

***This is Why I Homeschool...
Do I Really Need a Reminder?***

Maribeth Spangenberg

It was one of those frustrating moments that reminded me of exactly WHY I was homeschooling. As I walked around the school, attempting to find an unlocked door, I battled the struggle within to suppress the anger that was slowly evolving.

My son was in there! I needed to get in, or they said that they would negate his test scores. As I had done in previous years with my older four children, I was bringing child #5 to our local high school to take his College Board SAT. I had assumed they would accept my own driver's license as proof for my identity, when I vouched for that of my son's. The older guidance counselors of the past had willingly accepted it as sufficient. This time, however, after a three-year absence, I was met with a new, younger breed of counselors.

“I’m sorry,” the young man had politely stated, “but the new requirement is a pictured ID with his name on it. Does he have his own driver’s license?”

“No,” I replied, “only his permit.” I then thought, “What a sad state our country, and educational system, is in when a parent cannot vouch for her own child but, even worse, the fact that a parent’s word is not trusted!”

Trying to be more helpful he continued, “If you have something on the computer, we could go down to my office and look it up. Any picture that has his name on it will do. I just need to see it.”

My son and I exchanged glances as we sought through the files of our minds.

“Does he have an MSN Profile or a blog on ‘My Space’?” the young man further inquired.

Being slightly familiar with both I answered, “No, that’s not something we allow nor encourage.”

“I agree,” he was quick to reply, “I only asked because they’re both popular among the kids here at the school. But I need to see *something*.”

Coming to the conclusion that we (thankfully) had no pictures of my son on the internet, I then commented, “How about a newspaper clipping with my son’s name and picture in it? He won an award a few years back. I could go home and get it.”

“That would be great!” He, also, seemed relieved that a solution had been found. “But make sure you come back before the test is over, or we will need to negate his scores.”

I completed the round trip in twenty minutes only to find that every door to the school was locked! My excursion around the perimeter of the building for any sign of life cost me a half hour’s time. Finally, after a pleading prayer for the Lord’s intervention, an older, balding man with a beard and toting a briefcase slung over his shoulder with a strap, granted me entrance, but only after he had completed an interrogation as to my plan and purpose. He then personally escorted me down to the guidance office.

My Christian testimony was all but gone, as I expressed my frustration at my inability to enter the building.

“Oh, that’s because every morning at 8:15 a.m. the school automatically goes into a complete lock down, so no one else can enter the building.”

My thoughts immediately traveled to that of the Columbine tragedy, and fear gripped me for the youth of our culture. At the same time, I praised The Lord for His Goodness and Mercy in leading me into the homeschooling journey! One of the *Smartest Things* I ever did was take that journey with all the children my husband and I have been blessed with.

About the Author

Maribeth Spangenberg is wife to Steve and mother to nine children. Having homeschooled for 25 years, graduating six and still in the trenches with three, she enjoys sharing her mothering and homeschooling experiences as an encouragement to others. Maribeth writes weekly devotionals for Homeschoolenrichment.com, and has articles published on Crosswalk, Eclectic Homeschool Online (eho.org), The Old Schoolhouse Magazine Devotional Door, and The Spirit-Led Writer. She is a contributing author for *Homeschool Enrichment Magazine*, *The Secret Place*, *Praise Report Anthology*, and *Cup of Comfort for Mothers*. Maribeth is also the proud grandmother of soon-to-be four grandchildren.