

January 2025



Dear friends,

Late January into February can be a real time of horror for many homeschoolers. Earlier, the novelty of the school year might have been kept fresh because of fall and then winter holidays. Now, especially in those parts of the country where the weather is miserable, February homeschool horror looms.

‘What on earth made me think I could homeschool my child’ is a common question at this time of year. ‘Maybe I need to send her (back) to school’, a parent might muse, probably at 3am. ‘Waldorf is too hard...we are so far behind...I am sure I am failing my child...’



Please know that everyone who homeschools deals with such doubts at some point in their homeschooling life. They are an aspect of the eye of the needle that a parent needs to thread so that she can muster her authenticity and persevere in homeschooling. The fear, the pain, the doubt and the angst are very real: and there is no easy solution. Sticking your child onto a screen will not help in the long run—I do not need to go into the problems of screens here (though some of you might wish to [listen to this to see what I have to say about this subject](#)).

Enrolling your child in every class you can find might also, like a screen, at first seem to help. And if your child is a 7th or 8th grader, a class or two could definitely be a good idea if you can find a teacher who teaches in alignment with your values. But the more you are out of the home and the more you avoid the pain of grappling with the hard life lessons of homeschooling, the worse, in the long run, things can get. The home is your hearth, your center. The less you and your children are in that home, the harder life with children becomes. [Here is a link to a recording I made](#) about embracing being a homemaker: the more one can gracefully step into this role, the easier the dynamics of teaching and parenting become.

One of the things that I have often suggested to people struggling with the February blues, is to take a week off from the usual schedule of lessons. Choose a country and create an all-family geography study. Spend a week focused on crafts, cooking, map making, stories and so on from that country. Get some recorded music from there and listen to it. Maybe you can learn a song to sing or play on the recorder.

Involve all your children during that week, keep them together and reconnect as a family, not as a series of individuals. Your oldest can tell stories to the little ones; crafts can be simplified or different children can tackle different aspects of the craft, working together; older ones can make maps and copy pictures from books about the chosen country from the library...and everyone gets involved with cooking.

Sometimes such a week’s focus can really breathe life back into your homeschooling. And lest you think that as I prioritize being in the home, this means all the time. By no means—it is simply what your emphasis is. Winter camping and other outdoor adventures can also reinvigorate things. And if you are really desperate and have little ones, playing ‘I Spy’ at the mall and not shopping but making it into an adventure course, can be a lot of fun (‘I spy with my little eye something that is red!’ ‘How many horses can we find?’ (patterns on clothes or knickknacks, toys, prints and posters etc). If you are totally into it, your little ones will be as well.

[Here is a blog post I wrote on some of the fundamentals of homeschooling](#). It could be that really, all is needed is that you recommit to what you are doing, add a bit of help from an article like this and bingo—life is not so awful!

Lastly, if you are feeling a need to brush up on some of your artistic and craft skills, work on your own inner growth and generally learn more about the Christopherus (Waldorf) approach to homeschooling so you can feel more confident in what you are doing, do consider purchasing our [Self Development Course](#).

Helping Homeschoolers Financially

At Christopherus we try very hard to help those with financial challenges who wish to use our materials to homeschool. We have not raised our prices in years although our costs, like those of most small businesses, have risen.

We now offer free shipping on all US orders over \$125.

We now offer an installment plan through Stripe so you can spread your payments (USA customers only).



And because we print with Lulu and Lulu prints in various countries around the world, international shipping rates are calculated at domestic or other low rates! So if you are in Italy, for example, Lulu, who prints in France, will calculate your shipping not from the US, but from the EU. To check shipping rates, please put items you are interested in into your shopping cart in our bookstore to see what the calculation is (Lulu’s shipping rates are calculated by us, via out bookstore software).

And we are now becoming vendors for various programs in the US which help fund materials for homeschoolers. So far, we have been accepted as a vendor by these programs:

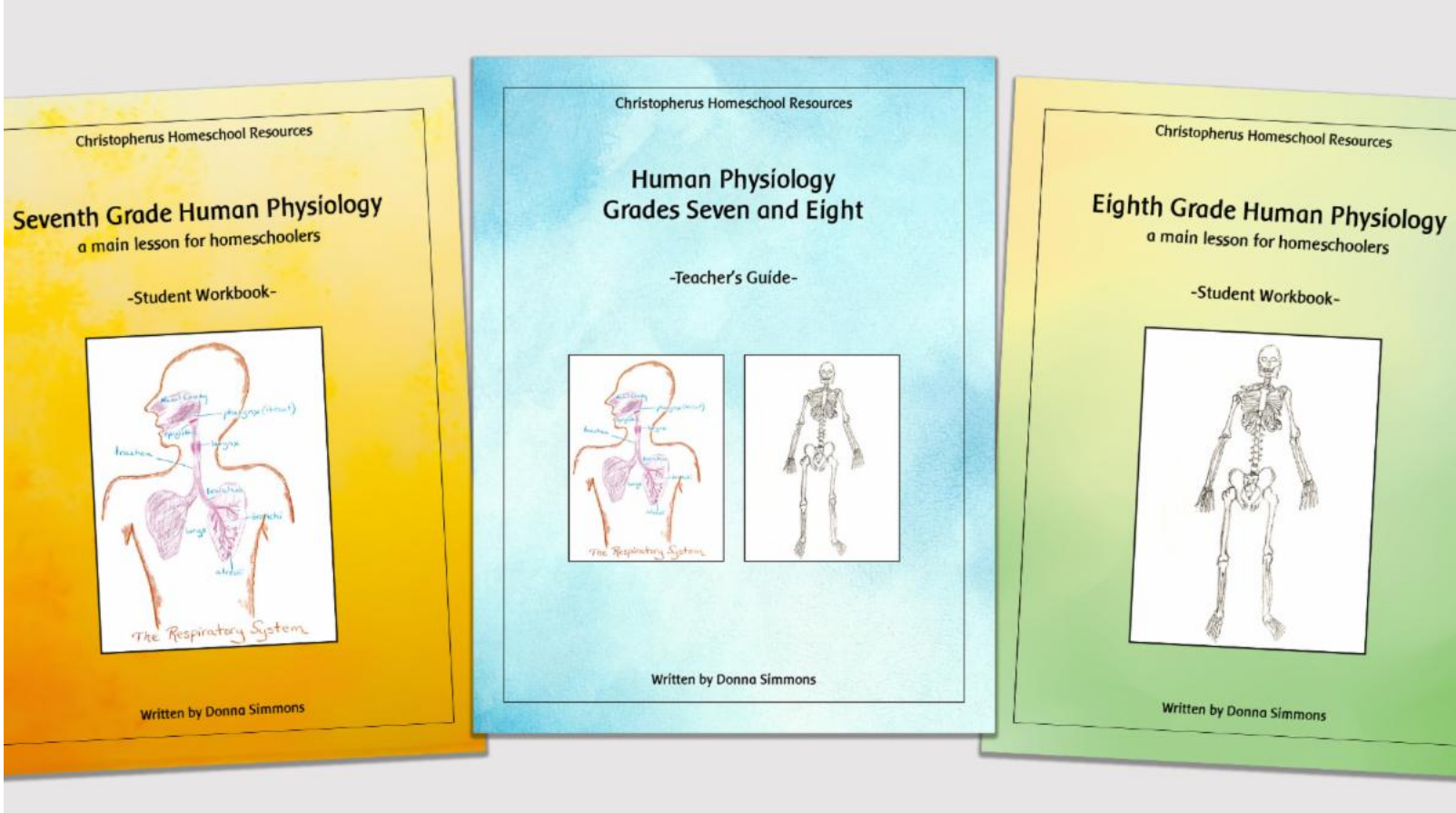
- Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account – <https://www.azed.gov/esa/esa-guidance>
- Heartwood Charter School (California) – <https://heartwoodcharterschool.org>
- Suncoast Prep Charter School (California) – <https://www.suncoastprep.org>
- Empowering Parents (Idaho) – <https://empoweringparents.idaho.gov>

If you know of such a program in your state, please send us the details. Also, do note that some programs require that a parent request a company (such as Christopherus) be accepted as a vendor. We would be very grateful if those of you living where this applies would help us become vendors.

Human Physiology for 7th grade and for 8th grade

Our two publications focused on human physiology main lessons or blocks are almost finished! We are planning on making them available by the end of February, all being well.

There is a student workbook for 7th grade and one for 8th grade and one Teacher’s Guide which covers both grades. The material is holistic, non-mechanistic and is focused on helping the student discover the wonders of his own body. A lot of the lessons are left open so that parents can present material in a way that is in alignment with their own values: this is especially important in the section in 7th grade focused on human reproduction as well as the overall focus on health and well-being. You will all have different ways of understanding such things and that is how it should be: homeschooling is about making a family’s culture be the context and setting for learning.



These booklets join our other very popular and unique middle grades publications which are a combination of student text and main lesson book. Have a look at the [7th grade page](#) for further details (as well as [6th grade earth science](#)).

With the publication of human physiology for 7th grade, our Christopherus 7th grade curriculum will be complete.

Sample pages and the product page for this publication should be available to view in the February newsletter.

Til then,
Blessings on your homeschool journey
Donna