

dream a new
DREAM

EI PASO HOME EDUCATION CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 23-24, 2024 **ELPASOHOMESCHOOL.ORG**



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VELA EDUCATION FUND

SCHEDULE *at a glance*

FRIDAY, FEB 23

9:00 AM REGISTRATION + EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

9:45 AM OPENING SESSION + KEYNOTE
CLAIMING FREEDOM EMBRACING CONTRADICTIONS AMID MOTHERHOOD
 AMBER O'NEAL JOHNSON

11:15 AM

Sanctuary	Working and Homeschool Panel Moderated by Julia Novoa
Room 1	Homeschooling High School Holly +Dove Cranson
Room 2	Military Life and Homeschooling Alyssa Rodas
Room 3	Nurturing Character Through Reading Sponsored Workshop Lamplighter Ministries Kyle Townes

12:15 PM LUNCH + EXHIBIT HALL

1:30 PM

Sanctuary	Getting Involved in the Community Panel Moderated by Mike and Cheryl Kolesar
Room 1	Tailoring Your Child's Education (Special Needs) Felicia Johnson
Room 2	Using Unit Studies Effectively Julia Novoa, M.Ed.
Room 3	Building A Foundation—The Early Years Amarna Kirk

2:45 PM

Sanctuary	Why Doesn't Everyone Love Math? Dove Cranson
Room 1	Worldview Formation in Your Homeschool Family Caleb Harrelson
Room 2	Dyslexia—How Do you Know and Where to Go From There Lindsay Kronmiller
Room 3	5 Core Habits to Help Your Child Learn Anything Sponsored Workshop Classical Conversations Janel Barr

4:00 PM

Sanctuary	Belonging Together: Managing the Seasons of Community and Fellowship Amber O'Neal Johnson
Room 1	Getting the Most out of Middle School Julia Novoa, M.Ed.
Room 2	Electrify History! Deb Roennebeck
Room 3	Teaching Your Child to Read Kyle Townes

5:30 PM EXHIBIT HALL CLOSES

SATURDAY, FEB 24

8:00 AM REGISTRATION + EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

9:00 AM

Sanctuary	A Path to Belonging and Kinship Amber O'Neal Johnson
Room 1	Navigating High School Felicia Johnson
Room 2	Nature-Inspired Learning—Joy And Growth Laurie Marshall
Room 3	Kids Are Capable (And So Are You!) Kyle Townes

10:15 PM

Sanctuary	Homeschool Graduate Panel Moderated by Lindsay Kronmiller
Room 1	Deep Engagement Using Arts Integration and Project-Based Learning Laurie Marshall
Room 2	Homeschool Dads Dove Cranson
Room 3	Homeschool Quickstart Laurie Bennett

11:30 AM CLOSING SESSION + KEYNOTE
RELATIONAL LIVING LEARNING, + LOVING
 AMBER O'NEAL JOHNSON

welcome 2024

We are so excited to welcome you to El Paso Homeschool Association's 2024 Conference—Dream A New Dream. We hope this year's theme and speakers inspire and encourage you as you continue or begin your home education journey.

We are also blessed with many local speakers willing to share their hard won stories and knowledge to help our community begin, continue and thrive on their journey of home education. Thank you to our local speakers as well as our keynote Amber O'Neil Johnson for blessing us with their encouragement and support.

Putting together a conference is a huge undertaking and would not have been possible without the conference committee who put in hours of work finding sponsors, spreading the word, and organizing the details. Thank you to the committee for all of your hard work.

This conference weekend would not run smoothly without the amazing support staff and building at Alive Fellowship Church and the many volunteers who make the days go smoothly. Thank you, we value your partnership.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, without whom this conference would not have happened. We are blessed by your partnership.

And last, but not least, we give thanks to our Heavenly Father. Without His enduring love for families this would not be possible.

El Paso Homeschool Association Board of Directors

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meet AMBER



Amber O'Neal Johnston is an established authority on including diverse voices in traditional curriculum and infusing culture and love for others into an intentional home environment. She shares her observations on education, living books, and worldschooling at HeritageMom.com, and connects with followers on Instagram @heritagemomblog. She is a regular contributor to the wildly successful Wild + Free homeschooling community, a frequent podcast guest on popular shows, and a coveted speaker at homeschool, education, and parenting conferences.

A product of public education and daughter of two public school principals, Amber never expected to fall head over heels in love with homeschooling. During one late-night session of perusing educational philosophies, Amber stumbled upon the work of nineteenth-century British educator Charlotte Mason and her home education principles. Convinced that homeschooling was a path to a lifegiving home, Amber embarked on a journey from stay-at-home mom to homeschooling enthusiast.

Read more about Amber at heritagemom.com

keynote speaker AMBER O'NEAL JOHNSON

OPENING KEYNOTE
FRIDAY 9:45 AM

CLAIMING FREEDOM: EMBRACING CONTRADICTIONS AMID MOTHERHOOD

Through a series of relatable anecdotes, Amber leads mamas down a freedom path where they can embrace life's contradictions and claim the ability to explore, dabble, grow, and connect without bounds. Specifically, she dives into four freedoms that mothers can gift themselves and their peers while living and loving well within community.

FRIDAY 4:00 PM

BELONGING TOGETHER: MANAGING THE SEASONS OF COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP

Cultivating intentional opportunities for children to explore ideas and grow within a community of like-minded learners is a priceless experience. When families are regularly situated alongside others who share their desires for a living education rooted in Charlotte Mason's principles, they reap the immediate benefits of relational learning. But once homeschool co-ops and groups are seeded, they must be watered and cared for through fruitful and difficult seasons. In this session, we'll discuss how to manage community and fellowship amid various stages of development while maintaining a healthy atmosphere of belonging for yourself, your children, and the families within your community.

SATURDAY 9:00 AM

A PATH TO BELONGING AND KINSHIP: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND KINSHIP IN THE HOME AND BEYOND

Gone are the days when socially conscious parents feel comfortable teaching their children to merely tolerate others. Instead, they are looking for a way to authentically embrace the fullness of their diverse communities. In this session, families of all backgrounds will receive guidance on celebrating cultural heritage and embracing inclusivity in the home and beyond. We'll discuss how to foster an environment where children feel secure in their own personhood and culture, enabling them to better understand and appreciate people who are racially and culturally different. Parents will walk away with tools to empower children to embrace their unique identities while feeling beautifully tethered to their global community.

CLOSING KEYNOTE
SATURDAY 11:30 AM

RELATIONAL LIVING, LEARNING AND LOVING

Interacting with living books, things, and people. Learning amid the mundane. Loving our family, friends, and community well. These are the relational aspects of home that fuel growth and contentment. Home education blurs the lines between home and "school," and it offers a unique opportunity for connection with and among our children. When we approach our days as opportunities for relationships to flourish (and be tested), we're able to experience the fullness of educating our children at home. This session will guide parents in curating a home atmosphere rooted in relational living, learning, and loving.

workshops

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

11:15 AM

WORKING +HOMESCHOOLING PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATED BY JULIA NOVOA, M.ED. SANCTUARY

Join us for a panel discussion from working homeschool moms who attempt to find balance between the demands of homeschooling and working. These moms have a variety of different types of jobs.

HOMESCHOOLING HIGH SCHOOL

HOLLY+DOVE CRANSON ROOM 1

This talk is about our story of homeschooling through high school. We currently have one in college and two in high school. We'll share about what we've learned through the process, what high schoolers need, and about some of the options that are available to us here in El Paso for high school homeschooling. We'll look in depth at the admissions process for dual credit at EPCC and how to make your own transcript. There will be time for questions at the end.

MILITARY LIFE + HOMESCHOOLING

ALYSSA RODAS ROOM 2

Moving often can be hard. Alyssa will share tips for how to plug into community quickly when moving or if you're just getting started. After we gather, you will feel confident finding new connections, community, and co-ops for you and your children!

NURTURING CHARACTER THROUGH READING

KYLE TOWNES ROOM 3

LAMPLIGHTER MINISTRIES SPONSORED WORKSHOP

How can we build solid character in our children? We'll discuss what virtue is, how our kids can cultivate it in themselves in this day and age, and where we can find the resources we need to instill virtues in our children's hearts and minds.

1:30 PM

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATED BY MIKE + CHERYL KOLESAR SANCTUARY

Homeschool families often have to create the opportunities their kids are looking for. This panel will have people who have started different programs and shine light on how you can hop in and get involved to enhance your child's education.

TAILORING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

FELICIA JOHNSON ROOM 2

During this practical and encouraging workshop, you will learn how to approach your child's education to meet their specific needs and learning styles. I don't like to call this a special needs workshop, because we all have some learning challenges to overcome, but this is definitely the workshop for those needing to think outside the box.

USING UNIT STUDIES EFFECTIVELY

JULIA NOVOA, M.ED. ROOM 2

Join this interactive homeschooling workshop to discover unit studies and their potential in your curriculum. Explore how to effectively integrate unit studies into your homeschooling routine and learn to integrate the whole family into one lesson. This session will equip homeschooling parents with the tools to harness the flexibility and creativity of unit studies, whether purchased or created.
[@mytexashomeschool mytexashomeschool.com](https://mytexashomeschool.com)

BUILDING A FOUNDATION—THE EARLY YEARS

AMARNA KIRK ROOM 3

You don't need a preschool curriculum to build a strong educational foundation for your child. Come hear the key elements of developing a child who enjoys learning, responsibility and looks at the world with wonder. Leave with practical strategies and activities that will give you the confidence to know you are setting your child up for future success.

2:45 PM

WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE LOVE MATH?

DOVE CRANSON SANCTUARY

As a high school math teacher, I see holes in my students' education every day. By the high school level these are difficult to fill. This talk is about filling the holes and building a foundation in math. Math should be a tool to explore the world, not just a chore to be carried out under threat of life.

WORLDVIEW FORMATION IN YOUR HOMESCHOOL FAMILY

CALEB HARRELSON ROOM 1

What are the predominant worldviews that are shaping our culture the most right now? How can you thoughtfully engage and test various worldviews and form students views around what is good, beautiful and true? This class will equip you in intentional Worldview Formation with your student(s) and the entire family.

DYSLEXIA—HOW DO YOU KNOW AND WHERE DO YOU GO?

LINDSAY KRONMILLER ROOM 2

Learn what Dyslexia is, how to spot it, what it's superpowers are and how you can leverage your child's strengths for a thriving education at home.

5 CORE HABITS TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN ANYTHING

JANEL BARR ROOM 3

CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS SPONSORED WORKSHOP

Discover how you can help your child acquire the essential habits to learn anything. This talk will model these "core habits," allowing you to experience them yourself!

4:00 PM

BELONGING TOGETHER MANAGING THE SEASONS OF COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP

AMBER O'NEAL JOHNSON SANCTUARY

Cultivating intentional opportunities for children to explore ideas and grow within a community of like-minded learners is a priceless experience. When families are regularly situated alongside others who share their desires for a living education rooted in Charlotte Mason's principles, they reap the immediate benefits of relational learning. But once homeschool co-ops and groups are seeded, they must be watered and cared for through fruitful and difficult seasons. In this session, we'll discuss how to manage community and fellowship amid various stages of development while maintaining a healthy atmosphere of belonging for yourself, your children, and the families within your community.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

JULIA NOVOA, M.ED ROOM 1

In this workshop, Julia Novoa, M.Ed. talks about the training ground middle school can be, and discusses four main points for laying a foundation in middle school: Fill Gaps, Backwards Planning, Connection, and Curriculum. We will look at these four items with some fun and laughter, but also with an acknowledgment of the serious work we are doing to train up children who are academically ready for the next phase of their schooling. [@mytexashomeschool mytexashomeschool.com](https://mytexashomeschool.com)

ELECTRIFY HISTORY!

DEB ROENNEBECK ROOM 2

Come find out how to take your history lessons from blah to BOING! Most curriculum focuses on names and dates... Let's leave behind the memorize test and forget model (and curriculum) and use a more engaging type of learning that our kids will never forget and will give them the passion to continue learning long after they have graduated!

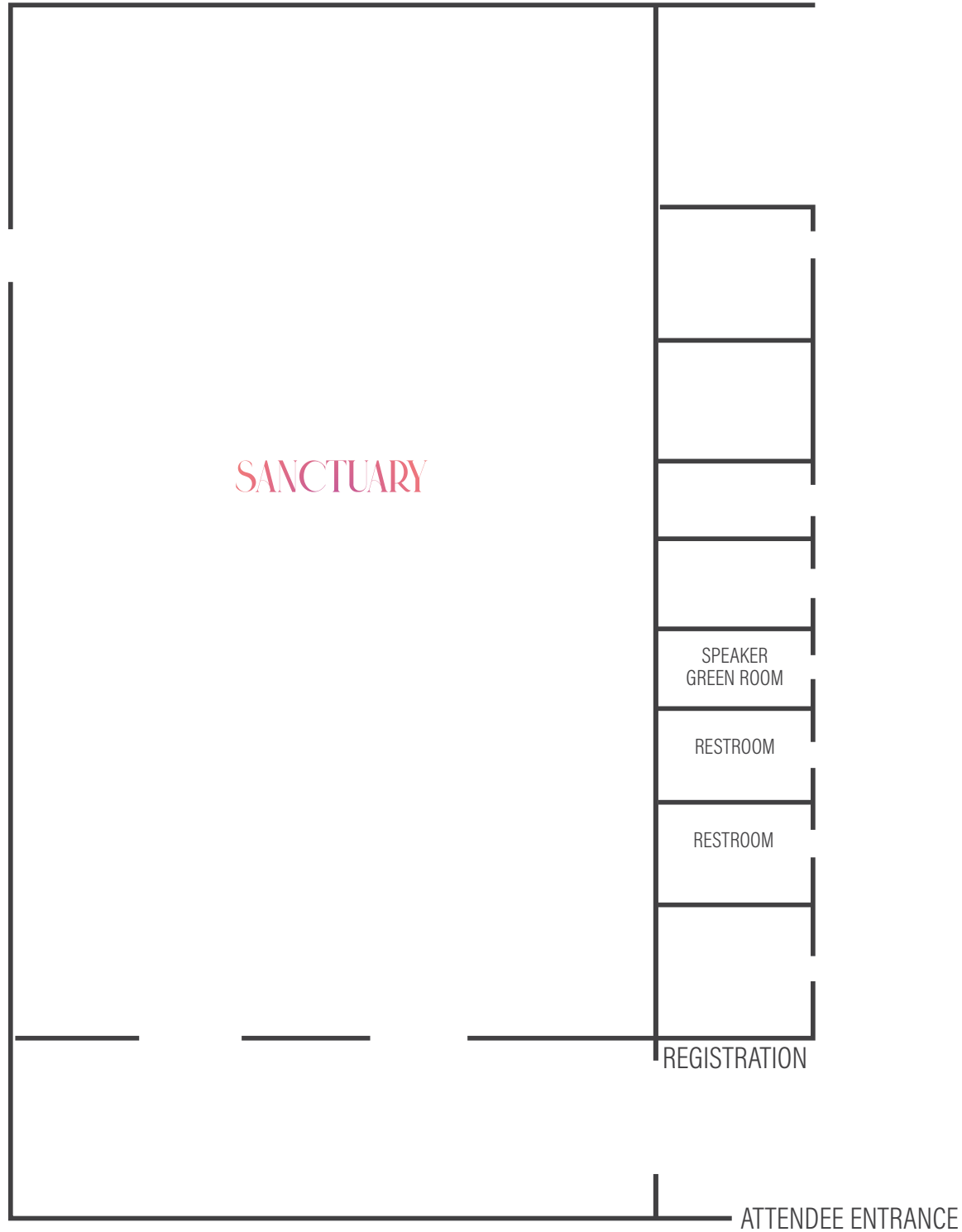
TEACHING YOUR CHILD TO READ

KYLE TOWNES ROOM 3

Teaching your child to read is totally overwhelming for many parents. And that's understandable! Where do you start? What method should you use? How do you even do it? When is a child too young to start? In this talk we will take you by the hand and walk you through every element of teaching your child to read. We'll even cover what reading does for the developing brain. No more fear! And spoiler alert: virtually no age is too young to start!

map of church
GETTING AROUND

← ATTENDEE PARKING



workshops SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:00 AM



A PATH TO BELONGING + KINSHIP

AMBER O'NEAL JOHNSON SANCTUARY

Gone are the days when socially conscious parents feel comfortable teaching their children to merely tolerate others. Instead, they are looking for a way to authentically embrace the fullness of their diverse communities. In this session, families of all backgrounds will receive guidance on celebrating cultural heritage and embracing inclusivity in the home and beyond. We'll discuss how to foster an environment where children feel secure in their own personhood and culture, enabling them to better understand and appreciate people who are racially and culturally different. Parents will walk away with tools to empower children to embrace their unique identities while feeling beautifully tethered to their global community.

NAVIGATING HIGH SCHOOL

FELICIA JOHNSON ROOM 1

This workshop is designed to give parents the tools and confidence to effectively homeschool their high school students. The workshop covers key aspects of designing and implementing a successful high school homeschooling program, transcripts, and testing.

NATURE-INSPIRED LEARNING— JOY AND GROWTH

LAURIE MARSHALL. ROOM 2

Structuring learning like an interdependent eco-system brings joy and life, because that's how life works. Clear goals, autonomous determination of how the goals are achieved, interdependence, diversity and mutualism produce a faith in learning and life that will carry young people through difficult challenges. Jane Goodall states that realistic goal setting is needed to fight depression. Laurie will offer a step-by-step guide on how to apply this life giving structure to homeschooling. She will share the neurobiology of diversity that can result in conflict or mutualism. In addition, bully prevention tools will be provided. Home educators will walk away with a lesson plan in a subject of interest to their children.

KIDS ARE CAPABLE (AND SO ARE YOU!)

KYLE TOWNES ROOM 3

Your fears vs. the facts in your choice to homeschool, what is important in laying a firm Biblical and educational foundation in early childhood, and what your kids (and you) are really capable of. All this and more will be covered in this talk so that you leave feeling empowered to homeschool your young child!

10:15 AM



HOMESCHOOL GRAD PANEL

MODERATED BY LINDSAY KRONMILLER SANCTUARY

Curious what homeschool grads have to say? This panel will ask homeschool grads all the question you want to know about their home education experience and where they are now.

DEEP ENGAGEMENT USING ARTS INTEGRATION AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

LAURIE MARSHALL ROOM 1

This hands-on workshop will give the participants a process to support the “spark” of their child—that which brings them joy and makes them feel useful. Generating real products that come out of a real interest for a real audience that has a real impact. Ideas will also be shared about how learners can use visual arts, music, storytelling, video and dance to express what they have learned. She will share the neurobiology of why the arts are such an important tool for self-regulation and mental health. Home educators will walk away prepared to undertake a meaningful project.

HOMESCHOOL DADS

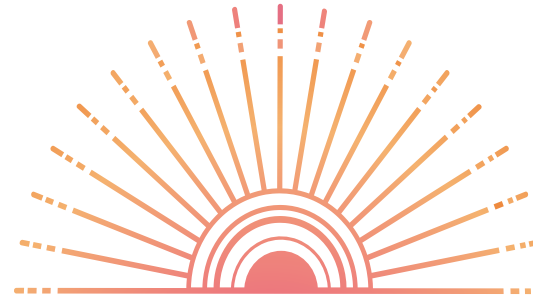
DOVE CRANSON ROOM 2

For most of us homeschool dad's, our role is more from the watchtower than the front lines. This talk is about my experience as a homeschool dad and my hope to help you, dad, be a person who provides vision, support, encouragement, and stability for the family God has entrusted you with.

HOMESCHOOL QUICKSTART

LAURIE BENNETT ROOM 3

This workshop will share everything you need to get started on home education. From withdrawing to educational philosophies to how to choose curriculum and get involved in the community. This is for those who are just considering or at the beginning of their home education journey.



notes

11:30 AM



RELATIONAL LIVING, LEARNING AND LOVING

AMBER O'NEAL JOHNSON SANCTUARY

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notes

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