

Homestyle Education

[Name]

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Prof. Greg Gildersleeve

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As parents, one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children is an excellent academic education. Homeschooling is one of the four options available to parents who want to explore a different avenue of academic success for their children. In considering an education at home you as the parent become the educator. There is also the option to hire tutors to assist you in this undertaking. If you do decide to homeschool you will not be alone. “There were about 3.7 million homeschool students in 2020-2021 in grades K-12 in the United States, roughly 6% to 7% of school-age children” (Ray, 2021). Homeschool students are more successful in college because they are less likely to develop social and emotional disorders during their adolescent years.

The idea of homeschooling is not new from the founding of this great nation, “early America parents were understood to have a duty to God and the state of properly educating their children, rather than a right to do with their children as they saw fit”. (Wenneborg, 2019). Parents who wanted to continue this tradition were in the 1950s and 60s there looked upon as inadequate. After some legal battles that began in the late 1970s for the parent’s right to homeschool their children and by extension, the battle to protect their children from mental health disorders. The homeschooling movement started to gain momentum. These parents were motivated individuals who wanted to have a voice in what was being taught to their kids and control over an environment that was becoming very harmful too.

“Parents understand the importance of social encounters for homeschooled children intuitively, since a number of researchers have shown that the socialization of children in homeschooling is important to their parents” (Guterman & Neuman, 2017). Studies performed by the National Home Education Research Institute are also showing that not only are they

performing better academically, but children are also more emotionally sound in body and mind. They are coming out of college with the social tools that allow them to be productive members of society. This is accomplished by homeschooling parents who are giving their kids a creative variety of social encounters at a young age. These social encounters are helping children with communicating with their peers, but they are also beneficial when interacting with adults according to a study by Chatham-Carpenter. (Guterman, Neuman, 2017) There is a growing number of girls and boys who are developing disorders like bulimia and that are encountering illegal drugs at younger age level. Some kids are being bullied for their religious beliefs or the types of clothes they wear. While others are getting harassed by their classroom companions. Some children cannot deal with these problems and are committing suicide to escape their tormentors. Israel Wayne also points out in his article “Benefits of Homeschooling”, that the socialization in government schools is mostly negative, students are not only bullied but also ostracized and sexually harassed. (Wayne,2019)

A negative school environment and higher quality education are just two reasons why parents want to homeschool their kids. There are some differences in both teaching techniques and environments inside classrooms. But both are out of the control of the child and the parents with regards to the types of teachers and in some cases violent environments that parents want to change. Not all teachers are good, and some are there just to receive a paycheck. Likewise, not all environments inside public or private school classrooms are the best for developing the full potential of children. Some public schools are forced to teach their students only the material covered by the academic standardized test most states used to measure the school’s ranking. This is neither helpful to the student’s academic career nor is it stimulate them creatively. Unlike homeschooling where there is one parent who has his or her kid’s undivided attention. Another

advantage is that many of the homeschooled children find themselves outperforming their Peers. “78% of peer-reviewed studies on academic achievement show homeschool students perform statistically significantly better than those in institutional schools” (Ray, 2017). They have access to the parent-teacher almost immediately and can ask as many questions as they like. Parent-teachers can also, “customize or individualize that curriculum and learning environment for each child”. (Ray, 2021) The biggest draw to homeschooling is that the children are in a safe environment, their own homes, especially when a global pandemic occurs.

One last point in favor of homeschooling; the child's education can continue during family relocation. The continuity in the children's academic structure and their immediate surroundings, like their parents can promote higher levels of academic and social performance. Also, in interviews with homeschooling parents who believe that their children observe them constantly and learn from them. In essence, they are teaching the children by becoming the role models. (Guterman, Neuman, 2017).

Homeschooling does have its opposition, like Elizabeth Bartholet who argued that homeschooling isolates children from ideas and values central to our democracy. (Bartholet, 2020) This does not hold much weight, when we remember that some of our greatest Americans were homeschooled. Figures like George Washington Carver, Christopher Paolini, and Ryan Gosling were all beneficiaries of good homeschooling education.

Parents who can homeschool and who want their kids to have a better chance at succeeding in college should seriously consider the alternative to public or private schooling. Homeschooling is not only a religious endeavor anymore it is quickly becoming mainstream in the United States and is also come to be popular in the western hemisphere.

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