
“Mom School”

Learning Groups and Classes



- ✦ How we've seen it be successful
 - ✦ How to start and/or be a part of one!
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Where are we going tonight?

Type your questions in chat and we will pause at times to answer them

- ✦ Who we are
- ✦ History of Mom School
- ✦ How it compares to a typical co-op, pod, and private/public school
- ✦ Ideas to find one and be a part of one

MEG EBBA

3 kids ages 11, 12.5, 14

former librarian

current fiction writer

married 17 years

husband teaching this year at Mom School



CATIE MCLAUGHLIN

5 kids ages 5-17

former Air Force officer

Always had Mom Schooling as a
part of our homeschool

works with dogs



Mom School history

- ~ 20 years ago, seacoast area small group of moms got kids together weekly for literature, science, and writing classes.
- Grew to several homes, mini vans transporting between them. Coordinated times to be more convenient.
- Discovered the article by Rachel DeMille on Mom Schools.
- We've grown in numbers in our geographic region, but maintaining a Mom School focus, rather than co-op focus is important to us.
- Every year, many kids graduate and go to college or a trade! 10th and 11th graders take dual enrollment classes together.
- Covid didn't stop us!

What Families Really Want



What Families Don't Want

	Public school	Private school	At home homeschool	Multi-Family Pod School	Co-op	Mom School
Required Level of parental involvement/communication	Low	Low	High	Medium?	Depends	High
How hard on the wallet?	\$0	\$2-15k	\$1-3k	\$5-10k ?	Per class, annual family fee?	Per class/ event
Flexibility	Very little	Not much	Highest!	Multi-family agreement	Depends	High
Parents have strong say in materials	No	Some, perhaps	Yes	Multi-family agreement	High	High
Length of commitment	Sep-Jun but can withdraw	Sep-Jun	Up to you	Sep-Jun but can vary	Semester or year	1 day - full year
Dates and times flexibility	No	No	Yes	Multi-family agreement	Often once/ week	High
“Stuck” w/ Peer difficulties	Yes	Yes	Siblings	Maybe	Maybe	No
Strict grade levels	Yes	Yes	No	Maybe	Maybe	No
Shuttle service provided	Yes	Sometimes (carpool or pay)	None	Must arrange	Must arrange	Must arrange
Administration & Decision-Making	Heavy & high (way up there!)	Less than public school	Just mom & dad	Multi-family agreement	Depends	Very low
Special Needs accommodations	Yes/depends	Yes/depends	Parent provided	?	?	?
Interpersonal trust required	No	No	n/a	Yes, high	Some	Yes, very high

Major Mom School ++ Traits

Ignore the name “Mom School!”

Think: “Tribe School” or “PDE School”

- Built organically via natural trust and communication within relationships.
- Flows out of mom’s desire to meet her own child’s needs and her personal interests/passions.
- No coercion.
- Comes from a place of interest, joy, vision, creativity.
- Can be easily combined with more solitary homeschooling and online classes.
- You offer, you take friends up on offers

Major Mom School — Traits

- Year to year not the same (moms, kids, and families change);
- Decision-making, communication, and often direct educational involvement (teaching!) is heavier load on the parent than other ed options.
- Relationships take effort and time.

Key Tenets



Mama's In Charge! Mom runs the class & calls the shots

- What, When, Why, How, Where, Who
- Can it be multiple moms/dads? Of course! You can work together, alternate. It's always good to have a sub and backup plan.

Traits of a Co-op

- Rules and fees that apply across the board
- Administratively demanding on a few without commensurate return
- Disagreements; heavy expectations; semester or year-long
- Less relationally and values-based; focus can be on having classes to fill voids similar to a public or private school (“Now we need to find a math teacher...”)
- Welcome anyone and everyone, which sounds ideal but can be extremely difficult
- Drop-off mentality can be too common.

Many work and many work well!

You Aren't Just Like a Co-Op?

- It can look like a co-op from an outsider's POV
- A too-heavy administrative load can bring a mom to quit in no time flat.
- Seeking group agreement in a co-op can be exhausting and time consuming
- Location often needs to be much larger for a co-op
 - It can look a lot like a Pod School! It IS like a Pod School in many ways!

Biggest Bennies to the Kiddos

- **Elementary:** can be social, supplementary,
 - What's hardest to do OYO at home: science, art, PE
 - kids being best buddies isn't necessary.
 - Tip: Don't view it as a drop off
 - Tip: Include eating!
- **Middle school and beyond:** core academic classes: writing, literature discussion, science, math
 - Accountability to a teacher
 - Peer influence/accountability
 - High schoolers can be teaching assistants!

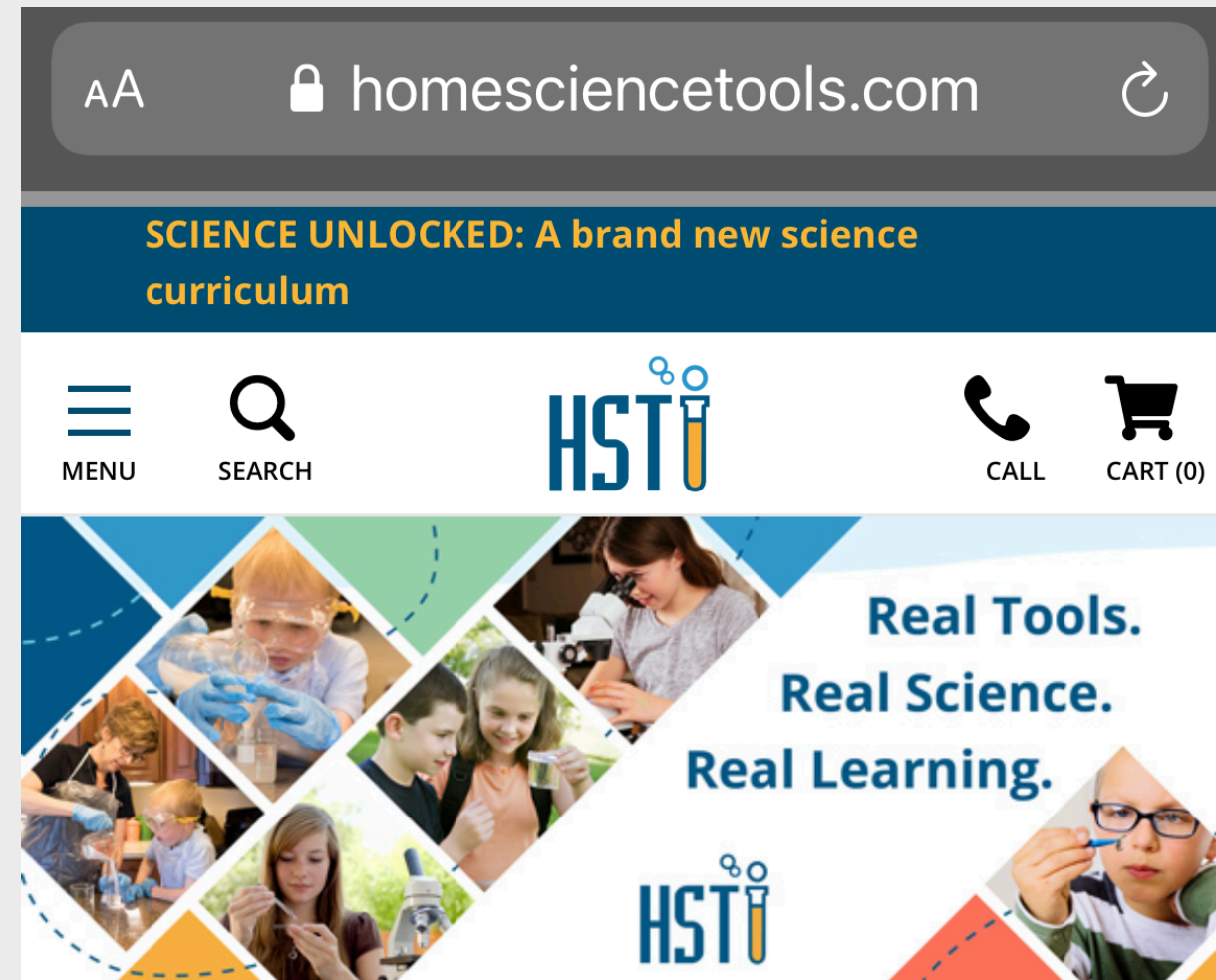
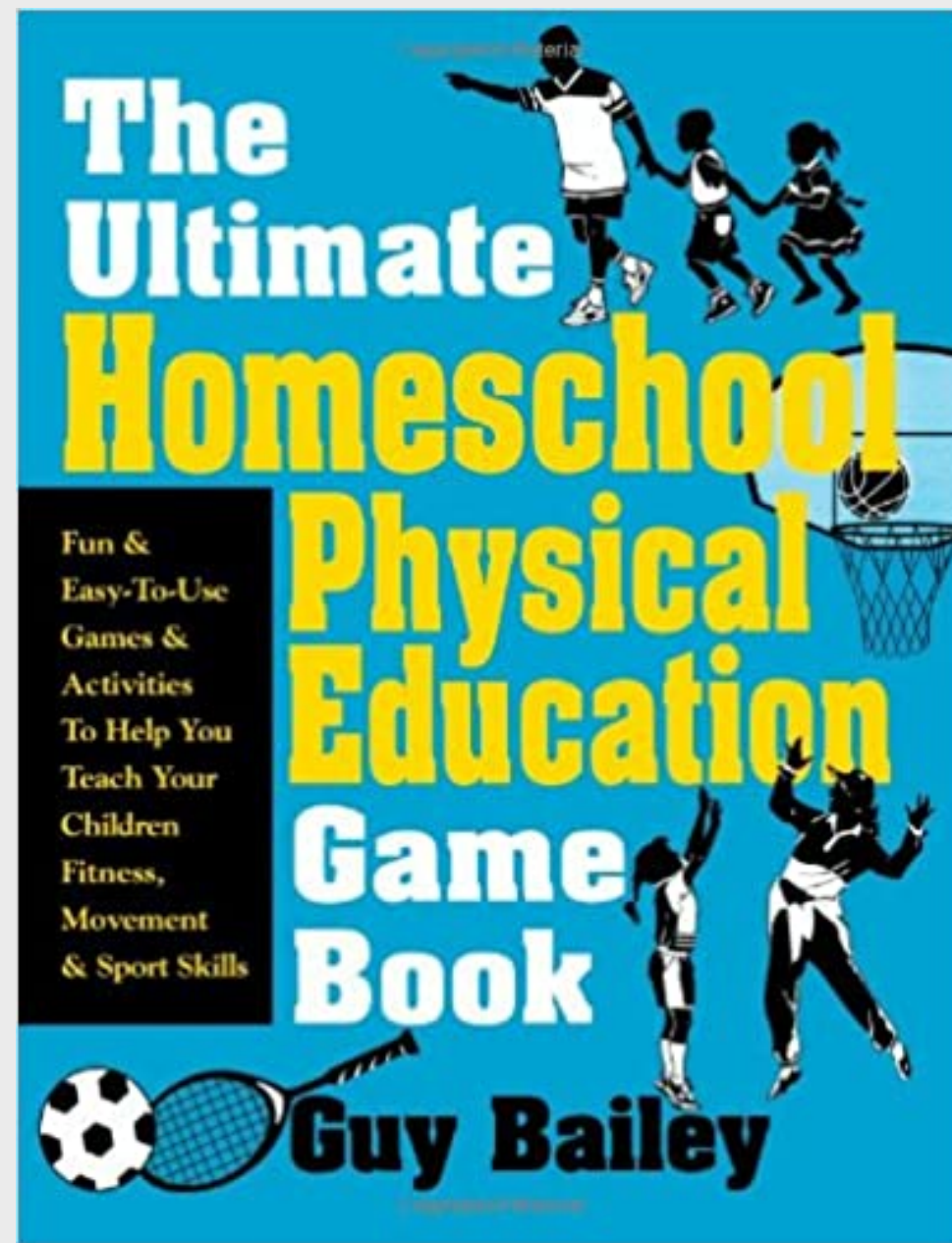


Biggest Bennies to Parents

- Accountability
- Lower cost classes
- Creative outlet
- Flexibility
- You & your kids have fun & make friends; also, really **know** their friends and their friends' parents
- Friendships! (Can't say this enough!)

Who do you know and what can you offer?

- CONNECT: Find your tribe! They are out there.
 - Brainstorm a list
 - “Advertise” yourself! (The hush-hush topics: Family priorities, faith/religions, politics)
 - Work the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th level connections
- Start small and with smaller commitment (but more than playground meet-up)
 - Bring your kids in on the ideas and planning
 - Keep the spirit of: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”

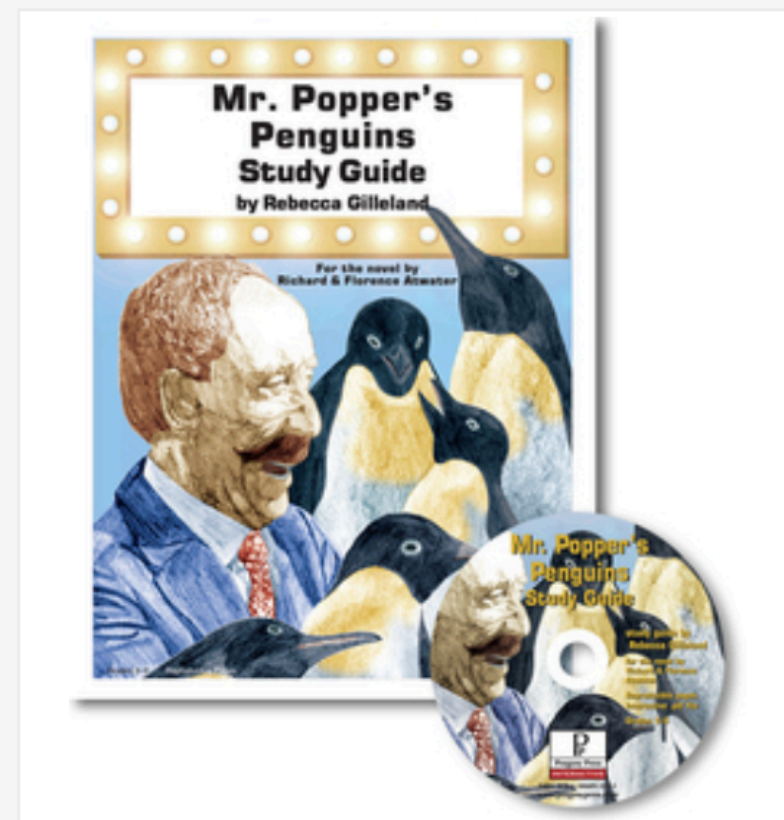


Powerschool for age 12+ grading

GoogleDrive

Zoom

Facebook Groups (get notifications!)



MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS - STUDY GUIDE
\$17.99 - \$18.99
Progeny Press



STONE FOX - STUDY GUIDE
\$17.99 - \$18.99
Progeny Press

One time events we've done

- Science fair
 - Economics seminar
 - Science lab intensives
 - Art show
 - Presentation Day
 - Field Day
 - Field trips you see posted
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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The issue of locations: who wants to host & be responsible? Clean up, liabilities...

- A home: bonus room, basement
- Town halls
- Town Library rooms
- Churches
- American Legions
- A gym or YMCA
- Insurance....



So, you're invited to a Tribe School...

- Let your yes be yes and your no be no
 - Be honest in assessing your family, work, life, wants/needs/desires
 - Keep up communication (text, call, email)
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QUIZ!

1. Can it be hard?
 2. Can it be especially hard getting started?
 3. Can getting started be simplified?
 4. Are there a million options?
 5. In NH, is this a legal way to homeschool?
 6. Is this the best thing for my family?
 7. Is the ROI high?
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