



SHIELD

Supporting Home Instruction
Encompassing Lexington District

I treasure summer days, but I also love the start of a new school year. I love new curriculum, school supply shopping, planning, and setting new goals for what home school will look like each new year for our family. The new school year also brings the promise that fall (and pumpkin spice everything) is just around the corner.

The start of this new school year has brought with it many unexpected emotions as I face the reality that all three of my children are now in high school and my oldest will be graduating this year. I am the mom of a SENIOR. How did we get here so fast?

It seems like not so long ago we made the decision to home school and I started teaching my sweet, handsome, first grader. Those early days of schooling began with bible stories, prayers, songs, the pledge of allegiance, and going over educational posters that hung on the walls of our playroom/classroom. We learned fractions with apples and addition and subtraction with fruit snacks and goldfish. We practiced spelling words with a game we called “animal toss” and did science experiments on our kitchen stove. The kids captured caterpillars, named them, and we waited patiently as they became moths (we were expecting butterflies). Homeschooling has blessed us with many precious memories of our days spent together.

Many of those days were also filled with struggles, frustrations, and tears. There were times when I wondered if I was doing the best thing for my children. I wondered if it was worth the struggle and sacrifice and if all of it would even matter in the end. Please tell me someone can relate.

As we are nearing the finish line, I can truly exclaim with a full heart that I am so grateful for this calling to home school our children. I wouldn't trade this experience and opportunity for the world. Like any ministry God calls us to, He provides and sustains us beyond our wildest expectations. He showers us with mercy and makes us wonder why we didn't trust Him more fully all along. He is so gracious and has been faithful to not only meet our educational needs, but has also blessed us with the best of friends, mentors, teammates, and coaches throughout our home school journey as well.

I look forward to all that these final few years hold in store for us. Wherever you are in your home school journey, I pray that you will start the new year off with a renewed spirit and that God will sustain you throughout your journey. It's true what they say, "The days are long, but the years are short."

God bless you,
Melissa Bryan

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

THRILL (Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting Lexington Lives) is a high school community service organization within the SHIELD support group for students in grades 8–12.

Any students in grades 8–12 who are planning to join THRILL this year but have not yet done so, please contact Tracy, Leslie or Karen ASAP. T-shirts will be ordered soon and we can only place one order. Also, we have updated our THRILL email list and if you haven't renewed your THRILL membership, you will not receive important THRILL emails. **Students are asked to plan and organize one service project sometime throughout the school year.**

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact:

[Tracy Taylor](#) [803-834-0316]

[Leslie Ballard](#) [803-606-8629]

[Karen Collins](#) [803-445-6043]

Remember to have your Box Tops in by October 5!

Are you looking for ways to help cover the cost of all your homeschool expenses? **Box Tops for Education** is a great way to earn money for your individual homeschool. The average participating SHIELD family who collects and turns in Box Tops according to the guidelines earns between \$20 and \$40

a year to spend as they wish on homeschool supplies, curriculum, field trips, co-ops or anything they need for school purposes. You will find [written instructions](#) and [video instructions](#) on the Shield website on how SHIELD needs Box Tops turned in so there are no delays in receiving your check.

If you have any questions or would like to serve within SHIELD by being a part of the Box Tops counting team, please contact the coordinators: [Dana](#) or [Sarah](#).

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Library Tour

2 p.m. **September 14** at [Lexington Main Library](#)
register by September 10 by emailing [Amanda Smith](#)

Park Day

1–3 p.m. **September 18** at [Pinegrove Sports Complex](#)

Airport Field Trip

10:30 a.m. **September 25** for grades K3–3

10:30 a.m. **September 26** for grades 4+

\$1 per student (\$5 family max) payable to [Holly Winters](#) by September 14



Please do not reply to this email. Contact coordinators directly with questions.
Email [Melissa Bryan](#), SHIELD Communications Leader, with content for next month's newsletter.

