord does!

Home schooling families willingly accept responsibility that most parents cheerfully delegate to the government. It is hard work, and we need all the cheerleaders we can get! It is a big job, but it will be made easier with your support.

Nothing would thrill us more than to hear that our own grandchildren are going to be taught at home. There's no place like home!! Statistically speaking, we could look forward to test scores 30 percentile points above the national average, successful, moral, well adjusted, involved citizens.

Remember that you are considered honored attendees at our convention – we have a special ribbon for you at the Registration Table so you can be recognized as a **Home School Grandparent!** We appreciate the prayer covering, support, and edification of your generation more than you will ever know.

For additional information about any of the statistics mention here; please contact the CAPE office. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Fondly and respectfully yours,

The Board of Directors of CAPE-NM