

A Statewide Network for Sharing Information about Home Education Editors: Howard & Susan Richman

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PA Homeschoolers Launches E-mail Courses

from Howard Richman

Beginning this fall, PA Homeschoolers will offer e-mail courses to help academically advanced homeschooled high school students prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

The teachers are all homeschooling parents who are experts in their fields. At an *Educating High Schoolers at Home* workshop sponsored by Penn State University on July 26 (see page 4), the teachers of our e-mail courses will appear together on a panel so that prospective students can meet the teachers and hear about the courses first hand.

The students will all be homeschooled high school students who have an interest in the field and the goal of doing the best they can on the AP exam in May. Should they pass the exams, they will usually receive college credit from the college that they later attend.

These courses will give families with Internet access the opportunity to have an expert in the field help their high schoolers master a difficult subject area and will give students an opportunity to communicate with other students who are studying the same material. The AP courses should provide sufficient structure to keep everyone on schedule in order to be ready for the May tests.

Want to spend a day with thirty different homeschooling families? *Homeschooling: A Patchwork of Days* by Nancy Lande is just out. See the review on page 22.

Increasing Support Available

These e-mail courses are just a small part of the increasing support available for high school at home in Pennsylvania:

1. Support groups for older children are springing up all over the state where homeschoolers get together for writing clubs, book discussions, fun nights, work projects, square dances, or chemistry classes (there will be a panel about these groups at the Penn State workshop).
2. Workshops and curriculum fairs feature talks about how high school at

accredit homeschool diplomas and organize graduation ceremonies. We are fortunate here in Pennsylvania to have one of the only homeschooling laws which recognizes graduation from home education programs.

It is not surprising that the number of students 14 and older being homeschooled in Pennsylvania is on the rise (see the chart on the left).

Why AP Courses?

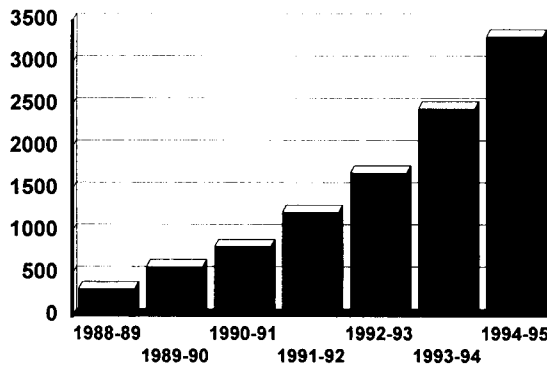
We have long been encouraging college-bound homeschooled students to take at least one AP exam before 12th grade, say in 11th grade. Good scores show colleges that the homeschooler was able to do college-level work at home. (The senior year is not too late for getting college credit but is too late for impressing colleges, since the scores do not come in until after the colleges have made their offers.)

For example, after passing the AP US History exam in his junior year, our always-homeschooled son Jesse was offered a complete academic scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. Similarly, after passing the AP Computer Programming Exam in his junior year always-homeschooled Matthew Formica was offered a complete academic scholarship to St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

This Year's E-mail Courses

Our plans are for five courses during the 1996-97 school year: (1) AP English: Literature and Composition, (2) AP US History, (3) AP Psychology, (4) AP Calculus, and (5) AP Chemistry. The following

**Students in Home Education
14 years of age and older**



home is working and display the increasing number of cassette tapes, video courses, and good quality textbooks available to homeschooled students.

3. Homeschool high school sports teams compete with other homeschooled teams and sometimes with private school teams on the basketball court and on the volleyball court here in Pennsylvania.

4. Diploma programs arising out of the homeschooling community continue to