

# Homeschooling Resources

## Virtual Schools

Minnesota Virtual Academy. <http://www.k12.com/mnva/>

Connections Academy - <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/minnesota-school/home.aspx>

## Facebook Groups

On Facebook, the following groups are good start: Minnesota Homeschoolers, It's Not That Hard to Homeschool High School, MN Homeschool Classes & Co-ops

## Websites

Minnesota Homeschoolers Alliance. <http://homeschoolers.org>

— Intent to homeschool forms, information on laws, taxes, and some local events

Rainbow Resource. <http://www.rainbowresource.com>

— Homeschool curriculum and resource retailer.

Homeschool Classifieds. <http://www.homeschoolclassifieds.com>

— Source to find used homeschool curriculum and resources.

## Books

Andreola, Karen. (1998). *Charlotte Mason Companion*. Charlotte Mason Research and Supply.  
Wise, J., Bauer, S.W. (2016). *The Well Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home (Fourth Edition)*. Peace Hill Press.

Dobson, Linda. (2001). *The First Year Homeschooling Your Child: Your Complete Guide to Getting off on the Right Start*. Three Rivers Press.

Bogart, Julie. (2019). *The Brave Learner*. TarcherPerigee

Kirksey, Camille. (2020). *Coming Home: A Quick & Practical Guide for Preparing a Mother's Heart, Mind, & Home for Homeschooling*.

## Standardized Testing

Bob Jones University ([bjupress.com](http://bjupress.com)) - Stanford Achievement Tests, Iowa Test of Basic skills (both written exams)

Seton ([setonhome.org](http://setonhome.org)) - California Achievement (written, only English and Math), Stanford Achievement Tests, Iowa Test of Basic skills (both written exams)

Peabody Individual Achievement Test (verbal) - <http://hsadventures.org/test/peabody>

## Homeschool methods (turn page)

**Classical:** The “classical” method began in the Middle Ages and was the approach used by some of the greatest minds in history. The goal of the classical approach is to teach people how to learn for themselves. The five tools of learning used are reason, record, research, relate, and rhetoric. Younger children begin with the preparing stage, where they learn basic reading, writing, and arithmetic. The grammar stage is next, which emphasizes compositions and collections, and then the dialectic stage, where serious reading, study, and research take place. *Unique subjects include latin, advanced grammar, logic and rhetoric.*

**Charlotte Mason:** The Charlotte Mason method has at its core the belief that children deserve to be respected and that they learn best from real-life situations. According to Charlotte Mason, children should be given time to play, create, and be involved in real-life situations from which they can learn. Students of the Charlotte Mason method take nature walks, visit art museums, and learn geography, history, and literature from “living books,” books that make these subjects come alive. Students also show what they know, not by taking tests, but via narration and discussion. Course time is short, allowing for many subjects to be covered over the course of a week. *Unique subjects include nature study, latin, study of Plutarch, and handicrafts.*

**Unschooling:** Unschooling is also known as natural, interest-led, and child-led learning and families using unschooling fall on a spectrum of how much influence the adult has over the use of the child’s day and studies. Unschoolers learn from everyday life experiences and do not use school schedules or formal lessons. Instead, unschooled children follow their interests and learn in much the same way as adults do—by pursuing an interest or curiosity. In the same way that children learn to walk and talk, unschooled children learn their math, science, reading, and history. John Holt, schoolteacher and founder of the unschooling movement, told educators in his book, *What Do I Do Monday?:* “We can see that there is no difference between living and learning, that living is learning, that it is impossible, and misleading, and harmful to think of them as being separate. We say to children, ‘you come to school to learn.’ We say to each other [educators], ‘our job is to teach children to learn.’ But the children have been learning, all the time, for all of their lives before they met us. What is more, they are very likely to be much better at learning than most of us who plan to teach them something.”

**Thomas Jefferson Education:** An education method closely tied to a child’s interests, with adults in the student’s life acting as a mentor rather than a direct teacher. Focus is on using classic works to learn the foundation of any given subject. Thomas Jefferson Education can at times look similar to unschooling, but with more structure.

**Unit Studies:** Unit studies use your child’s interest and then ties that interest into subject areas like math, reading, spelling, science, art, and history. For example, if you have a child who is interested in ancient Egypt, you would learn the history of Egypt, read books about Egypt, write stories about Egypt, do art projects about pyramids, and learn about Egyptian artifacts or mapping skills to map out a catacomb.

**Eclectic:** Using any benefit you derive from one method or another and using each as you please.

**Other methods of interest:** Waldorf, Montessori, School-at-home, Multiple Intelligences. More can be found here: <https://www.homeschool.com/approaches> and through Google searches for “homeschooling methods”.