



I started homeschooling back when it was not mainstream. It may be hard to fathom now, but in the early 90's I can remember being told by veteran homeschoolers not to go out with the kids before 3 pm, not to tell strangers that I homeschooled, and to keep our curtains closed during school hours. I can also remember friends and family members ridiculing and questioning our decision, but my husband and I were convinced that this was the way to go for our three boys, so we began. Every year, we would revisit the decision, and every year we would come back to the choice of continuing in our homeschool journey, especially since the boys seemed to be doing well. As our children grew older, so did homeschooling. Opportunities for our homeschooled children seemed to abound, choices for curriculum and extracurricular activities multiplied, and it was not quite so scary to tell people what we were doing and why.

However, even with the mainstreaming of homeschooling, when we reached high school with our oldest, we felt the need to tighten things up and get on a college prep path. We wanted to make sure they would be prepared for college level work and hoped to find help with college funding, so we began looking for a program that would assist us in navigating high school and beyond. We were fortunate to find Beasley College Prep and more specifically, the NEW College Preparatory Academy for our high school curriculum. Not only was I pleased with the level of preparation they received, but the results have been amazing!

Our oldest graduated from high school in 2012; he received a full scholarship plus \$6,000 cash per year to the University of Texas at Dallas (among many other scholarships totaling \$380,000). He graduated from UTD in 2016 with a BS in Electrical Engineering from the Honors Program, with half of his Master's Degree in Systems Engineering Management completed, and with NO debt.



Our second son, Justin, graduated from high school in 2013. He received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and will be graduating in June of 2017. Getting into a Service Academy is no easy task! Graduating from one is even tougher! USMMA is arguably the toughest of the five Service Academies because it compresses a four-year degree into three years so that the midshipmen can sail on commercial ships as interns for a year.

Justin is currently the Regimental Officer in charge of Special Projects. His most recent project was organizing and planning the USMMA Regimental march during the Inauguration Parade for President Trump. He will be graduating with a BS in Logistics and Intermodal

Transportation, a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Naval Reserves, and a Coast Guard unlimited tonnage license. He plans on going to Officer Candidate School for the Marines later this year. Being a Marine has always been his ultimate goal, and I am so excited that he is realizing his dreams. We are incredibly proud of Justin, and his accomplishments.

Our third son, Jonathan, graduated from high school in 2016 and received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, which perhaps is the best known Academy. He finished Cadet Basic Training in August of 2016. Jonathan really enjoyed his first semester there and is well into his second semester. He is constantly telling me how great the Academy is, but I think the highlight so far is that Army beat Navy for the first time in 14 years. Go Army!



I am very proud of all of my boys, but I am confident that they would not have been able to achieve all of this if we had not homeschooled them. They worked at their own pace, sometimes they were ahead in certain subjects--and sometimes they were behind, but by the time we finished high school, I can honestly say that they were well prepared for college. They are living beyond what I could have ever dreamed when we started out so many years ago! And all those naysayers at the beginning of our journey have been pleasantly surprised and thrilled with their accomplishments.

Homeschooling isn't easy! It isn't for the faint of heart, and it isn't for everyone. However, it was a blessing for my boys and for me, too! I would not trade those years for anything, and I am so glad we made the leap of faith so long ago.



Mrs. Debbie Lindstrom directs the homeschool college preparation program. As a homeschool mom, her three sons have gone on to incredible achievements. From a financial perspective, other than some transportation expenses and some miscellaneous expenses, the Lindstrom family has paid virtually nothing to get their sons some of the best education in the country!

Mrs. Lindstrom has been very successful in advising all families (homeschool, public school, private school) on Service Academy appointments, Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC Scholarships, and homeschool families in general on how to prepare their students for college success. There are not many homeschool parents who know, understand, and have the experience Mrs. Lindstrom has and how to help it work for your students.

Please contact her directly to schedule a time to discuss how we can help your homeschooler.

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