In the movies, the doe-eyed homeschooler getting thrust into public education becomes either a comedy or horror fest. But does art truly mimic life when it comes to homeschooling? This might have been true of the religious-based homeschooling curriculum of the past, but in modern homeschooling education, students have access to online and personalized learning, socialization activities, and lasting friendships.

One of the main issues with public education is the lack of personalization. Not every person learns or thinks the same way. Homeschooling negates this issue by allowing students to personalize their learning through technology. In fact, a large research study by Education Elements shows personalized learning can help boost math and reading scores by 20%. Corporate giants like Bill Gates also demonstrate how learning personalized through technology can help students to explore their interests.

Moreover, socialization has always been a huge worry for homeschooling parents. While socialization is different for a homeschooler, it is just as rich but without exposure to bullying and peer pressure, which according to statistics can lead to negative consequences. For example, homeschoolers socialize through national associations, volunteering, clubs, missions, and community theater programs.

Furthermore, in an age of social media, schools aren’t necessary to make lasting friendships. Rather, you can choose friends. With apps like Snapchat, Facebook, and resources specific to homeschools, students can make lasting friendships from around the globe. Additionally, research from the Pew Institute shows 57% of teens have met friends online, and social media is a common venue. That same research also shows that online gaming builds stronger connections.

In conclusion, the digital age is changing the landscape of homeschooling. While stigmas are still attached to homeschooling and it is a large lifestyle change, the education itself is more personalized. Coupled with the multiple socialization activities and lasting friendships students can make online, homeschooling can be a positive experience for children.

Linked references:
www.pewresearch.org/internet/2015/08/06/teens-technology-and-friendships/