



August

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## Proverbs 24:3-4

**“ By wisdom a house is built, and by un-derstanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. “**

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## Setting Goals to Pursue Truth, Goodness, and Beauty

By Jennifer Courtney

Every summer, my husband and I sit down together to set goals for our homeschool. Over the years, our planning has distilled into three categories of goals that we set for our children: academic goals, responsibility goals, and spiritual goals. These three areas allow us to maximize our teaching opportunities for the year as we move our children closer to mature, responsible adulthood. We know that we need to focus our efforts for each child in each area if we hope to accomplish anything during a busy school year with four children, two careers, and many activities. This year, we have also decided to focus these goals on the aims of a classical education so that our goals allow our children to recognize truth, goodness, and beauty and to cultivate them in their own lives.

Although we pursue the model of the one-room schoolhouse, it is wise to think about the academic goals of each child before the year begins. We expect our six-year-old to accomplish the following: (1) Memorize all Cycle 3 history songs, John 1 in both Latin and English, and assigned poetry; (2) Develop automaticity with addition, subtraction, and skip counting facts; (3) Practice drawing techniques and improve handwriting by copying Scripture; and (4) Complete one age-

appropriate history reader and one science reader each week. Copying Scripture and reading science and history will expose her daily to the truths from God’s Word and His World. Learning to draw properly and memorizing poetry will bring beauty through pictures and words. Sitting still to complete all of these tasks promotes self-control, and thus goodness.

Our ten-year-old daughter will tackle these tasks: (1) Master Cycle 3 by trying out for Memory Master; (2) Develop automaticity with multiplication and division facts; (3) Perfect cursive handwriting and write weekly IEW papers independently; (4) Drill grammar through Essentials and Latin; (5) Pursue fine arts through piano and classical drawing and painting; and (6) Produce a sketch notebook of drawings and summaries from history and science readings. Through Bible stories and Scripture memory, she will be exposed to deeper truths about who God is and who she is in Him. Because she is interested in the fine arts, we sought and found a teacher who embraces the classical model by instructing her students through imitation of the masters. In our homeschool, I can incorporate her passion for the arts into all subjects as she labors to produce beautiful sketchbooks. This year in piano, she will continue to

work on the sonatina form, giving her a beginning appreciation for the beauty of music which results from structure and form. We hope to help her appreciate this connection between beauty and form as she listens to great composers. In all things, we hope she will behold God’s goodness and worship Him.

Our twelve-year-old will enter Challenge A for the first time and will be expected to manage his own time and assignments, including: (1) Memorize Latin vocabulary, geography terms, and catechism questions; (2) Write and type his own literature papers; (3) Research science topics and present them to his class; (4) Complete daily math assignments and study for tests; and (5) Manage study time so that he can pursue piano and tennis. Studying the Bible with his fellow students and wrestling with big ideas will yield a deeper understanding of the truth as revealed in Scripture and theology. The discipline of stretching himself into a new depth of academics will mold his character toward goodness. Delving into geography, literature, and biology will yield an appreciation for the beauty of God’s world.

Home management goals are as important as academic objectives, so my husband and I seek to broaden what our children can contribute to

**“The glory of God is to conceal a matter; the honor of kings is to search out a matter.”**

**Proverbs 25:2**

### Front page article continued...

the household chores. All four of our children (including our two-year-old) will receive training in specific domains. During the last year, we trained the older children to completely clean the kitchen after meals. Now, we will delegate some of that responsibility to the six-year-old who will feed the dog and clear the table. One of the older children will be responsible for dishes, pots and pans, and counters while the other sweeps and mops. Our twelve-year-old son will tackle his own laundry from washing to folding while the younger two learn to fold.

Our oldest two will be responsible for cleaning their own bathrooms. This means that my husband and I will have to be actively involved in the demonstration and inspection of the new chores for the first few months. By then, everyone will understand the process and routine, and we will let the children continue independently. Each child also receives an extra privilege to accompany the new responsibilities, such as an increase in spending money or a later bedtime. As our children work on these household tasks, they grow in understanding of classical ideals. Completing chores contributes to truth and goodness by developing Scriptural principles of hard work, obedience, respect, and love. Beauty results from a peaceful, orderly home and family.

Finally, we address our children’s individual spiritual needs. As homeschoolers, we are well aware of the areas in which our children need sanc-

tification. Children may need to work on speaking kindly to other siblings, controlling bursts of anger, respecting the property of others, obeying quickly, completing tasks without complaining, or considering the needs of others above their own. After my husband and I identify the areas of greatest need for each child, we address him or her individually. We then confront the recurrent sin, and give each child a related Scripture or two to memorize for the year to help fortify against the continual lure of that particular sin.

Setting these specific, individual goals allows us to educate our children’s minds, bodies and souls throughout the year. If we did not identify the targets initially, we would rarely hit them. We have also outlined enjoyable family times to pursue these goals as well. Every morning we will read through the Gospels together and discuss the stories from Jesus’ life. Each evening, we will read one of Aesop’s Fables and an original fairy tale to reinforce the ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty.

\* All Scripture references are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® (NIV). Copyright © 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved

## Essentials Parent Meeting and Foundations Workshops

When: Saturday, Aug. 13th

Where: Braggtown Baptist  
3218 Roxboro St.

Durham, NC 27704

Purpose: To better equip you the parent as we begin our school year together.

These workshops are for the parent only. See schedule and descriptions of the workshops below.

**9:00-11:00** Essentials Parent Meeting (This time slot is for the parents of registered Essentials students. The tutors will be sending out more information closer to the date.

You will need to plan to come a little early to set up your things, the meeting will begin promptly at 9:00)

**11:30-** Foundations and Essentials Parents join us for lunch.

**12:30-** Workshops for CC of Durham Parents (Foundations and Essentials) will begin.

We'll start the afternoon by discussing *The Core*, the one room schoolhouse, and the big picture of classically educating our children using the CC curriculum. Other work-

shops will include planning your school year, history and science supplemental options, and a time for questions and answers.

No matter how long you have been educating your children at home, there will be something to gain by attending these workshops.

We will end our evening by going out to dinner together. More information to come on the location.

## Volunteers through out the year!

There are several ways you can help serve our group this year. Some of the volunteers that I need this year are:

**Thanksgiving lunch** (*need 2-3 volunteers*)- You will need to come up with a list of foods needed, and maintain a sign up for the families.

**End of the year pizza** (*1-2 volunteers*)- Organize the pizza and drink orders and collect

money from the families.

**Coffee club** (*2-3 volunteers*)- This will only happen if we have at least one person to run things. If you want coffee on Thursday mornings you will need to coordinate buying the coffee and supplies and collecting any money from mom's that want to participate.

**Field Trip Coordinator**- Christine Weber has offered to coor-

dinate these trips throughout the year. You may be asked to head up one of the field trips. For this job you would just need to keep a list of who signed up for the trip, collect any money, turn in the money or forms to the place, and possibly write a thank you note.

**“For the tools of learning are the same, in any and every subject: and the person who knows how to use them will, at any age get the mastery of a new subject in half the time and with a quarter of the effort expended by the person who has not the tools at his command.”**

**~ Dorothy Sayers, The Lost Tools of Learning**

**First day of Foundations and Essentials:**

**August 25th**

**9:00 am**

# August 2011

*“We learn through three avenues... repetition, duration, and intensity.”  
~ Leigh Bortins*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Essentials Parent meeting and Foundations Workshops
14	15	16	17	18 Challenge seminars begin	19	20 Foundations and Essentials family day!
21	22	23	24	25 Foundations and Essentials begin	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Foundations and Essentials Family Day!!!

This is a day for the whole family to come out and meet other families within the CC of Durham community. Bring a picnic dinner for your family.

We will meet at 5:00. Around 5:30 I will give a brief welcome, introduce the tutors, pass out the 2011-2012 directories, and highlight a few important details.

After our very quick meeting please enjoy the park! Get to know your child's tutor and the other children in the class. This is going to be a very fun and relaxing day, so please try and come out!

Duke Park  
106 W. Know Street  
Durham, NC 27701



### Directory

Each family will be receiving a directory at our "Family Day" on August 20th. Please take the time to read through this directory before the first day of class. There are important reminders that you will need to talk to your children about.

There are also the dates for the entire year. You'll want to highlight your name as you find it in the family presentation section,

any childcare rotation, and your cleaning responsibility.

You will find out which class your child/ children are in as well as the room numbers. The daily schedule will be posted and what to bring each Thursday.

Again, please take the time to read through the directory when you receive it, highlight anywhere you see your name, and

discuss any information needed with your child/ children.

Each family will only get one copy. There will be a pdf copy on the restricted section of the website.

### www.ccdurham.com

You will want to bookmark our website on your computer. This is where we will post tons of helpful information throughout the year.

The password for the "Registered Families" link is:

**durhambulls**

In this area you will find a link to our photobucket account, the

directory, great supplemental helps...

You will get an update about once a month of any new information that has been posted.

Take the time that you have now and visit the site and get familiar with the links.



### Hebrews 6:11-12

"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

## The purpose of education is to know God and to make Him known.

Our purpose is to lead the home-centered education movement by equipping parents and students with the classical tools of learning needed to discover the order and beauty of God's creation and to inspire others to do the same.

We believe parents are their children's primary teachers not because parents know everything but because each child is uniquely (and wonderfully!) made and because the people who know and love a child best are the ones most motivated to help that child succeed.

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## Bring your camera!!!

Please try to bring your camera throughout the year! Take plenty of pictures of the children learning, growing, and playing.

CC of Durham has a photobucket account.

[www.photobucket.com](http://www.photobucket.com)

Acct. ID- ccofdurham

Password- durhambulls

Once you are on the website go to "albums" and click on 2011-2012 school year album. **Please put all your pictures from the year in this folder.**

Thanks for your help in recording these precious memories.

