



SEVERN RUN EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOME SCHOOL UMBRELLA MINISTRY

Dear Friends,

As Pastor of the Severn Run Church I wish to welcome you to our Home School Umbrella organization. There is no greater responsibility nor joy that parents can undertake than the Christian education of their children. We are excited and happy to be allowed to help you and to facilitate that activity. Our Home School Umbrella has one major focus: to assist you, the parent, in preparing your child with a sound, Biblically based world view that is founded on a solid education.

Every organization has a more or less clearly expressed set of ideas that govern how they do things. While we at Severn Run aim to provide the most flexible and open environment possible, we do have some general goals that we wish to encourage parents to pursue. First we hold that education conducted under our umbrella must recognize that: (1) the God presented in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament is the only and supreme God of all creation. No other religion is equated to Christianity in that all other religions are at their root false, no matter how ethical they may seem, (2) the Lord Jesus Christ is the only Son of God who is both God and Man and has been declared Lord over all creation including each and every person by His resurrection from the dead, (3) the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the supreme authority by which all thoughts of men are to be measured. They alone of all teachings are absolutely inerrant and infallible in what they teach, and are alone the final judge of the truth content of any thoughts or philosophies derived through the minds of sinful men. And (4) all mankind, including our children, need to be taught the truth about the Lordship of our Lord Jesus Christ and the extent to which it governs our life throughout the entire range of human endeavor, both in and out of church, in our families, our recreations, our occupations, and our social intercourse.

Secondly, our educational philosophy is built upon the scriptural premise, "*in all thy getting, get understanding.*" (Proverbs 4:5). Accordingly, we encourage parents along the following general educational maxim: All knowledge is built upon facts but is ultimately a right interpretation of those facts. Thus we encourage parents to build their home schooling program around the acquisition and memorization of facts but to go beyond this stage to the right understanding of those facts. Parents as teachers are guides in a process rather than the possessors of final knowledge. Severn Run's Umbrella will seek to provide services, encouragement, and help across a wide spectrum of activities to support parents in this regard. Our aim is to help rather than to control. Please contact us with any questions or ideas that you may have. We are always open to ways that we can improve our programs and better serve our Lord. Within the bounds of our basic theological premises stated above, we will strive diligent to serve you in any way that we can.

May God richly bless our mutual association in His abundant provision,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Van Devender', written over a large, loopy flourish.

John A. Van Devender, Pastor