



CT Homeschool Network Inc.

HOMESCHOOLING 101: GETTING STARTED

*CT Homeschool Network (CHN)
cthomeschoolnetwork.org*



SO YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HOME EDUCATION

- Well over 30-50 million children have been homeschooled in the U.S.A. since 1990.
- The #1 reason parents choose homeschooling is their belief they can give the child the best education.
- Homeschooling in the United States constitutes the education of at least 5-10% of U.S. students.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that parents have a fundamental right to direct the education of their children. Parents have **always** had the RIGHT to the upbringing of their own children.
- The college graduation rate for homeschooled students is 67%, nine points higher than the 58% for traditionally schooled teens.
- Home education is a successful, viable option for the families who want to do it. Moreover, it is a lifestyle.
- *Let's explore what more you need to know.*

CT GENERAL STATUTE

10-184

First of all, know your rights.

CGS 10-184 is the statute that you should become familiar with. It acknowledges your parental rights and your duty, first and foremost, to instruct your own child.

This is the law.

CGS 10-184. Duties of Parents.

All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them up in some lawful and honest employment **and instruct them**

or cause them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship, including a study of the town, state and federal governments.

THE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL (LOW)

- Public school withdrawal: address the letter to the superintendent of schools.
- Private school withdrawal: address the head of school.
- You must withdraw your child within ten days of starting to homeschool. If your enrolled child is absent from school for 10 days, they can be considered truant. (CGS 10-198a)

Sample Letter of Withdrawal (LOW)

The current date

Dear Superintendent _____,

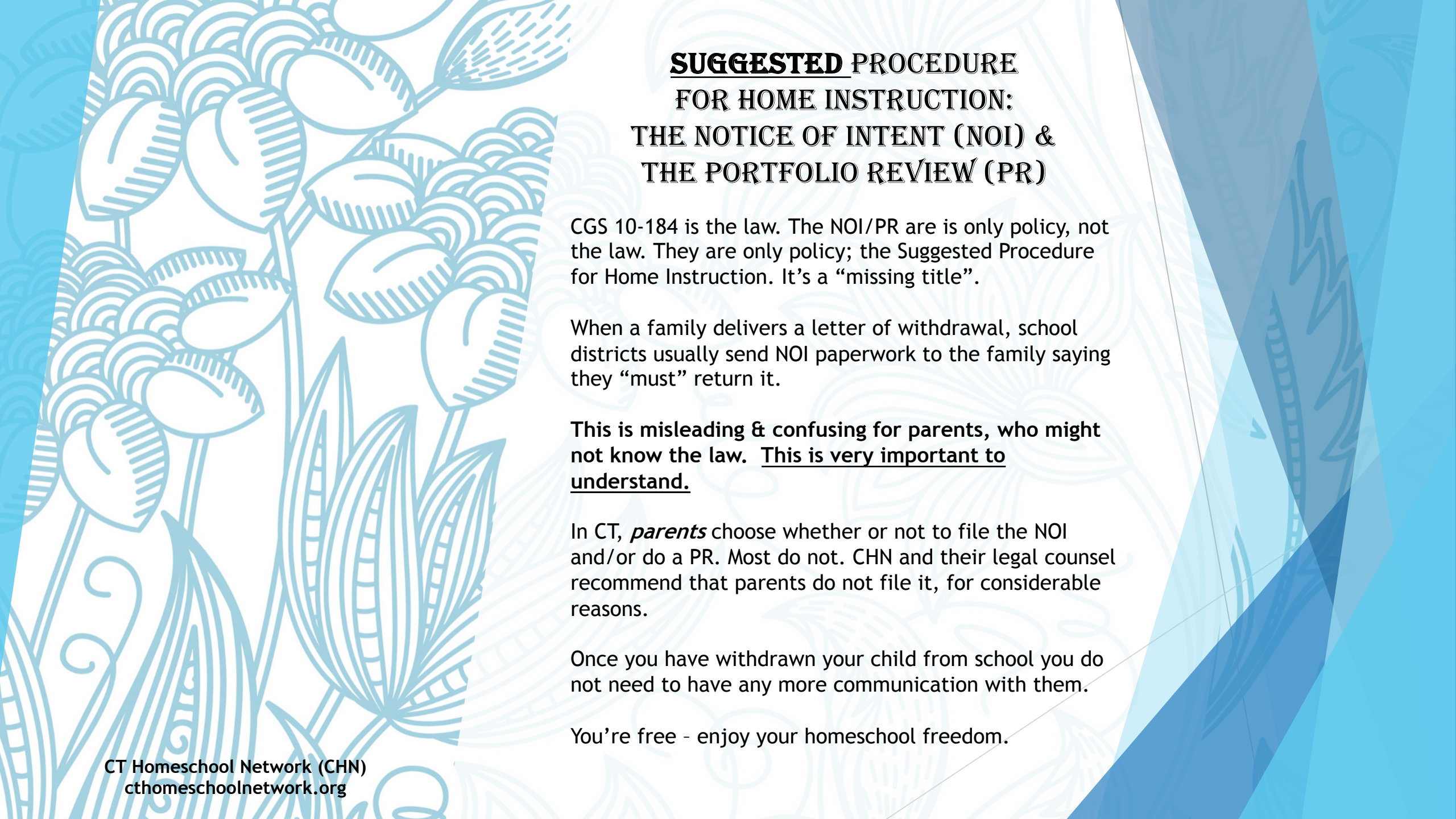
Effective immediately, we are withdrawing John Doe, age _____, from the Your School Public School District. John will be instructed in accordance with CGS 10-184.

*Sincerely,
Parent(s) name(s)
Address*

DELIVERING THE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL (LOW)

- Make 2 copies & keep one in your file
- Mail one to the school, certified mail, return-receipt requested
- You will fill out a green card & receive it back after delivery - keep that in your file
- It costs a few dollars at the post office; keep the sales slip, also
- You can follow-up with a “cc’d” email in a few days if you want to - send a copy to yourself and another
- It’s best not to speak via phone as there is no record
- As soon as you have sent the LOW, you have no more need for communication with the school unless you have items to return or to pick-up

Congratulations!
You’re now a homeschooling family!



**SUGGESTED PROCEDURE
FOR HOME INSTRUCTION:
THE NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) &
THE PORTFOLIO REVIEW (PR)**

CGS 10-184 is the law. The NOI/PR are is only policy, not the law. They are only policy; the Suggested Procedure for Home Instruction. It's a "missing title".

When a family delivers a letter of withdrawal, school districts usually send NOI paperwork to the family saying they "must" return it.

This is misleading & confusing for parents, who might not know the law. This is very important to understand.

In CT, *parents* choose whether or not to file the NOI and/or do a PR. Most do not. CHN and their legal counsel recommend that parents do not file it, for considerable reasons.

Once you have withdrawn your child from school you do not need to have any more communication with them.

You're free - enjoy your homeschool freedom.

DESCHOOLING: A GENTLE TRANSITION

Whether you need a few weeks or a few months, take the time you need, to ease into the lifestyle that homeschooling is.

Use that time to learn about your options

- *Enjoy time with one another & have fun*
- *Go hiking, take day trips, get in touch with nature, cook together, play games, watch movies*
- *Visit libraries & learn about their homeschool resources*
- *Don't rush into homeschool academics; go easy*
- *Explore your homeschool options & make decisions*
- *Find homeschoolers in your area*

- *What else is helpful for you to know...*

METHODOLOGIES

What instructional methodology do you want to use? When you start narrowing down your focus, next steps become easier. There are probably a few of them that will work for your child. The results of a quiz we will share with you, helps show you the approaches that are likely to best align with your child's preferences. It's important to note that sometimes the parent's "style" is not the same as the child's. Siblings may have different preferences. All of this is important to know, so your child is set up for success. One of the best opportunities we have is the flexibility to change. If one method isn't working as well as you'd like, you can easily change.

- Charlotte Mason Method (CMM)
- Classical Education: The Well-Trained Mind
- Distance-Online Learning
- Eclectic
- Unit Studies
- Self-Directed Learning a.k.a. Unschooling
- Montessori
- Waldorf
- Traditional

CURRICULUM OPTIONS

- Secular? Religious?
- Online learning?
- Textbooks?
- Boxed curriculum?
- Create your own curriculum?
- How do you decide?

The Quiz

Match Your Preferences, Instructional Style & Curricula

Take this free, short quiz to gain insights into the top 3 homeschooling paths likely to best fit your family.

(Control and Click to follow the link below)

<http://eclectic-homeschool.com/homeschool-philosophies-quiz/>

Homeschool Curriculum Guide

Traditional:

Abeka
Alpha Omega's Switched on Schoolhouse
Alpha Omega's Life Pacs
Bob Jones University
Bookshark (secular)
Calvert School (secular)
Christian Light
Christian Liberty Press
Critical Thinking Co. (secular)
MasterBooks
Rod & Staff

Charlotte Mason Style:

A Gentle Feast
Ambleside Online
Beautiful Feet Books
Blossom & Root (secular)
Five in a Row
Heart of Dakota
Magic Forest Academy
Queen Homeschool
Sonlight
The Good and the Beautiful
Trail Guide to Learning
Winter Promise

Unit Studies:

Five in a Row
Gather 'Round Homeschool
Konos
Magic Forest Academy (secular)
Moving Beyond the Page (secular)
My Father's World
Our Star-Spangled Banner Story
Tapestry of Grace
Trail Guide to Learning
Unit Studies by Amanda Bennett
Winter Promise

Classical Education:

Classical Conversations
Classical Academic Press
Learning Adventures
Memoria Press
My Father's World
Tapestry of Grace
Veritas Press

Distance / Online Learning:

Abeka Distance Learning
Acellus Power School (secular)
Alpha Omega's Switched on Schoolhouse
Bob Jones University Distance Learning
Bravewriter (secular)
Calvert Homeschool (secular)
Essentials in Writing / Literature (secular)
K-12 (secular)
Liberty Online Academy
Memoria Press
Next Level Homeschool (secular)
Oak Meadow (secular)
Storyline Online (secular)
Study.com (secular)
Supercharged Science (secular)
Time4Learning (secular)
Veritas Press

Free:

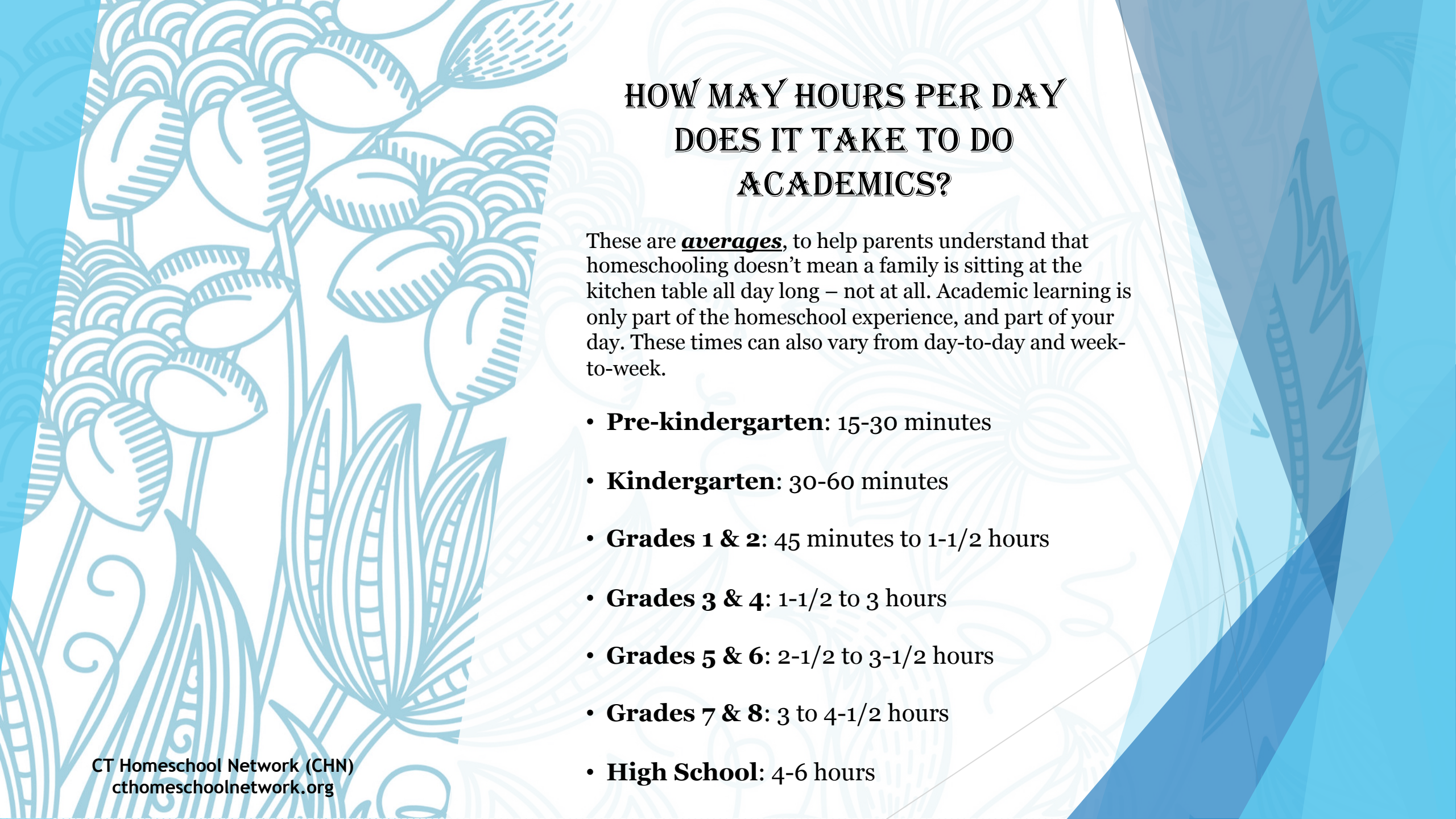
AmblesideOnline
An Old Fashioned Education
Easy Peasy
Discovery K12 (secular)
Freedom Homeschooling
GuestHollow.com Science
Khan Academy (secular)
Little House Kindergarten
ReadWorks.org (secular)
Storyline Online

Other:

A Journey Through Learning (Educational Lapbooks)
All About Reading (secular)
Answers in Genesis
Apologia Science
Clear Water Press Writing Curricula (secular)
Easy Grammar Systems (secular)
Geography Matters
GuestHollow.com
Human Body Detectives (secular)
Institute For Excellence in Writing
Jump-In Writing with Sharon Watson

Other:

Little Passports (secular)
MEL Science (secular)
Mystery of History
Notgrass History
Pandia Press (secular: science & history)
Real Science 4 Kids (secular)
Singapore Science (secular)
Story of the World
Timberdoodle
Zeezok Publishing



HOW MANY HOURS PER DAY DOES IT TAKE TO DO ACADEMICS?

These are ***averages***, to help parents understand that homeschooling doesn't mean a family is sitting at the kitchen table all day long – not at all. Academic learning is only part of the homeschool experience, and part of your day. These times can also vary from day-to-day and week-to-week.

- **Pre-kindergarten:** 15-30 minutes
- **Kindergarten:** 30-60 minutes
- **Grades 1 & 2:** 45 minutes to 1-1/2 hours
- **Grades 3 & 4:** 1-1/2 to 3 hours
- **Grades 5 & 6:** 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours
- **Grades 7 & 8:** 3 to 4-1/2 hours
- **High School:** 4-6 hours

CREATIVE TIME MANAGEMENT

YOU'RE NOT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ANYMORE

- As a homeschooler, it is important to reframe your idea of school taking place Monday-Friday, 9AM-3PM. Homeschooling happens 7 days a week, 365 days a year, because children are always learning.
- If you are a single parent or you are a couple of working parents, you can do this, too.
- You choose the days whenever you want to.
- A 180-day school year works out like this:
September-mid-June = 17 or 18 days/month
- January-December = 14 or 15 days/month

WHAT DO HOMESCHOOLERS DO WITH THE REST OF THEIR DAY?

Homeschoolers have a very active, vibrant community with the world as their canvas.

- ❖ Join a true homeschool, parent-led co-op (or support group)
- ❖ Go on field trips
- ❖ Enjoy nature hikes
- ❖ Traveling - day trips
- ❖ Taking martial arts classes
- ❖ Learning to play an instrument
- ❖ Taking art classes
- ❖ Join Scouts
- ❖ Do volunteer work
- ❖ Visiting museums & libraries
- ❖ Visiting parks with others (Park Days)
- ❖ Game Days
- ❖ See a movie
- ❖ Go bowling
- ❖ Hanging out with friends
- ❖ Taking early college classes
- ❖ Take a babysitting course
- ❖ Learning life skills
- ❖ Engage a mentorship in area of interest
- ❖ Homeschool dances & proms
- ❖ Join a 4-H club
- ❖ Take a gymnastics class
- ❖ Attend rollerskating or iceskating meet-ups
- ❖ Join Civil Air Patrol
- ❖ And much more.



SHOULD I? OR, SHOULDN'T I? MAKING THAT BIG DECISION

The best advice you can get is to know that you are in charge, and you can choose homeschooling for a while and decide later if you want to continue. Where your child is schooled is your choice and it can change at any time, for many reasons. What you will never know, is how home education will work for your child if you don't try. Most families who begin homeschooling, continue to do so. Often, they wish they had started earlier. Many start during the summer to “try it”, and many start during the December vacation break.

Remember what was mentioned at the start of this presentation; take time to de-school. Take the time to consider your options and what may best fit your family. Start slowly, ease into homeschooling, and plan it to fit your family's unique lifestyle. Millions of people have done this, and you can, too.

If your reasons for starting to homeschool gave you more time to plan ahead, you or your child might ease into it without the need for a deschooling period. It is an option that can offer you gentle support if needed.

CONNECTING HOMESCHOOLERS

There are many ways to connect
with homeschool families.

They meet at libraries.

They may join co-ops.

They gather at parks & other planned
meet-ups.

Their kids join civic & community
groups.

Share your ideas and reach out to others
in your area via social media.

CONTACT CHN

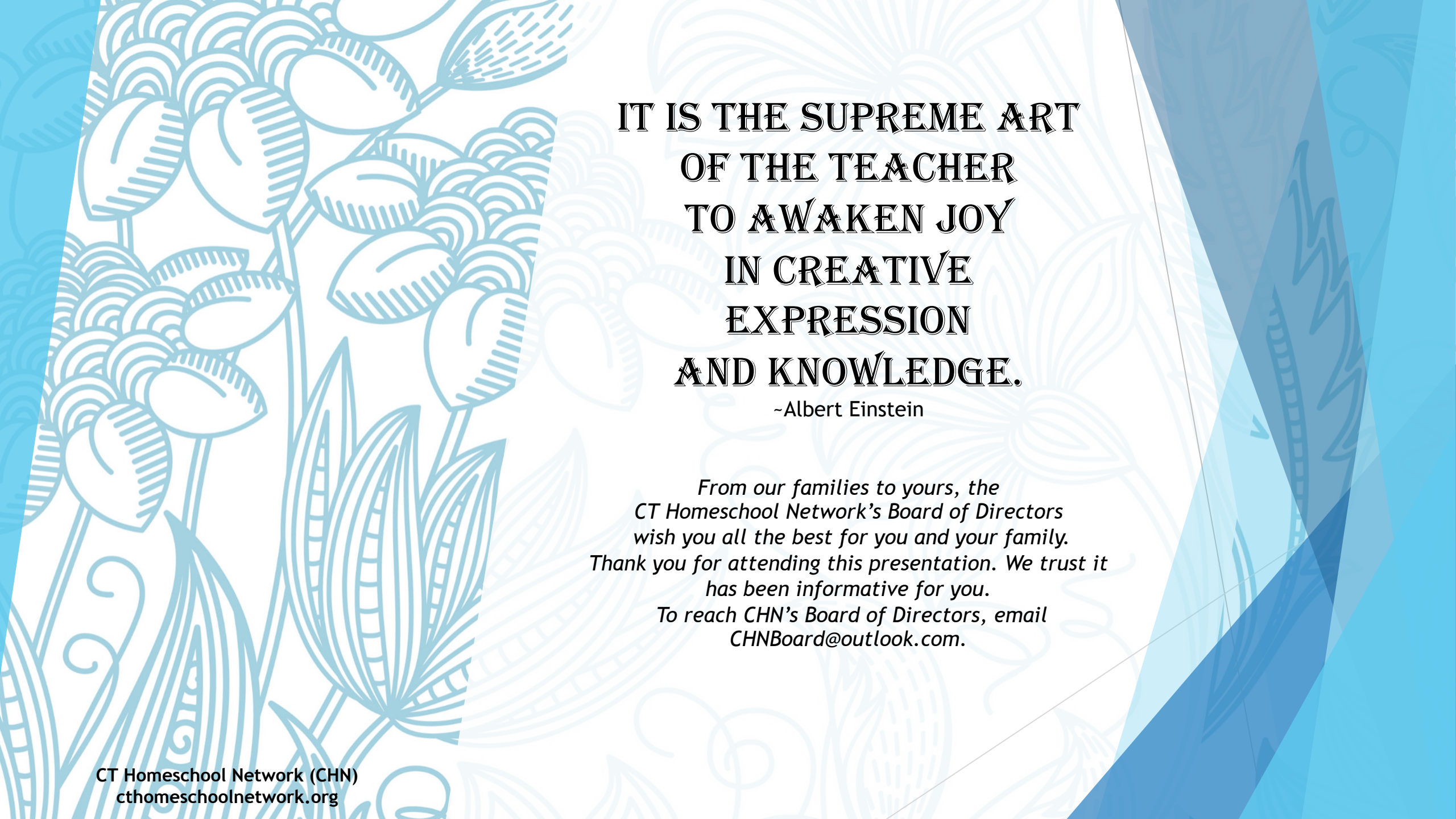
- CHN is Connecticut's statewide largest & oldest information & support network. We are an independent, inclusive, online-based homeschooling organization, which serves to inform, empower, and foster community among home educators in the state of Connecticut. CHN stands for freedom, and also acts as a legislative watchdog and informs parents and the public about their rights.
- CHN welcomes people of all religions, races, creeds, lifestyles, abilities and disabilities, and learning methodologies.
- CHN has tens of thousands of members across CT, including current and alumni home educators from all walks of life.

**FB for "Connecticut Homeschool Network"
for current homeschoolers**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTHomeschoolNetwork/>

FB for "(CHN) Parents Seeking Homeschool Info"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1263388143678454/>



**IT IS THE SUPREME ART
OF THE TEACHER
TO AWAKEN JOY
IN CREATIVE
EXPRESSION
AND KNOWLEDGE.**

~Albert Einstein

*From our families to yours, the
CT Homeschool Network's Board of Directors
wish you all the best for you and your family.
Thank you for attending this presentation. We trust it
has been informative for you.
To reach CHN's Board of Directors, email
CHNBoard@outlook.com.*