

Resources to Help You Craft an Awesome High School Experience for Your Teen

This list is a true labor of love for me.

It's the result of reviewing the tools and resources I've used over the years with four of our five children (the last one is still in middle school). Three things to keep in mind as you go through this list.

1. *I did not use **all** these tools with **all** our kiddos (except where noted).*
2. The focus is not on curricula here. It is on the tools you will need as a homeschooling parent that will allow you to build on whatever materials you decide upon for the basics. While I *do* list specific subjects as part of this list, my emphasis is on finding unique and inspiring tools that will add a special spark to your homeschool and your student's high school experience.
3. While I include many tools here, I also have links to articles that either discuss a particular topic, present other tools (as in a review post), or further explain a particular tool, method, or idea. So by the end of the list, *you'll actually find **more than 100 resources here!***

Remember, **educating our teens is all about preparing them for their adult life and setting them up for success.** No matter HOW you define "prepare" or "success", you'll find that if you keep these concepts in mind over the course of your homeschooling journey, you will have done an outstanding job, mom (and dad, too, but it's usually mom who's in the trenches).

Homeschooling affords us the opportunity to exercise our creative muscles as parents and teachers. And before you say "But I'm not really the creative-type!", note this: tailoring your efforts to your child's learning style, interests and abilities automatically puts you in the "creative" camp. ***And that creativity extends into the high school years, too!*** You'll still be seeking out tools that work best with your teen's skills, interests, and abilities...only **now** the focus will be on launching them into the world.

I realize that, while this list is not exhaustive, it does contain a ton of information! But please don't allow yourself to get overwhelmed. Feel free to print this out or save it on your computer for future reference.

And accept my best wishes for continued success in your homeschool!

Pat

Please note: This resource contains some affiliate/advertisement links to 3rd party sites where I may receive paid compensation for products you purchase. You can [read my full Affiliate Disclosure here.](#)

Sections include:

1. Planning and record-keeping resources
2. Teacher helps
3. Subject helps
 - a. Math
 - b. Science
 - c. History
 - d. Social Studies
 - e. Language Arts/Writing
 - f. Foreign Language
4. High School Electives/The Arts
5. Preparing for College
6. Alternatives to College
7. Teacher and Teen Tech Tools

1 - Planning, record-keeping methods

I'm listing this section first to emphasize just how important it is. The high school years are definitely the time to "step up" your own organizational skills as a teacher. It really doesn't have to be hard, tho, even if you're "not that type." But in order to make your child's Senior year a breeze, and facilitate college admission (or *whatever* becomes the plan), it's best to get your ducks in order early!

1) Article - [What's the Best Homeschool Planner for Your Homeschool?](#) A good foundational discussion about planners and a review of 7 tools.

<p>FREE 30-Day Trial!</p> <p>Organize your world with</p>  <p>Homeschool Planet® ONLINE PLANNER</p> <p>homeschoolbuyersco-op.org</p>	<p>The BEST PLACE to find your Homeschool Curriculum!</p>  <p>HOMESCHOOL BUYERS CO-OP</p> <p>www.homeschoolbuyersco-op.org</p>
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2 - Teacher Helps

4) This may be obvious, but don't forget - **the library** is/should be/can be a foundation for EVERY homeschool! As an early homeschooler, I knew families who taught all their children *thru high school* using only the library and other free materials.

5) The [iHN search engine](#) - If you're looking for *anything* homeschool related, this search engine is composed solely of trusted homeschool bloggers who are members of the **iHomeschoolNetwork**. Members are accepted only once or twice a year, and from my 3 years of experience with them, I can comfortably recommend these bloggers. Give it a try - just click on the link above. It will open up a new tab and a blank search box. Type in what you're looking for and get ready to find what you need!

6) If at all possible, **find and enroll in a co-op** near you. This can be especially helpful while you have high schoolers who can take advantage of the many valuable opportunities being in a co-op provide. If that's not possible, at least find some support of your own, mom (see #7).

7) And if you can't find local support, try out this list of [Self-care Ideas for Homeschool Moms](#) and [100 Places to find Homeschool Support Online](#)

8) Review - [The ABCs of How We Learn](#) - Get to know your child's learning style ASAP, and much of the journey will go smoother :-)

9) Article - [Great Books for Homeschool Teachers](#)

10) Check out [one of the signature courses I've put together](#): **Homeschool Prep - Getting it in Gear**, or **Crafting a Thriving High School Experience for Your Teen**.

11) [Sign up for my newsletter](#) - Available resources include, but are not limited to, my personal transcript template and how to determine a GPA...

12) Article - [5 "Old School" Subjects for Today's Homeschool](#)

13) I would highly recommend joining the [Homeschool Legal Defense Association \(HSLDA\)](#). They provide free legal support to homeschooling families who need representation regarding home education (and yes, it does still happen in this day and age!). Even if you never use their legal services, however, your annual dues help those who *are* in need. They also have funds

available for [homeschoolers who may need temporary financial help](#) for various reasons. Plus, they have some terrific resources in general. While you're there, check out...

14) ...this excellent article on their blog on [evaluating high school credits](#).

15) As long as you're not using it to just kill time, there are lots of ways to use Netflix and Amazon streaming videos in your homeschool. If you're not quite feeling up to figuring it all out, check out these great Facebook pages: [Homeschooling with Netflix](#) and [Christian Homeschooling with Netflix, Amazon, YouTube, Roku and more](#).

16) At the end of the year, you may need some of the suggestions in this article: [10 Effective Strategies for Motivating Homeschooled Teens](#)

17) [High School GPA Calculator](#) - Makes keeping up with your student's GPA each semester a breeze!

18) [PrintWhatYouLike](#) - Enter a URL of a page you've found online, whether it's a resource, study guide, or article, and print out whatever part you'd like as a PDF. Omit images, ads, and what have you that eat up valuable ink! (Available as a Chrome browser extension.)

19) [QuickGrade](#) - When you have to score your own tests and determine the grade, this is a quick-and-easy way to get the answer. Yeah, you could probably figure this out on your own, but why do it if you don't need to?

20) [10 Stumbling Blocks of Writing](#) - This parent resource, *with bonus mp3*, offers **solutions** to homeschooling moms for overcoming the 10 most common stumbling blocks of writing.

21) Article - [How to Keep Track of Digital Homeschool Files](#) - Includes an explanation of a free tool you can use, as well as a template to get started.

22) Join [Amazon Prime](#) - Seriously, this is a *super* resource for science and school supplies in general, but also gives you access to video streaming, (free) books on Kindle [and lots more](#). When you send your kiddos off to college, you can get them a Student Account, which is half-price, and/or you can gift them an [Amazon Allowance](#): you set the amount and the frequency they receive it. *Lots of possibilities here!*

3 - Subject helps

23) [Udemy](#)- They have a wide variety of courses on their site, and while they're not exactly cheap, keep an eye out for sales! Take a look at all the [foreign language courses they offer!](#)

24) Article - [100 Online Courses for Kids](#) (Don't let the title fool you. Many of these courses are high school level and above!)

25) Article - No matter *what* the subject, make sure you take the time to [teach your child good study habits](#) and [time management skills!](#)

26) Also from HSLDA, [here are some of their recommended resources](#) for helping teach your teen to use his or her time effectively.

Math -

27) [CTC Math](#) (free trial available) - Purchasing this course through [The Homeschool Buyer's Co-op](#) affords you a 60% savings *and* extra bonuses.

28) [Teaching Textbooks](#) - I've used this with my boys while they were in middle school and all of us loved it!

29) [Kahn Academy](#) - This hugely popular site has a broad range of course offerings, but we've been very pleased with their math section, [particularly for upper levels maths.](#)

30) [Mr. D Math](#) - Read all about the program here and [try out a free demo class](#) to see if it's a good fit for you. Terrific for upper level math courses!

31) [Math-U-See](#) - Even if you don't use this particular program, Steve Demme has quite a few online tools free for anyone's use. (Scroll down to his "E-Learning" section.)

32) [Life of Fred](#) - A gentle way to handle math education. Read my friend [Heather's thorough review of it here.](#)

33) [Coolmath.com](#) - Free online Math games.

Science -

38) [Apologia](#) - This is the only standard science curriculum I've ever used with my kiddos. Some years, however, we used it primarily as a reference. Most of the time I used hands-on, experiential materials (see #39). (Pssst! **The Homeschool Buyer's Co-op** often arranges awesome discounts on this program. [Check them out here.](#))

39) Article - "[Teaching Homeschool Science Without A Curriculum](#)"

40) Article - "[How to Teach Science Out-of-the-Box](#)"

41) Article - [How to Teach Classical High School Science](#)

42) Article - [Gumdrop Structures Engineering Challenge](#) (a STEM activity)

43) [Science Scope](#) - A scope and sequence of science studies from grades 1-12.

44) Check out [this Pinterest board](#) with loads of STEAM (they add "Art")-related activities!

[The Ultimate STEM Guide for Kids: 239 Cool Sites](#)

by DS Examiner I could go on and on about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. How job openings are predicted to soar to over one million by 2020. How the U.S. government is freaking out that students aren't prepared. But I won't. (For grades K-12.)

History -

American History -

46) [Exploring Government](#) - This is a one-semester course from Notgrass History. A classic, Christian program...

47) [The American Vision](#) - This site offers all chapters of The American Vision in PDF form, along with tests, study guides, and review materials.



49) Article - How to do a [two-year project-based American History](#) course

50) Article - [Teaching history thru Fashion](#)

Western Culture -

51) [Old Western Culture](#) - from Compass Classroom

World History -

52) Excellent [Ancient History course](#) with complete instructions

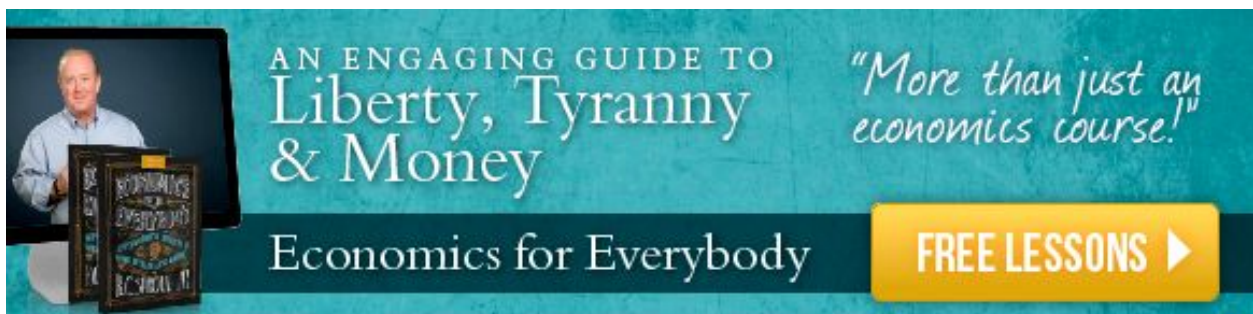
53) Check out this list of [13 Printable Board Games](#) that cover World and US history topics...

[Advanced Placement: U.S. History](#)

Social Studies -

55) **Geography** - You can use the maps available from [Bright Ideas Press](#) for geography and history and literature studies, and/or writing assignments. Really, you're only limited by your imagination!

56) **Economics** - [Economics-for-Everybody](#) from Compass Classroom



57) **Civics** - [Constitutional Literacy](#) - This course, taught by Michael Farris (of HSLDA), explores the origins and present state of our nation's founding document. I purchased this for use with

our youngest daughter next year, but after watching only the trailer, I'm tempted to start on it this summer!

58) [American Gov't](#) - Watch this [series of four short videos](#) for a great introduction to this program from Notgrass...

Current Events - These sites will help you and your teen stay up on the news and discuss what's happening in the world.

59) [CNN10](#) - Daily news and commentary in language teens (and the rest of us!) can understand.

60) [ProCon.org](#) - Their motto is "Disagree without being disagreeable" and you'll find both sides of the story on many current controversial topics

Language Arts/Writing -

61) [Hemingway Editor](#) (free) (Available as a Chrome browser extension)

62) [WriteShop I and II](#) - High school level writing program inspires confidence in teen writers

63) Use these [language-related games](#) for fun review with another family or in a co-op class.

64) [Bravewriter's](#) Help for High School writing program - This resource also includes wonderful materials to enable mom-as-a-writing-teacher.

65) [Learn to Write the Novel Way](#) - I used this with my older daughter who is now a published author and blogger!

66) Article - Let your teen [learn to write product reviews](#). A side benefit is the possibility to start making money online...

67) Explore the "[Coaching Writers](#)" concept here...

68) Another free writing resource, the [WritewellApp](#) provides a myriad of online templates and tips. In high school, for example, your student will learn how to write [essays](#), short stories, lab proposals, cover letters, and more.

69) I taught three of our kids to write using the [Institute for Excellence in Writing \(IEW\)](#) materials because they not only provide excellent instruction but also concrete tools for the parent/teacher to grade/assess assignments. What a relief! The Homeschool Buyer's Co-op now has **lesson plans for this product** that you can purchase separately. They plug into [Lesson Planet](#) with one easy click!

Foreign language -

The only language we've taught at home during high school was **Latin**. During the elementary years, we did quite a bit of Spanish study, mostly interest-led because half my family is Hispanic. But in high school, we turned to Latin to help with vocabulary building and in preparation for tests. Actually, we all enjoy/ed it! My youngest daughter and I *still* study it in Classical Conversations (CC) this year.

70) Laugh through Latin and master English, through [Compass Classroom's Visual Latin program](#).

71) [Henle Latin](#) - A classic textbook approach that provides a rock-solid foundation in the language.

72) [Latin with Andy](#) - A very reasonably-priced membership site, with video classes taught by a teen! This year I'm using it in conjunction with the Henle materials that CC uses.

***Pro tip** - use Pinterest as a search tool to find more reviews and/or ways to use subject resources creatively!

4 - High school Electives/the Arts



Perfect for the parent with no musical background, [Squilt](#) is a music appreciation program that is simple, affordable and easy to teach.

74) Article - [How to Spark Creativity with Homeschool Art Lessons](#)


75) [Nutrition](#) - These activities are presented for classroom use, but could easily be adapted to home/family/co-op use.

76) [This page on Speech Techniques](#) would be great to pop into **PrintWhatYouLike** (see #18) and hand out as a reference either as part of a Speech class, or when your student needs to make a public presentation in *any* situation.


77) [DIY Home Budgeting](#) lesson (free)

78) Article - [Are you teaching life skills with a creative flair?](#)

79) [SkillTrek](#) - This is a wonderful, new program created by a homeschooling family, that ensures your teen is adequately prepared for life on their own. Think you don't need it? Neither did I (and I guess you can guess where that one ended...). *Great program*, with much flexibility.



"AS AN EMPLOYER, I SEE GRADUATES FOCUSED ON ACADEMICS WITH IMPRESSIVE RESUMES, BUT LACKING IN BASIC LIFE SKILLS AND CHARACTER"



80) All my teens have taken the [Driver's Ed course](#) available through [The Homeschool Buyer's Co-op](#), at a 40% savings. It is approved by both the [Road Safety Educators Association](#) and the [Driving School Association of the Americas](#), *and* could save you money on your auto insurance!

81) Article - [Creative Electives for Your High School Student](#) - This post has additional ideas for electives along with further resources for including them into a high school transcript.



Try one of [Craftsy's free classes](#) to see how it can add some flair to *your* homeschool!

5 - Preparing for college

82) Article: [10 TED Talks Your Teen Needs to Watch Before Graduation](#) - THIS is the stuff you don't get from books during the high school years and will make your teen stand out among his or her peers.

83) These [vocabulary activities](#) are good to use year-round to help build and strengthen skills.

84) [Compass Classroom's WordUp! is a fun way to learn vocab from Latin & Greek roots!](#)

85) Bravewriter's [Help for High School](#) - Teach your teen to think, argue, and develop their own writing style at the same time: great prep for test essay-writing.



6 - Alternatives to college

87) [Gap year resources on Pinterest](#) - College isn't for everyone, and if that may be the case for your teen, take the time to go through these *together*...

88) [Praxis](#) - This is an apprenticeship program that combines a bootcamp with personal development and prepares your son or daughter to be "job worthy" at the end of the program. My son is participating in this program this spring.



Use "Word It Out" (see #96) to make a fun word-picture like this!

7 - Student (and teacher) tech tools

- 89) [Grade calculator](#) - Free tool to help with the "admin side" of homeschooling ;-)
- 90) [Mathway](#) - plug in a specific math problem and this will walk you through it!
- 91) [Grammarly](#) - Online grammar-correcting tool.
- 92) [EasyBib](#) - Online citation creator for bibliographies for papers, reports, and projects.
- 93) [Dictionary.com](#) - I have this on my phone and enjoy getting their "Word of the Day" and some of their other learning-on-the-go features. When I write I always have a tab opened with it, too, as it helps me find synonyms as well.
- 94) [Quizlet](#) - Think of these as online flashcards! Search for and use a set that's pre-made...or make your own!
- 95) [Timetoast](#) - I've made lots of timelines over the years...in various subjects and using varying curricula. Create *these* online.

- 96) [Educaplay](#) - Create word searches, matching columns, crosswords, slide shows, quizzes...for subject review or student projects.
- 97) [Word-It-Out](#) - This one is just plain fun! You know those interesting-looking word clouds? Make your own with a word list you provide. (Other options include [WordClouds](#) and [Wordle](#).)
- 98) [Google Sheets](#) - Works with Excel, and it's part of the Google toolkit! Start from scratch or use some of their wonderful templates to get started. A great tool to teach your high schooler to use!
- 99) [Piktochart](#) - Helps you create eye-catching infographics for projects or presentations. No graphic experience or training required!
- 100) [Canva](#) - I love and use Canva all the time! You can make online graphics as well as flyers, posters, brochures, posters, and more. [Here are some ideas to inspire you.](#)
- 101) [Airtable](#) - Organize (almost) anything digitally: turns a spreadsheet into a database.
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Well, there you have it! A ton of resources at your fingertips to peruse at your leisure!

Don't forget to keep up with content on my blog, [BreakthroughHomeschooling.com](#), for product and book reviews, techniques and tools and articles as I add them - I post 2 or 3 times a week. (**Pro tip:** signing up for my newsletter will keep you up to date nicely, without having to try to remember to check in! Plus, you'll get access to members-only content, discounts and special offers!) [Sign up here!](#)

Let me also invite you to my growing group, [Breakthrough High School at Home](#), on Facebook. It's a closed group where you can safely pose questions and find additional help with your homeschooling high school questions.

I hope this is a helpful resource for you - remember, [I'm only an email away](#), so keep in touch if you need anything!

Pat