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101 Reasons to Homeschool

by Mary Pride

Thinking about homeschooling, but having trouble making up your mind? Need help explaining your homeschooling decision to skeptical friends and relatives? Or could you just use a little inspiration to remind you why homeschooling is worth the effort?

Well, come on in! There are more reasons to homeschool than I imagined when I first started collecting them.

Some of these “reasons to homeschool” might shock you. But every one of the outrageous “reasons to homeschool” based on public-school doings was first posted—with proof—on my personal “MaryPride” Facebook page. Just go to <http://www.facebook.com/MaryPride> and scroll on down to find the article on which the “reason” was based. Or subscribe to my Twitter feed (@MaryPride) and view them there.

1 Columbine High School, where the horrific school shooting took place over a decade ago, was in the news again recently. Not for a gun attack, but for a *hammer* attack on two teen students by another teen.

2 A 10-year-old boy was forced to eat lunch alone at the “silent table” all semester because (1) a fellow student commented that his partly-eaten pizza slice looked like a gun and (2) he then waved it around and pretended to “shoot” into the air. Yup, even “pretend” guns—pointing fingers, pizza slices, drawings of guns—can lead to counseling, suspension, and expulsion.

3 In PA’s Delaware Valley, a drug test is required to join the school scrapbooking club. Plus consent to MORE random drug tests later. Because kids need to learn they have no rights as young as possible. Including those deadly scrapbookers. Sheesh.

4 From the Indiana News Center: “What was supposed to be [an] ‘International Day of Tolerance’ turned into a couple days of bullying and intolerance at Northfield Jr/Sr High School in Wabash County.” Nuff said.

5 Public-school socialization isn’t what people think it is. CNN’s “Anderson Cooper 360” fund-

ed a study on school bullying, and discovered that it’s actually “social combat”—a cruel jockeying for status. And the higher a student’s status, the more likely he or she is to bully and to be bullied.

6 According to the most recent National Assessment of Education Progress, the “Nation’s Report Card,” hardly anyone is actually learning the most basic facts about American history in public school. According to historian David McCullough, as reported in *The Wall Street Journal*. “We’re raising young people who are, by and large, historically illiterate.”

7 Every homeschooled child saves the taxpayers between \$12,000 (Phoenix, AZ) and nearly \$27,000 (NYC metro area). Check out this study: <http://ow.ly/9h8UE>.

8 Sex abuse by public school personnel FAR outweighs priest sex abuse. Just one example: An LA substitute teacher was investigated by police *three times* for molesting kids.

Each time the school district just moved him to another school. Finally he was caught ON TAPE molesting a 2nd grader—at which point he fled to Mexico, where he remains to this day. The media pointed out a “pattern” of covering up for abusive priests, but is just now starting to occasionally report on the practice of shipping abusive teachers to a new school instead of firing them. The sheer scale of the problem is still under wraps, though. According to an 2004 official Department of Education report, *Educator Sexual Misconduct: A Synthesis of Existing Literature*, “the AAUW report that nearly 9.6 percent of students are targets of educator sexual misconduct sometime during their school career presents the most accurate data available at this time.” As a scholar told Education Week in 2004, “The physical sexual abuse of students in schools is likely more than 100 times the abuse by priests.”

9 Cheating in schools is on the rise—approved and enforced from the top. Atlanta teachers had cheating parties for a DECADE, where “Teachers and principals erased and corrected mistakes on students’ answer sheets.” (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

10 You’ve probably heard plenty about how school union perks are bankrupting state after state. Bet you didn’t know this: a new study has concluded that public school teachers are being paid \$120 billion over market value. This is part of why you are saving your fellow citizens massive amounts of tax dollars for each child you homeschool.

11 Rescue your kids from longer school days and longer school years. In Chicago, for example, Rahm Emmanuel insists the school day should be 90 minutes longer. (But homeschoolers can get better results in half the time.)

12 Do you think you know best what your kids should eat? Then you definitely

should homeschool. USDA lunch inspectors (a phrase I never thought I’d hear in my lifetime) recently made a preschooler give up her mom’s homemade turkey sandwich and purchase cafeteria chicken nuggets instead. More schools are banning homemade lunches altogether. And recently an attempt was made to ban *all* potatoes from *all* school lunches nationwide.

13 34 to 54% of kids in US schools are bullied in the classroom, according to a recent survey funded by the US Justice Department and Department of Education. It’s worst for Asians, but not great for any group.

14 Speaking of bullying, at home first-grade students don’t have to bow down before their teacher, to rub her smelly feet, as happened recently in SC.

15 Run, run, run! The best “cure” for ADHD is to let kids wear themselves out with physical exercise. This is not possible if your school has banned recess (as so many do), and definitely isn’t possible inside the classroom. Unless you learn at home and Mom has a mini-trampoline in the living room!

16 What’s on that school computer? Depending on where you live, and how low the administration bows before the ACLU, all sorts of sexually explicit information and encouragement might be accessible. At home, parents can install filters without making it a court case.

17 Think your child should learn to write in cursive? Then teach him or her at home. Schools have largely abandoned the teaching of cursive, using the excuse that kids are typing everything on computers. But your child’s beautifully handwritten “thank you” note will help him or her land that job or grad-school spot, and their spouse will be able to read the shopping list.

18 This is what the school thinks of your student’s chance of getting into drugs: Middle-schoolers are now being sent home with drug test kits. What they’re not telling you: The #1 place for kids to score drugs is in or just outside of school.

19 The real life career-prep skill: knowing how to talk to adults confidently and without “attitude.” While homeschooled kids tend to excel at communicating with adults, sadly, this is not what is considered cool in school.

20 High-school football players in PA forced a boy to drink urine. Naturally, they were not disciplined. Meanwhile, a Northern CA teacher penalizes her students when they say “Bless you.”

21 What are the odds that kids will learn how to clean a house, cook dinner, and do their laundry? They are better if the kids are homeschooled!

22 Why is public education this way, anyway? Read John Taylor Gatto’s *The Underground History of American Education* and Sam Blumenfeld’s *Is Public Education Necessary?* Find out for whose benefit the system was set up—and why it will *never* be “reformed.”

23 Does your child want to be a chess champion, volunteer as a museum docent, become a violin virtuoso, or excel at any individual-oriented sport? Homeschooling provides time for the 10,000 hours it takes to become world-class at anything. (See *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell to learn how success really works.)

24 For many, this would be reason #1. You can teach the Bible and Christianity—or the religion of your choice—at home.

25 Roam the world. Homeschooling is “real world” education. We don’t have to sit at home. Friday field trips, a month sailing at sea, a missions trip to Mexico . . . all are grist for the homeschool mill.

26 Homeschoolers treat our children with dignity. Not like this teacher. Picture this. A 10-year-old has fish for lunch. Other students start “teasing and laughing at him”—presumably due to the fishy smell. The brilliant teacher then . . . tells the other kids to lay off? No, she takes him into the hall and sprays him with Febreze. BTW, this happened in Canada, the land of the “nice.”

27 Sleepy. Soooo sleepy. Public-school kids stay up late, but still have to get up early. Homeschooled kids might or might not stay up late, depending on the family’s schedule. But if they stay up late, usually they can sleep in late.

28 You’ve been waiting for this one—yes, homeschool kids can “attend school” in their jammies! And even Mom has been known to show up in a robe from time to time.

29 If you homeschool, nobody will attack your child at school in order to steal their sneakers.

30 From a public-school math worksheet in the great state of GA: “Each tree had 56 oranges. If 8 slaves pick them equally, then how much would each slave pick?” and this beauty, “If Frederick got 2 beatings per day, how many beatings did he get in 1 week?” The unnamed teacher’s excuse: “I was just trying to integrate history into the third-grade math curriculum.” This example made it online, but schools are rife with unreported propaganda exercises “integrating” material meant to inculcate progressive politics and unhelpful racial resentment.

31 Programs separating kids by “race” (a term that is meaningless biologically) and ethnicity are in a frightening number of schools. Such programs do not encourage harmony and togetherness, but an “us against them” viewpoint. Arizona’s ethnic studies program finally was shut down when “the judge ruled that the program violated state law by having one or more classes designed primarily for one ethnic group, promoting racial resentment and advocating ethnic solidarity instead of treating students as individuals.” Quote is from the Huffington Post. However, *before* this ruling, this program had been in place for over a decade.

32 Homeschooled kids find it easy to get along with kids from other countries and groups when they hit college. They missed out on the “high school cafeteria” experience, where research has shown kids self-group strongly by race and popularity.

33 Yes, homeschoolers have proms, too. Minus most of the post-prom problems, and you know what those are!

34 Mom won’t change your math grade if you offer her \$15. Unlike at least one math teacher who ABC News outed.

35 Tried talking to the school and nothing is done to protect your child from constant bullying? This has driven several moms lately to attack and threaten bullies themselves. Not a good idea. Homeschooling is better.

36 From the Department of Oh No: Chicago-area suburban high school only allows three bathroom breaks . . . per semester. Homeschooling . . . it’s for the kidneys.

37 Coming soon to a school near you: lice. You’ve been warned.

38 An 8-year-old student from MS was hauled away in handcuffs when he wouldn’t stop crying after a school paddling. Yes, they are handcuffing kids in school these days.

39 In New York City, even kids in KINDERGARTEN can be suspended for misbehaving. In some schools, the number of suspended 5-year-olds is in double digits.

40 Kids are being hauled off to jail straight from school. For offenses like wearing the wrong socks, or too many tardies.

41 Parents are also being threatened with jail time if their children are tardy too often. This never happens in homeschool.

42 Don’t forget, being suspended, expelled, or jailed will now be on a school child’s *permanent* record, which will *not* be sealed like juvenile court records. See the article on page 6.

43 Want to teach your kids about tools? That’s fine at home, but in Chicago, a teacher faces termination for showing tools to kids for a required class about . . . tools. Apparently it’s a “weapons violation” for a TEACHER to show kids screwdrivers, wrenches, and pliers. Even though all items were kept out of the kids’ reach. Someone must really want those kids to grow up helpless.

44 Learn at your own pace. Learn every subject at a different pace, if desired. Where? Homeschool!

45 Though childhood obesity has many causes, school vending machines filled with sugary drinks and snacks don’t help.

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46 My mom used to say, “It’s no use crying over spilt milk.” Apparently Valparaiso, IN, school officials take spilt milk a bit more seriously. A sixth-grader was handcuffed—and now faces jail time—for refusing to clean up milk he spilled in the middle-school cafeteria.

47 Half the boys I knew in junior high would be in juvie if those “zero tolerance” rules had been in effect back then. Consider the Case of the Spit Wad Terror. Virginia now considers shooting spit wads at a fellow student “violent criminal conduct.” Here’s the story. An ninth-grade honor student, active in Junior ROTC, thought it might be fun to blow small plastic pellets out of a disassembled pen at some other kids’ backpacks. He was promptly suspended for the school year and treated as a criminal (juvenile court proceedings for assault, anger management classes, the whole 9 yards). But the Circuit Court was bound to overturn that, right? Unbelievably, they UPHELD it. So now his dream of attending the U.S. Naval Academy has been destroyed (thanks to his criminal record).

48 Think I’m exaggerating? A lawsuit launched last August accuses a Chicago Public School’s security guard of handcuffing several *first-graders* for *talking in class*. Come home and chatter all you want, little gums.

49 Bonus: the kids above were told “they were going to prison and would never see their parents again.”

50 The greatest predictor of genius is how much time a child spends with adults. Like, for instance, Mom.

51 Language: It’s gotten so bad that Arizona is trying to pass a law preventing *teachers* from cursing in the classroom. Bonus: Google “teachers cursing” and

you’ll find dozens of online discussions about whether it should be OK for teachers to curse, with many voicing support for swearing in the classroom.

52 This April teachers and union officials will be flocking to the 12th annual “White Privilege” conference, designed to help them go back to their schools and fan the flames of resentment against Americans of European descent for . . . existing. All paid for by your tax dollars, by the way.

53 Let’s take a break from the School Horror Show. Here’s a happy reason to homeschool—shopping for art supplies is so much fun when you homeschool!

54 Reading aloud to a child is a vital preparation for his or her own reading success. Very little of this in school. Lots of this at home.

55 In school, kids learn to look down on those younger than them and avoid spending time with them. At home, kids get along regardless of age. This effect is so noticeable that a crafts marketer I know says she can always spot the homeschoolers at her mall crafts table because “the older ones help the younger ones.”

56 The dating game starts way too early in school these days, with third-graders worried if they don’t have a boyfriend or girlfriend. Not an issue at home.

57 “Look, everyone! A rainbow!” Rushing to the window to enjoy nature’s beauty is punished in school, but encouraged in homeschool.

58 Many public schools are cutting or have cut art and music. Homeschoolers have music tutors, music co-ops, mu-

sic DVDs, art DVDs, arty and musical friends who swap lessons, library books and videos, museum trips . . .

59 Homeschool curriculum is mostly free of “twaddle”—the endless sidebars, side notes, propaganda bits, and other mishmash that just confuses kids while it messes with their minds.

60 Online academies for homeschoolers have lessons in everything from anatomy to AP Latin.

61 Homeschool parents really get to know their kids. Kids can’t get immersed in dangerous pastimes as easily.

63 Homeschoolers don’t have to stop learning when a bell rings.

64 There are no schoolyard Fashion Police in homeschool.

65 A school banned soccer balls, tennis balls, and other WMD. Oh, Canada. But at home, who are you going to sue? Yourself? Bring out the sports equipment!

66 12-year-olds in California now can give “consent” to be injected with the dangerous Gardasil vaccine without parental knowledge. So, where will officials go to ask kids this age for “consent”? Not your homeschool.

67 Bring on your Christmas cards, carols, and creches. At home, not at school.

68-100 By the time you read this, I’ll have another 33 “reasons to homeschool” posted on my Twitter feed. Follow @MaryPride or visit my Facebook page to see them!