**Knowing Our Competitors – Karla Cook**

Based on surveys**, ABeka** and MFW are strong competitors for Sonlight

Founded by Dr. A and Beka Horton (hence, the curriculum name)

“our publications are built upon a firm foundation of absolute truth..”

“tradition of excellence in education” – pushing the traditional classroom model

Check the articles on ABeka’s website to understand where they are coming from

Customers switching from ABeka to Sonlight:

“Requires a lot of sitting and doing the same thing all the time. It requires a lot of planning on my part to make the lessons fun and keep them away from my kitchen table?”

“Children were bored with the worksheets.”

“Too much like secular school. Feels like we are just memorizing and not really taking it in. Kids are bored.”

**Alpha Omega Publications**

Monarch > Switched on Schoolhouse > LIFEPAC > Horizons > Weaver unit study

ACE Paces

**Ambleside Online**

Free online curriculum plan

Uses mostly public-domain books (old books)

Charlotte Mason methodology, literature-based

Provides schedule, but parent carries burden of collecting materials

**BJU Press**

Text books

Distance learning (video)

Academy of Home Education (correspondence)

**Calvert School**

Homeschool – flexible, accredited curriculum for PreK-8

Virtual Public school

Calvert Virtual Academy – online private virtual school for grades 6-8

Secular

Is a school that provides recordkeeping

**Christian Light Education**

Mennonite

Textbooks and workbook format

Originally developed for Christian schools

K-12

No schedules provided

**Classical Conversations**

Co-op meeting one day per week, classes taught by trained tutors

Community support

Support organization to parents who home educate their children

Three cycles: Ancient world history > Medieval to new world history > US History

 If on US History cycle, for K child recommend Core A

 Won’t match history for that child but great books to read, and set to follow B/C/D

Every year/every cycle reviews the timeline, so they will hit the points they are studying

Doesn’t matter if you put the hooks in the wall from SL or from CC – will have a place to connect info

Challenge program does not need supplement materials

**Easy Peasy**

Materials online and free

Developed by a homeschool mom for her own children and sharing

Requires no books or major supplies

Children work independently

Most of books are chosen from Ambleside or Robinson curricula

**Five in a Row** (lit-based unit study, not a full curriculum)

Limited levels

Read the same picture book every day for 5 days

Need to add math and language arts

Beyond Five in a Row uses chapter books for older children (limited number of books)

**Heart of Dakota**

Christ-centered

Multi-level

Lit-based

Choice of resources for flexibility

Subjects rotate daily

**K12**

Secular, available through some states

Virtual schools with teacher support

 Online lessons with traditional materials

 Individualized learning plans

**KONOS**

Hands-on approach

Biblically-based unit studies

Godly character trait focus

Discovery learning

Multi-level teaching

No spelling, phonics, grammar, or math

“You add library books/crafts and each volume lasts 2-3 years.”

**Moving Beyond the Page**

Lit-based, developed by special needs teacher

Project – based instruction (hands on)

Unit studies

Packages include books but there is also a shopping list for all the project supplies

**My Father’s World**

Hands-on unit studies

“Combines the best of Charlotte Mason’s ideas and classical education with a Biblical worldview, and international…”

Survey responses:

“Not enough content.”

“I would like a more literature-based curriculum.”

“It just is not working for my family…too many tears! Even on my part.”

“Sonlight appears to be more in-depth.”

**Rod and Staff**

Mennonite textbooks

Developed for classroom schools

Teaches reading through Bible stories

No fantasies, all true life stories

**Tapestry of Grace**

Christian, classical education

Guided unit study approach

History cycle every 4 years

Multi-level teaching, but still needing to collect materials

Completely online, no print materials

**Timberdoodle**

Emphasis on critical thinking

Wide selection of hands-on educational tools

Encourages independent learning

Attends NW events and sells on floor

Offers 3 packages for each grade level (compiling a variety of programs)

 Basic

 Complete

 Elite

**Time 4 Learning**

Online curriculum

Subscription based (monthly fee)

Automated system

Student-focused

Multimedia lessons

[currently showing up #1 in Google for “homeschool curriculum”]

Mentioned by SCCs in the workshop:

**Oak Meadow -** started as school program

**Dew Learning** – completely online, developed for iPad