

Welcome to *Venture Upward's* MINNESOTA Home Education Conference



Come hear from inspiring speakers, connect with the home education community, discover local resources at our vendor hall, and leave with renewed energy in your home-educating journey.

Venture Upward™

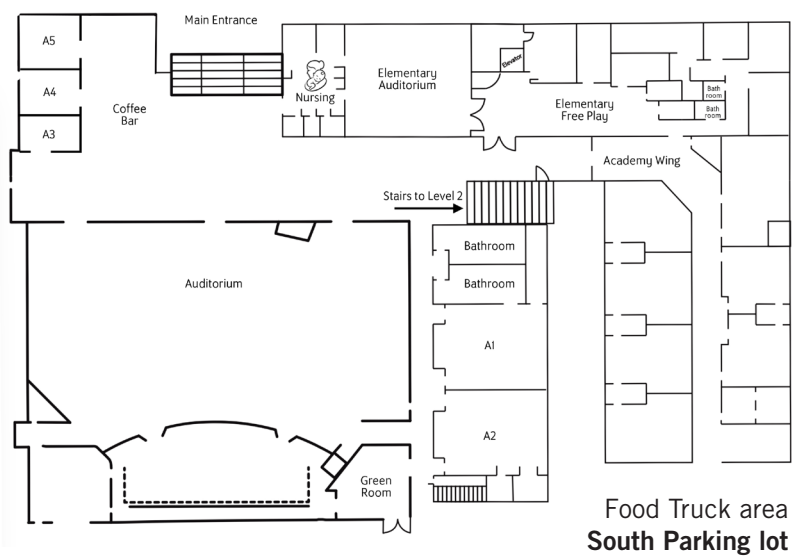
10 am to 5 pm
SAT • Aug 26, 2023

Celebration Church
16655 Kenyon Ave.
Lakeville, MN 55044

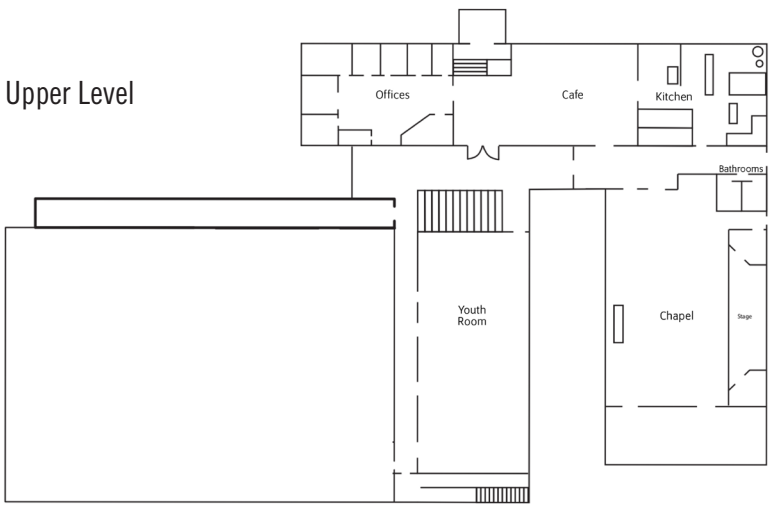
Celebration Church

Main Level

North ▲



Upper Level



Conference Schedule

9 am – 10 am • Upstairs Cafe

Staff Breakfast

10 am – 2 pm

Vendor Hall Open • Atrium

Used Curriculum Fair • Chapel

11:30 am – 12:30 pm • Auditorium

Keynote Speaker

Nancy Bjorkman

12:30 pm – 2 pm

Lunch Break

Food Trucks are available in the South Parking lot

2 pm – 2:45 pm • Auditorium • A1 • A2

First Breakout Session

Three Breakout Sessions available—you choose:

• *Kat Dingcong* • *Jessica Breuer* • *Cheryl Parker*

3 pm – 3:45 pm • Auditorium • A1 • A2

Second Breakout Session

Three Breakout Sessions available—you choose:

• *Angel Seldon* • *Courtney Schloss* • *Dad's Panel*

4 pm – 5 pm • Auditorium

Final Session

Seasoned Homeschool Mom's Panel

Meet Our Speakers

Keynote Speaker

11:30 am – 12:30 pm • Auditorium



Nancy Bjorkman

Homeschooling: *The Big Picture*

Session Summary

Come and discover, or discover anew, a bigger vision of what homeschooling can be for your family. Find encouragement as you reconsider your goals and put into perspective the pieces of the puzzle. We'll talk about both academic and non-academic objectives, and practical ways to fit it all together to help you and your children find out who they were created to be and what the changing seasons might hold for you.

Bio

After years of being a homeschool skeptic, Nancy began homeschooling her four children in 1992. Now, after over 30 years, she has become known as the Homeschool Mom Whisperer for many and a champion of the cause. She has spoken at homeschool conferences in over 10 states where she is known for her enthusiasm, energy, and encouragement.

She finds joy in empowering parents to join the journey of homeschooling. Though she stays busy as a bookstore owner, mentor, and speaker, her favorite times are spent with her growing family (grandkids - yeah!). She and her husband own HEPPNER'S LEGACY, a homeschool store in Elk River, MN, where they delight in ministering to the unique needs of families year-round, and where parents say, "Come for the books. Stay for the Therapy.™"

First Breakout Session • 2 pm – 2:45 pm

Three Breakout Sessions available. *You choose:*



Kat Dingcong

Auditorium

Soundtrack to Sustained Success: *Cultivating Consistent, Committed & Creative Kids*

Session Summary

Success varies from person to person, but at its core, it's about achieving a goal. On the other hand, sustained success more clearly defined. It goes beyond the attainment of a single goal or a fleeting moment of accomplishment. Sustained success entails a continuous process of long-term commitment, consistency, and creative adaptability, to achieve positive outcomes over an extended period. Today we're concerned that Ai will take our jobs and there will be less need for humans in the workplace. 20 years from now, we will have new concerns. No matter what future challenges we may face, no technological advancement will take away what makes us uniquely human. The innate human qualities of creativity, critical thinking, emotional expression, unwavering commitment and consistent action are qualities that no technology can replace. We must be intentional about what our kids engage in and the life skills we want them to learn. Equipping them with life skills like consistency, commitment, and creativity forms the backbone for personal development, resilience, and adaptability—essential traits for achieving sustained success. In this enlightening talk, we will share how playing a musical instrument is a powerful tool that effectively fosters these invaluable life skills in your child's character. Through music, we can instill these values in our kids and empower them to flourish and create a lasting impact, transcending the challenges of an evolving world. Join me on this transformative journey of cultivating consistent, committed, and creative kids – our hope for tomorrow's sustained success.

Speaker Bio

Kat is the founder and owner of Katz Keys & Company, an online music studio whose mission is to make piano playing a deeply joyful experience to all students, by using a playing-based method that immediately connects students to their natural musicality & creativity. The result is truly transformative, where students actually experience the JOY of playing the piano. She was also the founder & program director for Sky High Dance,

an afterschool enrichment program where she grew from serving 5 schools to 60 schools, and from 20 students to 2000 students in just 5 years. She worked very closely with school principals, parents & students in various school districts in Los Angeles & Ventura County. Kat's experience in arts education, coupled with her 20 years of success as a dancer & aerialist, working all over the world for Disney, Samsung, Feld Entertainment, Aerial Experience Productions & appearing in numerous commercials, TV shows & music videos helped her understand that the "Soundtrack to Sustained Success" in any field is consistency, commitment and creativity. As a speaker, her main goal is to inspire her audience to trust the process & ultimately, to trust in your own unique super power. ***please visit: katzkeys.com***



Cheryl Parker

Room A2

Homeschooling through High School

Session Summary

Feel confident in leading your student through the high school years. Discover how to navigate a transcript, PSEO, CLEP, and other opportunities. Empower your teen to take ownership in their education and help chart their path. Relax in discovering that the high school years just may be the best years in your homeschool journey.

Speaker Bio

Cheryl Parker is blessed with six children, seven grandchildren, and her husband of 37 years. She enjoys sewing, knitting, reading, and of course spending time with family and those precious grandkids. Working at Heppner's Legacy homeschool store in Elk River, MN allows her to pursue her mission to empower and encourage homeschool families. Having recently graduated her last homeschool student after 30 years of home educating her children, she is excited to share with you some of what she's learned along the way. She is passionate about helping parents discover the heart of homeschooling.



Jessica Breuer

Room A1

Working at Home and Homeschooling: *You've got this!*

Session Summary

Believe it or not, homeschooling and working don't have to be an oxymoron! With intentional planning, consistent execution, the right perspective, and a few tips and tricks, you can thrive as a working homeschooler!

Stop wishing for more hours in the day and magnify the time you have! Don't let excuses, poor planning, and work swallow up the potential of your time! Learn how to live and work on purpose. Walk alongside us and be inspired as we navigate the truly unique challenges (and solutions!) that working moms face in their homeschools!

Don't be afraid to create the homeschooling experience that supports your needs as well as those of your children!

Speaker Bio

Jessica Breuer is the mother of seven amazing children ranging from eight to twenty. Her family's mission statement embraces various values, including faith, family, leadership, education, charity, empathy, joy, and living on purpose. It was upon embracing that family mission statement twelve years ago that Jessica put her own doctoral pursuits, distinguished academic awards, publications, and nationally presented research on hold to dive into homeschooling!

Several years into her homeschooling journey, an opportunity presented itself to pursue a career in the home education world that she had fallen in love with; again, she dove in. Along the way, Jessica realized her passion for helping other women grow professionally while continuing to homeschool. She has helped many women grow into their roles as both professionals and homeschooling moms.

With a deeply rooted belief in the power of encouragement and community, Jessica hopes to inspire others to live on purpose, thus allowing productivity, light, and joy to flood their lives and the lives of others.

Second Breakout Session • 3 pm – 3:45 pm

Three Breakout Sessions available. *You choose:*



Angel Seldon

Auditorium

A Holmesian Home: Lessons From The Master Solver To Bring Joy To Your Homeschool and Empower Your Children For Life

Session Summary

The world is full of mysteries that we are always in the process of gathering clues to, little by little throughout our lives. When we solve them--this is learning! Sherlock Holmes—the master solver—embodies a simple (but little understood and rarely applied) principle of learning and discovery. Angel Seldon will share research, as well as inspiring stories from her 18 years of experience, that will help you have more joyful, powerful learning moments in your family.

Speaker Bio

Angel Seldon has been homeschooling her four children (ages 6-21)--and researching education, great mentorship, neuroscience and child development--for 19 years. She earned a BS in psychology in 2003, but more importantly has had many life experiences around the world and read over a thousand great books spanning disciplines and genres, from classic literature to history, natural and social sciences, writing, business and biographies. This has given her a broad network of knowledge with some areas of depth, which she is able to weave into discussions with even her youngest charges; and she learns more and more every day.

Angel is founder, curriculum-creator and head mentor of 5000 Stories World Scholar Community, where middle and high-school-aged youth study and discuss great works from different countries and cultures in the context of history.

She lived with a host family in Voronezh, Russia in 1999 where she taught English to kindergarteners through stories and play. She became Head English Teacher in Kiev, Ukraine in 2003.

Her essay “5000 Stories: One Mother’s Quest to Ditch School and Nourish Genius” was published in the book “Why I Love Homeschooling Neurodiverse Kids” edited by Kathy Oaks and Bryn Steimle, and is available on Amazon.

She has spoken at ten conferences in Minnesota since 2010, including the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented in 2021, and alongside Rachel DeMille, co-author of the A Thomas Jefferson Education series, in 2017. Angel also enjoys performing and watching live improv.

please visit: 5000stories.com



Courtney Schloss

Room A1

**Family School: *The Art of Teaching
All of Your Kids Together No Matter Their Age***

Session Summary

There are so many amazing things we want to teach our kids but only so many hours in a day. It is easy to get overwhelmed trying to cram it all in and still have time for laundry and meals. Come learn all about how to teach your kids together no matter their age and do all the subjects you want with looping.

Speaker Bio

Courtney Schloss taught preschool through 2nd grade in public school and started home-schooling when her oldest got to kindergarten. She is a mom of 7 and is the Senior Program Director at Venture Upward. She loves to read, cook, play games, knit, and spend time with her friends and family. Most of all she loves teaching others how to be successful at home educating their kids. It is a tough job but so rewarding!



Homeschool Dad's Panel

Room A2

A Homeschool Dad's Perspective

Final Session • 4 pm – 5 pm



Seasoned Mom's Homeschool Panel

Auditorium

Navigating home education can be a tricky balance! Whether you work inside or outside the home, full or part-time, join us as we close our conference with a panel of seasoned homeschool moms for helpful hints and tips. The panel will be open for your questions!



*We want to extend a special thank you to
Lakeshore Learning, The Good and The Beautiful,
Bookroo, and Heidi Hagberg of Thirty-One Gifts
for their generous donation of door prizes.*

Thank you!



*We want to thank our speakers,
vendors, and all those that attended
and participated in this year's
Venture Upward Home Education
Conference. We look forward
to seeing you next year!*

Upcoming Events

Click here to check out our upcoming **Open House** events to learn more about the VIBE program powered by Venture Upward! We are excited to support students in Minnesota with premium curriculum, fun field trips, engaging community events, and optional weekly in-person extracurricular classes.

Aug 28	10 am	Plymouth
Aug 28	1 pm	Bloomington
Aug 28	11 am	Willmar
Aug 29	1 pm	New Brighton
Aug 29	1 pm	Staples
Aug 29	2 pm	Elk River
Aug 30	10 am	St. Cloud



ventureupward.org/information-meetings

▲ Use this **Link for more information**

or scan this **QR code** ►



Venture Upward™

Vendors in Vendor Hall



Goldfish Swim School
Goldfishswimschool.com
(651) 240-6331



Connected Families
connectedfamilies.org
(612) 920-5005



Cooper and Kid
Nichole Smaglick
cooperandkid.com



Brainy Act
Brainyact.com
(952) 444-2808



Outschool
Cassie Olguin
ventureupward.org/outschool



Heppner's Legacy
Legacyhomeschool.com
(763) 241-4663



Language Sprout
Susan Raynaud
Languagesprout.com



Reliv International
Rene Kisrow
blankcheck.reliv.com



Paper Pie Books
Liz Hawkinson
Liz@hawkinson.net



TABLE Learning Resources
Anne Butler
tablelearningresources.com



Tastefully Simple
Tracey Lilledahl
tastefullysimple.com/p/11485694

Vendors in Vendor Hall



Thirty-One Gifts
Heidi Hagberg
mythirtyone.com/hhagberg



Bookroo
bookroo.com



Katz Keys & Company
Kat Dingcong
katzkeys.com



Venture Upward
Ventureupward.org
 716.427.2677



Thrive Chiropractic
Dr. M. Nelson & Dr. A. Fitzgearld
thrivechiropracticandhealth.com

Onsite Food Trucks located in the South Parking lot



El Jibarito Food Truck
Eljibaritorestaurant.com

K-Town Street Foods
facebook.com/Ktownstreetfoods



Sumo Smoh
Sumosmoh.com

Game Day Grub
facebook.com/gamedaygrub97



Corn Dog Company Minnesota
Thecorndogco.com



Educational Partnership

Empowering parents and igniting learning!



We are passionate about creating strong home-educating communities with a love of learning. This starts with families and their students. Each family and child is unique, and we celebrate that by supporting them in creating a customized learning experience in order to have a beautifully enriching and successful educational journey.

- A Community of Support
- Customized Educational Plans
- Dedicated VIBE Teacher Support
- Home Education Mentorship
- Academic Enrichment!
- Engaging Community Events
- Fun Family Field Trips
- Weekly In-person Extracurricular Classes
- Goal Setting & Accountability
- And more!

Whether you are just starting out on your educational journey or have years of experience, Venture Upward has something that will benefit you! Email us at contact@ventureupward.org to find out how Venture Upward can partner with you to make all the difference!

Venture Upward™



scan here
for more MN info

VentureUpward.org • 716.427.2677

*At Venture Upward,
we are here because of our families.
We are here to serve them,
not in just any way,
but in the best possible way.*

Jon Funes

CEO & Founder
of Venture Upward

VentureUpward[™]



VentureUpward.org

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