



Search...

September 20, 2012

- HOME, POLITICS, BUSINESS, AMERICAS, HEALTH, WOMEN, CULINARY, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, LIFESTYLE

What is hybrid homeschooling?

Posted on August 16, 2012 | By Hope Gillette | Education

Homeschooling no longer holds the meaning it did a decade ago. Parents are taking a back seat to more innovative ways to keep children at home and learning but with access to the best classes and subject matters.

Education Week reports that 'hybrid' homeschooling is gaining ground in the United States, and homeschooled students are now taking advantage of online classes, private tutors and in-person multiage classes, which meet once or twice a week.

Optimized shutterstock 16647088 What
Homeschooled students are now taking advantage of online classes, private tutors and in-person multiage classes, which meet once or twice a week.

"Historically home school was home school, and school was school," said Joseph Murphy, an associate dean at Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt University, reports Education Week. "Now ... it's this rich portfolio of options for kids."

For parents, the option of hybrid homeschooling programs allows for more freedom in learning, and many schools are taking advantage of the option as well.

Instead of a standard school day routine, homeschooled children are able to select specific programs at their local schools, such as those related to music, sports, arts or fitness. Children are still able to practice and benefit from these, even if their basic belief system keeps them out of the public or private school system for a specific reason, like religion.

Valerie Capotosto, licensed social worker and mother of three, told VOXXI she made the decision to homeschool her children based on a number of factors. "We decided to homeschool because we felt it was better for our children in so many ways... positive and relaxed learning environment with less distractions and time wasted."

Capotosto says the ability to incorporate lessons tailored to her children's interests and abilities, along with wanting to teach them to be able to socialize with not only children their own age but with other age groups as well, were all important considerations. "We're hoping that these factors lead to accelerated academic growth for our kids."

With more than 2 million homeschoolers in the nation, a changing dynamic is important to keep up with modern standards.

Now, education experts say the hybrid approach to homeschool has become "very, very typical" especially for students in middle school or high school, and in addition to benefiting students, parents feel more at ease with their local school systems through such programs.

The mutual support between parents and school was not always so apparent during the early years of homeschooling. Advocates felt homeschooling was an ideal way to focus on the personal needs of children, while critics felt those who were homeschooled missed out on important social interactions.

Optimized shutterstock 106260067
With more than 2 million homeschoolers in the nation, a changing dynamic is important to keep up with modern standards. (Shutterstock photos)

According to Kids Health, there are many reasons why homeschooling is beneficial. Some children have chronic illnesses that keep them out of public school too often; some children learn better in an environment tailored to them. The organization cautions, however, that homeschooling should not be an escape from social issues such as bullying.

Though the homeschooling debate carries on, hybrid education seems to offer the best of both worlds for the students involved, and more and more homeschooling parents are taking advantage of such programs.

Special Reports

Face the Facts

VOXXI Videos

Your System Status
WE'RE SORRY!
You need to update your Flash Player.
Get ADOBE FLASH PLAYER
IMPORTANT: After installing the required upgrade please reload this browser window to view the video player.

Hot Topics

I am Hispanic and I do belong here

1 comment · 3 hours ago

Mitt Romney woos Hispanic business leaders

2 comments · 13 hours ago

Opening some eyes on immigration

5 comments · 18 hours ago

Recommended

Use our stories



Original stories by VOXXI are available under a Creative Commons License. Permissions beyond the scope of this license are available at http://www.voxxi.com/creative-commons.