

# **Homeschooling: Discovering How and Why It Works**

by Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

## **Qualifications**

- ☞ University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- ☞ Helped Develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- ☞ NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- ☞ Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- ☞ Currently writes homeschool science and Christian apologetic materials
- ☞ No longer a part of Apologia

## **Homeschooling Works**

- According to studies, the average homeschooled student is better educated than his peers.
- Studies also show that the average homeschooled student is better socialized than his peers.
- Homeschool graduates do well at university
- Homeschool graduates are actively involved in their communities.

## **Homeschooled Students Excel!**

“Many studies, Canadian, American, and international, have found that home schooled students outperform students in both public and independent (private) schools.”

[Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, “Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream,” Fraser Institute 2007, p. 3]

The largest study in Canada found that home schooling students score at the 80th percentile in reading, the 76th percentile in language, and the 79th percentile in mathematics.

[Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, “Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream,” Fraser Institute 2007, p. 14]

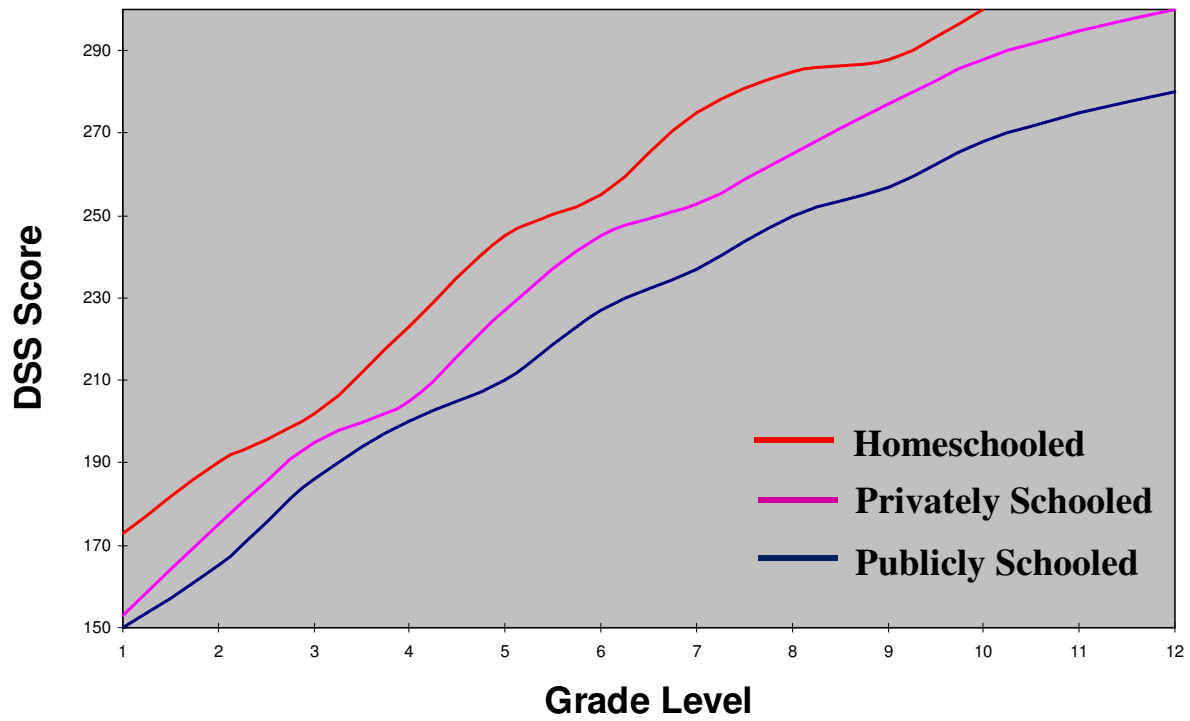
In a 2003 study of more than 1,600 Canadian homeschoolers, researchers found that the students “perform above the Canadian norm for their levels.”

[Deani Van Pelt, “Home Education in Canada,” CCHE and HSLDA 2003, p.4]

Several studies have found that home education may help eliminate the potential negative effects of certain socio-economic factors. For example, one study found that students taught at home by mothers who had never finished high school scored a full 55 percentile points higher than public school students from families with comparable education levels.

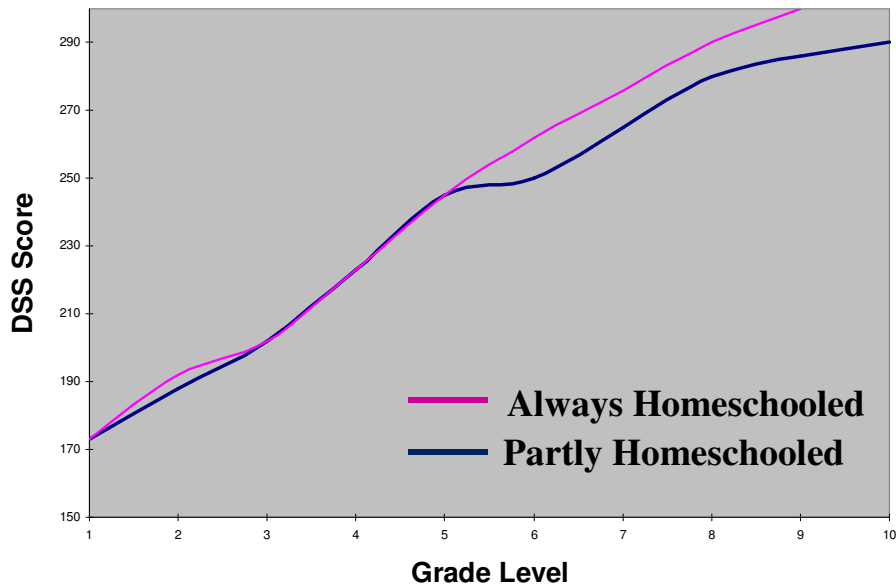
[Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, “Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream,” Fraser Institute 2007, p. 3]

**In The United States**  
**Median Composite Scores**



**It Gets Better the Longer You Homeschool!**

**Mean Score by Time Homeschooled**



Both graphs from data found in <http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/543>

## Canadian Homeschool Graduates at University

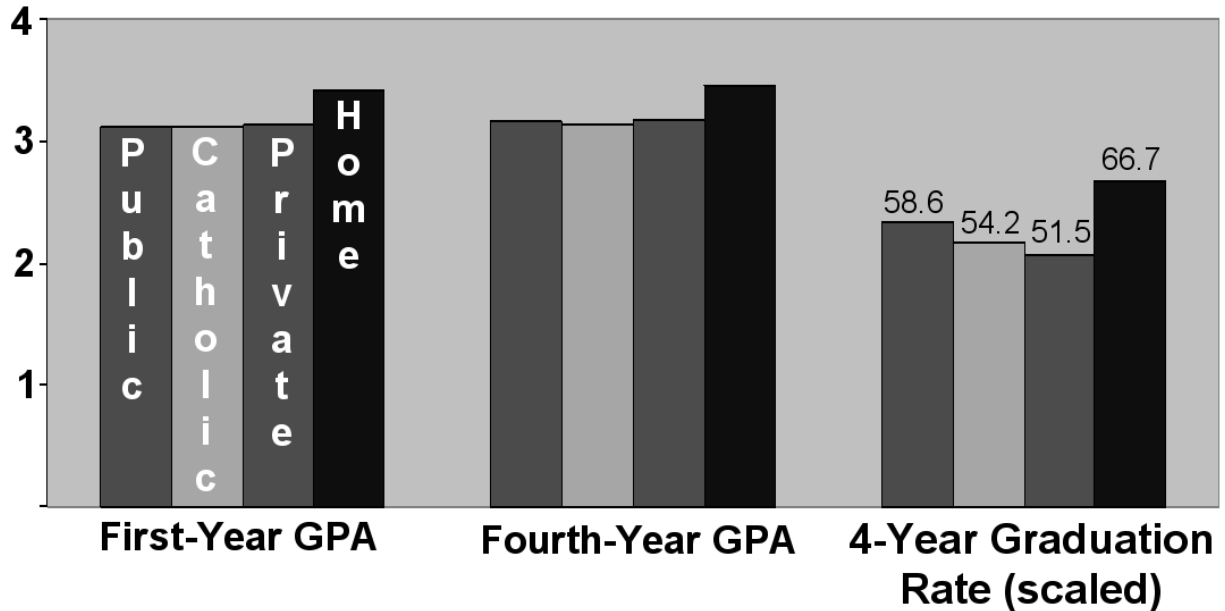
The graph that shows how Canadian Homeschool Graduates do at University is found here:

<http://www.hslda.ca/assets/pdf/2009-study-synopsis.pdf>

It is on p. 2.

### University of St. Thomas Study (U.S.)

## GPAs and Graduation Rates



[Cogan, Michael F., "Exploring Academic Outcomes of Homeschooled Students," *Journal of College Admission*, Summer 2010.]

### Why Do Homeschoolers Excel?

The Love of Learning is not socialized out of them.

"Public schools are great places of business of salaried teachers, unions, administrators, janitors, bus drivers, textbook corporations, cafeteria workers, etc., but no place for bright, curious children."

[Wendy Priesnitz, "Home-Base Education in Canada," The Alternative Press 1990, p. 4]

Learning is generally more interesting for students when the curriculum is tailored directly to them.

"About half utilize an eclectic mix of various traditional textbooks and workbooks, another 17% use a comprehensive textbook approach, while the rest report following a more child-initiated approach."

[Deani Van Pelt, "Home Education in Canada," CCHE and HSLDA 2003, p.5]

You can't beat the teacher/student ratio!

Homeschooling teaches independent learning.

Homeschooling parents impart *by example* that education is important.

### **A Study of the Childhoods of Geniuses**

Dr. Harold McCurdy studied the childhoods of 20 geniuses, such as Blaise Pascal. He saw three commonalities:

- (1) A high degree of attention focused on the child by parents and other adults, expressed in intensive educational measures and usually, abundant love
- (2) Isolation from other children, especially outside the family
- (3) A large amount of imaginative play

"It might be remarked that the mass education of our public school system is, in its way, a vast experiment on the effect of reducing all three of the above factors to minimal values, and should, accordingly, tend to suppress the occurrence of genius."

[Harold McCurdy, "The Childhood Pattern of Genius," *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* **73(2)**:448-462, 1957.]

### **But What About "Socialization?"**

- ☺ "...home educated children...are involved in a wide variety of activities with peers and adults outside of their homes. For example, 60% are involved in group sports, 82% in Sunday School, 48% in music classes..." 45% even take classes with other children outside of the home [Brian Ray, *A Nationwide Study of Home Education in Canada*, Brian Ray, National Home Education Institute 1994]
- ☺ "On average [home educated] children spend 12 hours per week with non-sibling children" [Brian Ray, *A Nationwide Study of Home Education in Canada*, Brian Ray, National Home Education Institute 1994]
- ☺ "Popular belief holds that home schooled children are socially backward and deprived, but research shows the opposite: that home schooled children are actually better socialized than their peers." [<http://ontariohomeschool.org/fraserstudysummaries.html>]
- ☺ Dr. Gary Knowles (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) studied Michigan adults who had been homeschooled. None were unemployed or on welfare. 94% said that homeschool helped prepare them to be independent persons, and 79% said that it helped them to interact with those from other levels of society. ["University Study Says Home-Taught Children Won't Become Social Misfits," appearing in the *Grand Haven Tribune* 9 March 1993]
- ☺ Deani Van Pelt did a long-term study of more than 1,600 Canadian homeschooling families. The data indicate that homeschooled students have a **life satisfaction** score significantly above those in government schools. [Deani Van Pelt, "Home Education in Canada," CCHE and HSLDA 2003, p. 10]

- ☺ “The average Canadian home schooled student is regularly involved in eight social activities outside the home. Canadian home schooled children watch less television than other children, and they show significantly fewer problems than public school children when observed in free play.” [Patrick Basham, John Merrifield, and Claudia R. Hepburn, “Homeschooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream,” Fraser Institute 2007, p. 3]

### **Canadian Homeschool Graduates are Active in Their Communities**

The graph that shows how Canadian Homeschool Graduates participate in their communities is found here:

<http://www.hslda.ca/assets/pdf/2009-study-synopsis.pdf>

It is on p. 4.

The graph that shows how Canadian Homeschool Graduates participate in religion is found on the same page.

“Overall, very few home education graduates would have preferred a different education, and most of them are happier and more satisfied with their work and life than similarly aged Canadians, and, indeed, young citizens of other countries.”

“None of our respondents were primarily supported by government payments, whereas 11% of the comparable population did receive such payments.”

[Same link as above, pp. 5-6]

### **Why Are Homeschoolers So Well Socialized?**

- ☺ They are forced to interact with multiple ages groups regularly.
- ☺ They avoid many of the negative role models you find in schools.
- ☺ They are supervised much more closely.
- ☺ They are taught morals.
- ☺ Their role models demonstrate sacrificial love on a daily basis.

### **Homeschool Graduates’ Reflections on Homeschooling**

- ☺ Prepared me well for life: 98%
- ☺ Prepared me well for further education: 58%
- ☺ Gave me an advantage: 62%
- ☺ I am glad I was homeschooled: 85%
- ☺ Limited my Educational Opportunities: 4%
- ☺ Limited my Employment Opportunities: 2%

[<http://www.hslda.ca/assets/pdf/2009-study-synopsis.pdf> , p . 9]