

# HOMESCHOOL HELPER

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## MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Michigan home educating friends,  
 There has been considerable activity recently within our state legislature and their allies in the media regarding the home schooling community. I thought I should update you briefly on a few things and share my opinion about them.

First, a series of news articles appeared in several large city newspapers and TV stations calling for greater control over home educators in Michigan. Links to those articles are listed below. Essentially, according to these articles, the issue is child abuse and their alleged solution is greater government regulation of homeschooling. But according to the MI Department of Human Services, 17,460 cases of serious abuse (levels 1-3) occurred in 2008, the latest year for which data is available. If 3-5% of the children in Michigan are home schooled (and potentially being 'abused!'), then using their own 'logic,' 95-97% of all child abuse must occur within families participating in government education programs! This is a serious problem that should be addressed by this same reporter and our government regulators before they turn their attention to the few

cases occurring within the "home school" community. Seriously, abuse should never occur within the Christian community and I

pray rarely does. But not all home schoolers are Christians and even some of us Christians make bad decisions. At the end of the day, however, the issue really is clearly NOT about abuse but regulation, in order to remove the freedom we enjoy in discipling our children at home. To many in the education bureaucracy these children represent dollars not being enjoyed in the public education trough, which I would venture to guess is at least a part of the real issue. It is money for which our enemies will not stop working until they have our children, and their 'per-pupil' funding, back in their schools.

Second, new legislation is awaiting the governors' signature that would require children to remain in school until age 18. Let me summarize this by stating that there is an "opt out" clause for home educators and other par-

ents who desire other options for their children... but know that all government intrusion into our freedom is deemed unaccept-

able in my opinion. Know, too, that since this issue is, at least in part, financially driven, every child in a government school has a potential dollar value and the longer they

remain in school the more money schools receive. The truth is: test scores and morality continue to worsen in government schools; money is not the answer but since it is their only answer, it remains the elusive ends and we are part of their means for securing more of it. What these two issues bring to our attention is the need for us to both pray and stand guard for our freedom. The Lord raised up the home discipling movement because it was about training children to know and love Him. If we continue to make education the primary goal we will lose our



Stay informed!

*Cont. on page 2*

## MID-YEAR BOOST MEETING FRIDAY

We hope to see you on Friday, January 15, 2010 for our homeschool mid-year boost meeting. This will be held at Calvary Baptist Church in Negaunee at 7:00 p.m. As

always, curriculum for sale is welcome. Come with your questions, concerns, or words of encouragement. Enjoy the fellowship of other homeschoolers, too. For more

information, call Jim or Lonny Janofski at (906) 486-4536 or email [Janofski@up.net](mailto:Janofski@up.net).



## LEGISLATIVE, CONT.

freedom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. He must be our first, primary and most important reason for keeping our children out of government schools. Let us make sure we are training our children in the ways of the Lord, and then let us pray diligently for God to grant us the freedom to continue in this blessing. Finally, keep writing your legislators and vote at every opportunity for those who support less government and

believe Jesus is the answer for man's problems, not Caesar.

Mike Winter

INCH Executive Director

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20091217/METRO/912170386/1026/rss06><http://www.hslda.org/hs/state/mi/200912180.asp>

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20091217/METRO/912170390/1026/rss06>

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20091217/METRO/912170386/1026/rss06><http://www.hslda.org/hs/state/mi/200912180.asp>

For complete article or regular email updates, contact Ruth Hill at [umchehomeschool@charter.net](mailto:umchehomeschool@charter.net).

## SUPPORT STUPAK

As part of your current events curriculum, civics, or government, be sure to be teaching your children about your senators and congressmen, such as Bart Stupak.

In a recent news story, Bart Stupak has been called the most hated democrat in DC, thanks to his pro-life stance. Here are links to two New York Times articles:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/07/us/politics/07stupak.html>  
[www.nytimes.com/2010/01/07/us/politics/07stupak.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/07/us/politics/07stupak.html)  
[http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/s/bart\\_stupak/index.html?inline=nyt-per](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/s/bart_stupak/index.html?inline=nyt-per)

Biography:

A graduate of Gladstone High School, Congressman Stupak holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, in Lansing, Michigan.

He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Saginaw Valley State University in 1977, graduating magna cum laude, and he earned his Associate's Degree from Northwestern Michigan Community College in Traverse City in 1972.

He was elected in 1992 to represent Michigan's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Thirty one counties make up the sprawling Northern Michigan district. It contains the entire Upper Peninsula as well as the northern part of the Lower Peninsula, making it one of the largest Congressional Districts in the nation. Michigan's First Congressional District contains approximately half of the state's land mass and has more shoreline - 1,613 miles - than any other Congress-

sional District in the nation except Alaska. Stupak became the first Democrat in the 20th Century to serve successive terms in this Congressional District by winning re-election eight times in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Bart was born on February 29, 1952. He lives in Menominee, Michigan, with his wife, Laurie. Their son, Ken, graduated from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2006 and resides in California. The Stupaks also had a son, Bart Jr., who died in May 2000.

If you support Bart Stupak and his stance on pro-life issues, or support his possible bid for governor, be sure to let him know. You can find his contact information on his web page: [www.house.gov/stupak](http://www.house.gov/stupak).

*Dome Days*

*Jan. 13,*

*Feb. 17, &*

*March 10*

## SHARE FAIR/POT LUCK COMBINED

We are combining these two events again this year!

This year's potluck will be held on **Friday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m.** at Calvary Baptist Church in Negaunee. Bring a main dish and dessert or

salad plus drinks and table service for your family.

The Share Fair is like a science/fine arts fair, an opportunity for your students to display their artwork, science projects, or recite a poem,

Scripture passage, or play an instrument or sing. With any questions, please call Lonny at 486-4536 or email [Janofski@up.net](mailto:Janofski@up.net).

## HARBOR/MINER'S PARK DAYS

Harbor Days are homeschool play days down at the Mattson/Lower Harbor playground in Marquette. Dates are on the third Wednesday of the month (spring/summer/fall). The first date this **spring is May 19**. Most families begin showing up at 10:00 a.m. Many bring sack lunches and make a day of it. It's a great opportunity to fly a kite, play Frisbee, etc. Some of the teens jump into the

water (are they crazy?) or head to the beach in the afternoon. Questions? Call Lynne Ivey at 360-4994 or email [lynneiv@aol.com](mailto:lynneiv@aol.com).

Summer Dates:

**June 16, 2010**

**July 21, 2010**

**August 18, 2010**

If it's too far for you to travel to Marquette for you, then come enjoy

the fellowship of other homeschool families from Ishpeming and Negaunee at the new Negaunee Miner's Park. We'll meet at the same time (10am), and you can grab some Subway, bring a sack lunch, or stop by one of the fast food places on your way home. Either way, enjoy the chance to get together a little closer to home. Contact Shannon Kemp at [kemps4christ@yahoo.com](mailto:kemps4christ@yahoo.com).



## DOMES DAYS

Parents, please read on for **price change** and requirements...

Dome Days at the NMU Superior Dome in Marquette continue to be a popular activity for homeschoolers. Please remember that the gathering place and coat drop-off for this function is at the bleachers **ACROSS** the Dome in Section 20 (NOT in Section 3). Parents and children, PLEASE observe this as we want to do a good job of honoring NMU's request and maintaining a good testimony.

Here are their rules:

1. Parents **MUST** accompany children (no drop-offs allowed).
2. Parents, keep children from running and actively playing in the bleachers. The bleachers are for quiet sitting only!
3. No playing in the sand pit. It is only for NMU students.
4. Tennis shoes (with **NO** black soles that mark up the floor) are required. No bare feet or stocking feet!
5. No rollerblades or skateboards.
6. No scooters of any kind. Big wheels for the little ones (with plastic wheels) are acceptable, but only inside the netted area.
7. Balls and jump ropes are welcome; some equipment is provided.

**COST: \$1.00 per child**

**TIME: 9:30 a.m.-noon**

**DATES: Jan. 13, Feb. 17, and March 10.**

## MUSIC LESSONS

**Elyse Gregg** from Northshore Christian church offers **violin** lessons and is currently taking students. The cost is \$12 per half-hour. If interested, call her at 475-4457.

**Ruth Hill** offers beginning **piano** for \$9 a half-hour. She has time available on Tuesdays. For more

information, call her at 486-4942 or email [ruthhill@charter.net](mailto:ruthhill@charter.net).

**Megan Smith**, a recent home school graduate, is available to teach beginning **piano or violin** lessons at her home in Marquette. She charges \$10 a lesson and is available



Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. This is Megan's first business venture and she

looks forward to sharing her love of music. Contact her at 458-0392 or [upmegane@charter.net](mailto:upmegane@charter.net) if interested.

*Share Fair/Potluck  
May 21*

## USED CURRICULUM FAIR

**DATE:** Friday, June 4, 2010

**TIME:** 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Marquette Bible Church  
1801 Woodland Ave., Marquette

The Used Curriculum Fair is coming again the first Friday of June! We had a great turnout last year with a good selection of different kinds of curriculum. If you have items to sell bring them between 5:00-5:30 p.m. to get your table

and set up. Then you may shop from 5:30-6:00. Items must be pre-priced; work your own tables to collect money and to answer any questions. We will also have two "free" tables for anyone who would like to help others out. With the economy right now, this is a perfect answer to your money-saving prayers. As a family, come join us for snacks and a good

time together. Any questions? Call Lynda Takalo at 346-4935.

If you can't wait until June, remember that at any of our regular meetings (August 21 and January 15) you are welcome to sell used curriculum. Another option is our email list for looking for or selling curriculum.



## NEW ONLINE ACADEMY

The NICE Community School District, as a part of its recent selection by the Michigan Department of Education as a Project ReImagine demonstration district, will be implementing several initiatives aimed at engaging all learners. Among the initiatives the district is pursuing is an online academy. The "Patriot Academy" will provide online courses that will enhance the traditional face to face instructional model by providing flexible scheduling options and enable the educational program to be tailored to meet the needs of individual students. The Patriot Academy will also enable students to complete

100% of their high school program online.

The district would also like to partner with parents of home-schooled students to provide course content and access via our online academy that can be used to support what parents are currently teaching. In cases where home-schooled students enroll in

courses via the academy, parents could use that course content as the basis or as a supplement for their existing curriculum. In addition to offering high school courses, the district is working with colleges to provide online post-

secondary options for students at no cost.

The district believes that every student learns differently and has a deep respect for families who choose to educate their children at home. That said, by partnering with parents the district believes it can provide additional resources that meet the diverse needs of the children in our community.

**If you have any questions regarding the Patriot Academy and would like to discuss how the district can support your educational goals, please contact the Central Office at 485-1021.**



Patriot Academy Online

**Calendar updates are available on our website as well. Check it out at [WWW.UMCHE.ORG](http://WWW.UMCHE.ORG)**

## FUN FUNDS AT GFS

You can make your shopping dollars stretch a little further at Gordon Food Service in Marquette. GFS will contribute a percentage of pur-

chases from U.P. homeschoolers and their supporters when they sign up for the Fun Funds Program at GFS, mentioning Upper Michigan

homeschools. This program has been a great financial benefit to UMCHE and has helped to keep us going!

## EMAILING LIST UPDATES

Ruth Hill regularly redirects HLSDA weekly email updates and other pertinent local homeschooling information to UMCHE homeschoolers who want to participate. If you are not already on this email list and you would like to be added, please send your mail-

ing address to [umche-homeschool@charter.net](mailto:umche-homeschool@charter.net). Your address will be deleted if the email is returned, so if you thought



Email list available.

you were on the list and you haven't been hearing from us lately, we may have lost your address. Please let us know of any email changes as well.

## ACTIVITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Yvonne Smith is putting together an email event list. If you have **high school students**, Yvonne would like to know the ages of your students and your email address in order to add you to the event list. If someone you know does not have email

and you would like to be the contact person for them, please indicate that as well. Email [dssyms@charter.net](mailto:dssyms@charter.net) to add your email address to the list.

Yvonne is putting a **separate 7th/8th grade email** list together as well to keep students and parents informed of age specific upcoming events and activities. Please reply to [dssyms@charter.net](mailto:dssyms@charter.net) to add your email to the 7th/8th grade list.

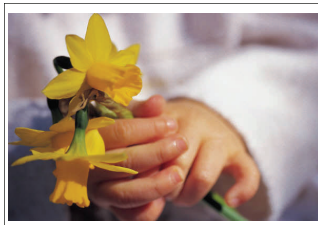
## MORE MOM SUPPORT

Mom's Life, formerly MOPS, is held from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from October to April at Calvary Baptist Church in Negawee (105 Iroquois Dr.).

Mom's Life seeks to meet the needs of every mother with children from birth to kindergarten. Women of all backgrounds and ages find sup-

port in Mom's Life groups as they try to be the very best moms they can be. Mom's Life groups provide a caring atmosphere for today's mothers to grow and share their experiences with other mothers. Mom's Life programs often include speakers, discussion groups, and creative activities while children are cared for in a parallel program

called Kid's Life. Contact Laura Elliott at [laurajelliott22@peoplepc.com](mailto:laurajelliott22@peoplepc.com) or 475-0050 for more information.



## DIPLOMA ORDERING

Order quality Christian diplomas from [www.homeschooldiploma.com](http://www.homeschooldiploma.com) (1-877-466-2563). Personal-

ize your own with numerous choices of paper color, Bible verses, raised labels, padded covers, embossing, signature

lines, calligraphy, and more. Check them out so you can be prepared to order when the time comes!

## LIBRARY DAYS

It's a good time of year to curl up in a warm blanket with a good pleasure book!

Homeschool Library Day is a monthly resource that is available to all homeschoolers in Marquette and the surrounding area.

On the **last Wednesday of each month**, from September through April EXCLUDING

December, the **Lake Superior Christian Library** will be open from **noon to 3 p.m.**

This quality, Bible-based, supplemental library houses 3,100 books, 540 videos/DVDs, audio sets, and music CDs. Most resources can be signed out for 4 consecutive weeks to help enhance and supplement your current

homeschool curriculum, for the sake of creativity and clarity for both the home teacher and the students.

Come "check us out" at LSCC, 393 N. M553 Marquette, 1/3 mile north of the Crossroads (480 & 553). With any questions, feel free to call Sue Parsons at 906-250-0999 or email [slparsons4@gmail.com](mailto:slparsons4@gmail.com).

*"Check out" the  
LSCC Library*



# CALENDAR 2010

Wed. 1/13	9:30 AM	Dome Day
Fri. 1/15	7:00 PM	Mid-Year Boost Meeting
Tue. 1/26	7:00 PM	"Weather History in the U.P." (FH)
Wed. 1/27	12-3:00	Library Day
Wed. 2/17	9:30 AM	Dome Day
Tue. 2/23	7:00 PM	"Ski Flying in the U.P." (FH)
Wed. 2/24	12-3:00	Library Day
Wed. 3/10	9:30 AM	Dome Day
Tue. 3/23	7:00 PM	"Barefoot Boys of Fayette" (FH)
Wed. 3/31	12-3:00	Library Day
Tue. 4/20	7:00 PM	"Meet a Civil War Musician" (FH)
		Summer Role Playing Meeting
Wed. 4/28	12-3:00	Library Day
Fri.-Sat. 5/14 & 15		Annual INCH Convention (Lansing)
Wed. 5/19	10:00 AM	Harbor/Miner's Park Day
Fri. 5/21	6:00 PM	Share Fair/Potluck
Fri. 6/4	6:00 PM	Used Curriculum Fair (Mqt. Bible)
Fri. 6/16	10:00 AM	Harbor/Miner's Park Day
Wed. 7/21	10:00 AM	Harbor/Miner's Park Day
Wed. 8/18	10:00 AM	Harbor/Miner's Park Day
Fri. 8/27	7:00 PM	Regular "Kick-off" meeting

- ◆ **PLEASE** transfer these dates to your family calendar and plan to attend as many meetings and activities as possible. We don't always send reminders! (Email reminders are available from our mailing list via Ruth Hill at [umchehomeschool@charter.net](mailto:umchehomeschool@charter.net).)
- ◆ All meetings are held at the Calvary Baptist Church in Negaunee (on U.S.-41 across from the Quartz Mountain Inn).
- ◆ Nursing babies are welcome, but please get a sitter for other children at the January 15 and August 27 meetings. Used curriculum is always welcome, too.
- ◆ Questions?? Call Jim or Lonny Janofski at 906-486-4536 or email [Janofski@up.net](mailto:Janofski@up.net).

Calendar updates are available on our website as well.

Check it out at

[www.umche.org](http://www.umche.org)