

# PENNSYLVANIA HOMESCHOOLERS

A Statewide Network Sharing  
Information About Homeschooling in PA

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Peter Bergson  
Madalene Murphy "BACKPACK"

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FAMILIES IN THE NEWS!!!! ...from Susan Richman

So exciting to see all the good publicity so many homeschool families are getting in PA newspapers and even in national newspapers. The Eldredge family was interviewed for a positive article in a Fall '86 issue of USA TODAY, with their daughter Grace having several good quotes. Peter Bergson and his 10 year old daughter Amanda Bergson-Shilcock were both interviewed in a long article that appeared in the LOS ANGELES TIMES April 15, 1987. I was interviewed during the research for an article in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (April 24, 1987). The Allentown newspaper had a long 2 page feature article called "Home Sweet School" about area homeschoolers published April 30, 1987-- including a large photo of Linda Binde and her daughter. Stephanie Wilson and her daughters Vanessa and Lauren were featured in a Pittsburgh Post Gazette article this spring. Amusingly enough, in that article the PGH superintendent worried that homeschooled students might, among other things, miss out on "performance opportunities"-- Vanessa and Lauren and their whole family are all actively involved in ballet and theater and have more time for "performance" than most school children!

These types of positive articles make great "hand-outs" to give to your legislators (or the grandparents!) about the issue of home education. Do send on copies of any articles you come across-- positive or negative. Even one homeschooling mother in PA, Shay Jones, has written an article for her local paper, telling about the Lancaster Home Educators Curriculum Fair. Shay is planning on doing a series of feature pieces about area homeschoolers.

Also congratulations to all the PA children who wrote articles for the first 2 issues of the HOME SCHOOL GAZETTE, the new nationwide children's newspaper published by Ron Brackin, P.O. Box 359, Burtonsville, MD 20866 (subscription price \$20 per year). You all have helped this good paper get off to a great start! Contributors were: Jesse Richman, Luke Wilson, Joshua and Jordan Gropp, Jamie, John, and Abby McMillan. We especially appreciate Ron's "writing tips" column on the back page, where he helps kids understand the different types of articles found in a newspaper, and encourages kids to try out new styles.

- Susan Richman

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS COOPERATING WITH HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES IN PA

(NOTE: LOCAL POLICIES VARY WIDELY, BUT THESE DISTRICTS HAVE DEALT WITH HOMESCHOOLING-- YOU WON'T BE A FIRST CASE IN THESE DISTRICTS, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAYING APPROVAL WILL NECESSARILY BE EASY, FAIR, OR ASSURED. GUIDELINES SOME FAMILIES CAN LIVE WITH WILL BE INTOLERABLE TO OTHERS)

ABBINGTON	EASTERN LEBANON COUNTY
ALLENTOWN	FAIRVIEW
ALTOONA	FLEETWOOD
APOLLO-RIDGE	FOX CHAPEL
ARMSTRONG	FRANKLIN REGIONAL
BANGOR AREA	GIRARD
BEAVER	HIGHLANDS
BETHEL PARK	JEFFERSON-MORGAN
BLACKHAWK	HOPEWELL
BUTLER	KANE
CANTON AREA	KISKI
CHESTER UPLAND	LAKEVIEW
CENTRAL BUCKS	LATROBE
COMMODORE PERRY	MARPLE MEWTOWN
CONEAUT LAKE	MILLCREEK
CRAWFORD CENTRAL	MT. LEBANON
CRESSON	MT. PLEASANT
DOWNINGTOWN AREA	MT. UNION
EASTON	NORTHAMPTON AREA
EAST PENN	NORTHEAST BRADFORD
	NORTH HILLS
	NORTH PENN
	NORTH WESTERN
	PARKLAND
	PEN ARGYL AREA
	PENN HILLS
	PENN MANOR
	PENNSBURG
	PERKIOMEN VALLEY
	PETERS TOWNSHIP
	PINE-RICHLAND
	QUAKER VALLEY
	RED LION AREA
	RINGGOLD
	SAUCAN VALLEY
	SHALER
	SHALANCO
	SOUTH WEST BUTLER
	SOUTHERN TIOGA

Do keep us informed about policies of your local school district. It is especially helpful for us to have on file copies of local policies-- do send these on. Policies vary so widely on requirements for reporting progress, qualifications of "private tutor", use of school texts and facilities, etc. The newly revised policy of the West Mifflin District (formerly one of the districts that required PA Certification of the "tutor") now states that "CREDIT TOWARD GRADUATION SHALL BE EARNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S CURRICULUM REGULATIONS". This is much different from the usual policies that say "The school district will not grant 'credit' for courses completed at home and will neither 'promote', 'advance', nor 'graduate' students who complete a series of courses through in-home instruction". THANKS!-- Susan Richman

SLIPPERY ROCK	WEST JEFFERSON HILLS
TAMAQUA	WEST MIFFLIN
TREDYFFRIN-EASTTOWN	WEST PERRY
TRINITY	WILLIAMSPORT
TROY	WYALUSING
TYRONE AREA	WYOMING VALLEY WEST
UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD	YOUGH
WEST CHESTER AREA	

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PA. HOMESCHOOLERS MASTHEAD LETTERED  
by Jesse Richman, age 4½