



HearthstonePlan.org

Quick Reference Guide for Learning Benchmarks

How to Use This Guide

The Hearthstone Education Plan has been developed as a home education guide for families by *HomeMakers for America*. It was created as a resource for parents to guide them through a K-12 education program for their children. The resources available on the Hearthstone website are designed to educate the heart, not only in the principles of reading, writing, and arithmetic but also in the principles of liberty.

The Hearthstone Education Plan is flexible and versatile. It has been designed as a resource and guide to help parents nurture a love of learning in their children, foster the values that lead to good citizenship and develop the knowledge and skills needed to succeed and excel in life.

The Hearthstone Plan is Heart-based, Student-centered, and Parent-guided. It is not a curriculum but a roadmap with flexibility allowing for personalization, creativity, and individuality while providing specific benchmarks of achievement along the way.

For more detailed information, Benchmark Lists and recommended resources visit HearthstonePlan.org

The creators of the Hearthstone Education Plan believe that “all men are created equal and have been endowed by their creator with:

Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness.

To secure these rights, the next generation must be provided with a moral based education that emphasizes the principles of liberty. This is best accomplished with a program that is:

- ***Parent Guided:*** The rights and responsibilities of parents as the primary teachers and care givers are honored and respected.
- ***Heart Based:*** The development of character and values within the heart are emphasized while building the foundation of educational achievement.
- ***Student Centered:*** Flexibility for individual learning styles is built into benchmark achievements for three separate age groups.

Heart Based - Student Centered - Parent Guided



Heart Based Learning

The Hearthstone Plan is unique in that it encourages *heart*-based learning. We believe that the heart is capable of growth, development and change and we have learned from personal experience that when educators teach *from* the heart *to* the heart, they allow a life-long love of learning to develop. Under the leadership of a well-educated heart, the mind is open and receptive to learning opportunities.

The Hearthstone plan is designed to nurture the hearts of the rising generation. Parents are guided through a Christian pattern of development for their children with the four areas of achievement being the heart, mind, might and strength. Young children are given the opportunity to learn through play and participating in family routines and responsibilities. The heart is nurtured at this tender age with story-telling, nature studies, music, and art. As children grow, we maintain an emphasis on storytelling, especially in history, literature, and family religious studies, to warm the heart and lay a strong foundation for continued growth and development through their educational journey.



Student Centered Model

The Hearthstone Plan also espouses a student-centered learning model. Every individual is a unique child of a divine creator with a personal mission and learning style. Student-centered learning allows for individuality. Parents and students work together to identify strengths and interests as well as areas of weakness where specific learning tools may need to be added.

We recognize that children learn different skills at different times in their lives. Some may read at age four while others don't show interest in reading until eight or nine. Our benchmark achievement lists allow flexibility for all learning styles. Instead of listing skill sets by grade, we provide a list of skills to be achieved within three phases of learning: 0-8 years, 8-12 years, and 12 and older. Parents may refer to these lists to guide their child's learning and create awareness of the concepts listed. As children respond to various learning opportunities, they will show natural desires to pursue specific areas of study. Parents may increase opportunity to explore topics that hold the child's greatest interest while creating minimum standards of achievement in areas of lesser interest but still important to learn as a life skill.



Parent Guided Education

The rights and responsibilities of parents are a fundamental part of any truth-based education program. The Hearthstone Education Plan respects the rights and responsibilities of parents and is designed so parents may choose teachers, mentors, resources and programs to meet the needs of their children, while allowing them remain at the helm. The Hearthstone Plan offers several options for parents to choose from. Whether they choose a traditional model, Charlotte Mason, Tjed, Sonlight, ABeka, or other method, parents will find resources on the Hearthstone website to assist them in the education of their children.

The Hearthstone Plan is not a curriculum but a roadmap. The flexibility of the plan allows for, personalization, creativity, and individuality while providing specific benchmarks of achievement along the way. We have gone to great lengths to research the best resources and materials available to teach educational skills while nurturing the values we care about. For more information on these resources visit HearthstonePlan.org



0-8 the Core Years *Planting and nurturing the seeds of self, family, and community*

The Core years are the time when children should be encouraged to discover their identity, core values such as good/bad, right/wrong, and develop their sense of belonging. Basic developmental and academic skills are introduced through discovery and curiosity and mature through encouragement and practice.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY	READING & WRITING	MATH	SCIENCE	LANGUAGE ARTS
Nurture the sense of belonging to a family on earth and a family in heaven	Begin phonics-based reading lessons after signs of readiness appear	Play games with numbers	Experience the joy and wonder of God’s creations through Nature Study	Introduction to Stories (both verbal and read-alouds). Introduce books from the Well Educated Heart program
Create a “My Family” journal	Develop handwriting skills.	Allow children to experience practical application of numbers and shapes as they help with cooking and family projects	Create a nature journal including sketches, writing and nature samples	Introduction to rhymes and poetry
Recognize names and events associated with national holidays	Make up stories and dramatize stories with puppets, figurines, pictures, etc.	Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting 1-100 • Addition • Subtraction • Multiplication • Division • Basic shapes • Basic measurements • Read a clock • Count money 	Enjoy stories of nature from the Well Educated Heart program – Nature, Art and Music Series	Create a Memory Gems Journal to record and illustrate favorite rhymes and quotes



8-12 the Elementary Years *Fostering a Love for Learning*

The Elementary years are building on the foundation established in the Core years. It is a time for building on the basics, exploring interests, and developing a love for learning. Basic academic skills are built upon through a broad list of opportunities, assignments, practice skills and enrichment activities. The sense of belonging will expand to the world through history and cultures while gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for community and country.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY	READING & WRITING	MATH	SCIENCE	LANGUAGE ARTS
Discover the stories behind the countries of the world and create a Countries of the World Journal	Complete phonics-based reading lessons for decoding and spelling	Begin a systematic approach to developing math skills, using the resources of your choice	Begin student-created science textbooks for science topics correlated with the days of the creation	Participate in Story Hour using the Well Educated Heart program
Discover the stories of Early American History in the 1700s and 1800s up to World War I	Develop handwriting skills with cursive	Course road maps with video tutorials using Singapore Math are provided	Discover WHY and HOW God created the universe	Independent reading and group discussion of classic works of literature
American and World Geography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continents • Major Oceans • Mountain Ranges • Major Rivers • US States and Capitols 	Develop vocabulary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of speech • Plurals • Tense • Affixes • Latin and Greek Roots 	Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole numbers • Measurements • Statistics • Fractions • Decimals • Ratio • Percentage • Geometry 	Science topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics • Chemistry • Geology • Botany • Astronomy • Zoology • Physiology 	Develop speaking skills to deliver oral recitations
World Religions Ancient Civilizations Middle Ages	Story sequence and development		Introduction to famous scientists in each of the areas of science	Discover how art, music, and service are used to communicate to the heart



12 and up the Learning for Life Years *Strengthening the Heart & Mind, Serving with Strength and Might*

The Scholar years build and expand on the love of learning as students take a greater interest and role in their academic pursuits. Their sense of identity and self-worth is strengthened through personal study and service to others in home and community. More in-depth academic skills are introduced as students pursue their areas of interest, master life skills, explore career paths, and prepare for adulthood. Increased skills in leadership, communication and a strong work ethic are cultivated with an emphasis on community service and citizen involvement.

This Phase of learning is a good time to start taking the ACT and SAT tests and begin college assessments through the Smart Degree program. [Smart Degree Homeschool Advantage](#) is a free resource that offers assessments in Language Arts and Math to determine whether your children are college ready. It also provides feedback and practice lessons to help get them ready.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY	READING	MATH	SCIENCE	LANGUAGE ARTS
Cultural Literacy Hook-Date History and student-created textbooks for the following time periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient History • Middle Ages • Middle Eastern and European History • American History <u>Civics & Government</u> Dec. of Independence United States Constitution Federalist Papers Freedom Documents	<u>Classic Literature –</u> American and European authors Shakespeare Historic Fiction & Biographies Poetry	Algebra Advanced Math based on student interest Budgeting & Money Management Consumer Math: Balance Checkbook, open bank account, etc Economics	Complete student-created textbooks for each of the sciences In-depth study of science topic of the student’s choice Biology Astronomy Physics Chemistry Geology Botany	<u>Writing</u> Story development and sequence 5 Paragraph Essay Various forms of writing such as creative writing, biographies, Reports, research papers, etc. Correct grammar in writing Speech and Debate