

Homeschool Graduates of 2020



Markaya Anderson

I love drawing and listening to music in my spare time. I also love video games and movies and I've been playing the piano since I was five. I spend a lot of hours skating at the

Lakeshore Sports Centre ice rink and training with my team mates. My aspiration is to reach the senior level one day and perform in Disney on Ice. But for right now my biggest achievement in life has been the day I snuck in a bag of McDonalds takeout into the Avengers: Endgame premiere.



Joshua Boogerd

I have been homeschooled most of my life. Throughout the years, I have enjoyed playing for the homeschool basketball league and skiing, as well as being very involved in church activities and youth group. In the fall, I plan to attend North Central University in Minneapolis to study business and sports management. My future dream job is to work in the management side of a professional sports team.



Stephanie Doctor

Stephanie is the daughter of Shawn and Barney Doctor. She has been a homeschool student throughout her schooling. She played on the homeschool basketball team, Shoreline Breakers. She is considering a career in nursing or cosmetology after graduation.



Emma Holmes

After graduation I will be attending MCC for 2 years and then transferring to Ferris State University to attain my degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. Some of my favorite activities include, Jazz dancing, which I have done for 12 years, doing crafts, volunteering at

my local library, exploring new places, and trying new foods. "Life is the adventure of finding yourself."



Ian Klaes

I have been homeschooled my entire life and am excited to continue my education in the coming years. The past two years I have also had the privilege of attending the Careerline Tech Center studying Agriculture and Animal Science. It is because of this that I will be attending the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln studying Agribusiness Management. In addition, I enjoy playing sports, doing things with friends, and keeping busy with the FFA. My favorite Bible verse is Romans 12: 21.



Noah Knebl

I'm an 18 year old man of God. I used to wear a pin that said "Mamma's Little Trooper" and I got savagely beaten for it. I am going to be an architect and design a naked hairless cat statue in Madison Square Garden. I played basketball for 7 years and only won 15 games.



Elizabeth Tennant

I have been homeschooled for my entire life, and I am excited to continue my education by pursuing a BA in Christian Studies through Grand Canyon University. I spend most of my free time reading books, listening to music, playing my two ukuleles,

and hanging out with my friends and family. I am looking forward to where God will take me in life. My favorite verse is Jeremiah 31:3.



Gwyndalyn Wiggin

Gwyndalyn is committed to glorifying God in her future plans. She will spend the summer as an intern at Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya doing what she is passionate about- teaching Jesus' love to camp kids and being on the water. Gwyndalyn plans on

pursuing missions school and eventually working with marine animals. Her current favorite verse is Colossians 2:6-7.

Home Education is Alive and Well in West Michigan

By Amy Tennant

Home education is growing in West Michigan. Home-educated students have many opportunities to learn, socialize, exercise, and have fun in group activities around the area. Contrary to popular belief, home-educated students are not lacking for socialization.

For the purpose of this article, I am focusing on independent home education (homeschooling) under the 3(f) exemption. The other exemption, 3(a), is a bit different as it requires registration with the state as a non-public (i.e., private) school. Online virtual school (aka public-school-at-home) is an extension of the public school and therefore falls under the laws of compulsory education rather than the home-education exemptions.

Michigan law 380.1561(3)(f) states:

A child shall not be required to attend the public schools in the following cases:

(f) The child is being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.

For education and socialization, many families choose to participate in co-ops. Co-ops generally meet one day a week for classes and may offer field trips, parties, and other activities. Parents often tutor these classes, but some may hire a teacher or professional if a parent with a particular skill set is not available. A fee is usually charged for classes, supplies, building rent, insurance, etc., and some co-ops require parent participation. There may also be rules and requirements for joining. We have two co-ops in the Muskegon area: Clearwater Co-op and Axxess.

The homeschool community also has opportunities for sports and exercise. There is a basketball team through Shoreline Homeschool Athletic Association. The Shoreline Breakers play other homeschool basketball teams and private-school teams around the state. There are also weekly pick-up soccer games in the spring and fall organized by a couple of the local parents. The Grand Haven YMCA offers discounted homeschool gym/activity classes a few times a year.

A big draw each year is the West Michigan Homeschool Theatre's play. Students audition for parts and have rehearsals just like a public school or community production, then perform it at the Beardsley Theater, located next to the Frauenthal. This year's performance, Elijah, had to be postponed due to the governor's stay-at-home order. It is rescheduled for June 11-13, 2020. Tickets will be available for purchase through the Frauenthal Box Office.

West Michigan Home School High Schoolers (WMHS2) is a parent-led group that puts on prom, graduation, and other activities for our home-educated students. Last year, we had more than 100 students attend prom and around 25 who participated in the graduation ceremony. Unfortunately, due to the stay-at-home order, prom had to be canceled this year. Graduation will hopefully be rescheduled after the order has been lifted.

Our state home-education association, MICHN, offers a large convention every year in May along with a used-curriculum sale and many vendors offering new curriculum. Besides meetings for the parents, the convention has programs for teens and children. MICHN also provides information, instruction, and inspiration for Michigan's home educators.

In addition to the many activities just for homeschoolers, our students also participate in music lessons, church youth groups, field trips, scouting, and other volunteer opportunities. For those that want to travel a bit further, there are more opportunities in Grand Rapids.

For more information on homeschooling in Michigan, check out www.michn.org or www.hslda.org. For the groups and activities mentioned in this article, most of them can be found on Facebook or through a web search.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Upcoming events (God willing)

by Heidi Tice

- **May 18th Monday:** Fruitport Charter Township Hall open to the public – 8:30am -4:00 pm
- **June 12th -13th (Friday & Saturday):** Spring Cleanup – 9am-4pm- behind Fruitport Township hall
- **July 18th Saturday:** slip-in-slide – Pomona Park – 11:00-1:30
- **August 4th Tuesday:** Michigan Primary Election
- **August 15th Saturday:** slip-in-slide – Pomona Park – 11:00-1:30
- **November 3rd Tuesday:** General Election
- **December 12th Friday:** Fruitport Lions Old Fashioned Christmas – 6pm – 8pm – Pomona Park
- **December 13th Saturday:** Fruitport Lions Old Fashioned Christmas – 4pm – 7pm – Pomona Park

Dog Tag Licenses

By Rose Dillon, Treasurer

Dog tag licenses will be renewed without late fees when the township hall resumes regular business hours, Monday, May 18, 2020. Please bring current rabies vaccine paperwork with you when renewing licenses.

Property Taxes	Mailed	Due
Summer	July 1, 2020	September 14, 2020
Winter	December 1, 2020	February 14, 2021

Call the treasurer if you wish to see if you qualify for a Deferment. A Deferment does not exempt property taxes, but extends the due date.