



HomeLink Education Course Description Fall 2009

Middle School Courses

MATH

Saxon Algebra 1: This course is made up of five instructional components: Introduction of the new increment, examples with complete solutions, practice of the increment, daily problem sets, and cumulative tests. Algebra 1 covers topics typically treated in a first-year algebra course.

Pretest recommended. Text: Saxon Algebra 1 Third Edition, plus answer key.

Advisor: Mrs. Sharon Russell Grade level generally 8th or 9th Course length: 2 semesters Time: 10:30 – 11:30

MATH Saxon Algebra 1/2: Algebra 1/2 thoroughly prepares the student for Upper Grade Math with culmination of pre-algebra mathematics and skills, plus relevant topics from discrete mathematics (used for engineering and computer sciences) and geometry. Pretest recommended. Text: Saxon Algebra 1/2 3rd Edition

Advisor: Mrs. Sharon Russell Grade level generally 7th or 8th Course length: 2 semesters Time: 3:00 – 4:00

Saxon Math 8/7: Includes a range of upper-level skills and concepts such as scientific notation, complex statistics, arcs, sectors, and the Pythagorean theorem. Text: 3rd Edition, pretest recommended

Advisor: Sharon Russell Grade Level: 7th – 8th Course length: 2 semesters Time: 11:30 – 12:30



Financial IQ: This course will give young students an early understanding of finances; teaching life-long lessons in cash flow management. They will become familiar with terms as assets, liabilities, types of income, and the difference between expenses that are essential and optional. Using a hands-on, fun method, students will have a financial head start as they learn to invest, keep accounts, and watch the result of their financial choices. (Mathematics credit)

Advisor: Sharon Russell Materials fee: TBA Course length: 8 weeks Time: 9:00 – 10:00

Math Group Tutorial: Students in upper elementary and middle school will learn and review primary math concepts as a class and tutored individually in their current math curriculum. Students will be evaluated for strengths and weaknesses at their current math level. Materials fee: \$5.00

Advisor: Sharon Russell Course length: one semester Time: TBA

SCIENCE

Apologia General Science: This course is designed to be a student's first systematic introduction to the sciences. The course covers such topics as the scientific method, designing experiments, simple machines, archaeology, geology, paleontology, biology, and human anatomy and physiology. Experiments will be conducted in class.

Textbook: Exploring Creation with General Science, 1st Edition

Advisor: Barbara Lorenz Course length: 2 semesters Materials Fee: \$15.00 Time: 12:00 – 1:30

Learning with Legos:

LEGO MECHANICAL PRINCIPLES (PHYSICS)

This course is designed to help young students discover basic concepts of physics in a creative hands-on method through building LEGO models. They will begin with understanding **SIMPLE MACHINES**, such as wheels and axles, gears, levers, and pulleys. Next, the students learn how to incorporate simple machines together to make **COMPOUND MACHINES**. The models are then brought to life by using motors to make **MOTORIZED MACHINES**. They will learn about powered forces, motion, measurement, energy, magnetism, and gravity. In the last quarter of the course, they will study **PNEUMATICS**. Students build air-powered mechanical LEGO devices using air tanks, pumps, and pistons while they learn about properties of air molecules, air pressure, vacuums, different energy forces, and airflow circuits. Throughout this course, students discover problems and invent solutions by making their own discoveries along the way. Working in pairs, students develop communication and cooperation skills as they collaborate to solve problems that are fun, engaging, and relevant to real life situations.

Advisor: Ashley Obranic Grade Level: Elementary level Course length: 2 semesters, 1.5 hours

Materials fee: \$30/semester Class limit: 10 students Time: 9:00 – 10:30 and 10:30 – 12:00

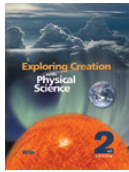


LEARNING WITH LEGOs: LEGO ROBOTICS ENGINEERING *

Students will use their creativity and teamwork to design, create, and build full-fledged LEGO robots that are programmed to complete tasks by using computers. The students will program the robots that they build using light, touch, and sound sensors to perform tasks. The students will learn how to do age appropriate computer programming while they expand their knowledge of physics from the previous year's **LEGO MECHANICAL PRINCIPLES** course*. This is a fun way to learn robotics and is a must for any aspiring engineer and young inventor!!

*This is the second course for students that have completed the year-long **LEGO MECHANICAL PRINCIPLES** class. Completion of year one is a **required pre-requisite** for this ROBOTICS ENGINEERING class.

Advisor: Ashley Obranic Grade Level: Elem/MS Course length: 2 semesters, 1.5 hrs Materials Fee: TBA



Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science: This course is designed to be the last science course the student takes before high school biology but can also be taken as a 9th grade science credit. The course discusses such topics as the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, weather, the structure of the earth, environmentalism, the physics of motion, Newton's Laws, gravity, and astrophysics. The author especially concentrates on the myths generated by the hysterical environmentalist movement. The many hands-on experiments will be completed in class. It is an excellent course for preparing the student to take a college-prep high school science curriculum.

Textbook: Exploring Creation with Physical Science 2nd Edition

Advisor: Jonathan Rupprecht Course length: 2 semesters, 1.5 hrs Materials fee: \$15.00 Time: 10:30 – 12:00

Dissection Labs: Students participate in weekly dissection labs which will compliment their science classes. Specimens are from each major animal phyla: Sponges, Crayfish, Starfish, Grasshoppers, Earthworms, Perch, Mussels, and Frogs; studying internal and external anatomy. Students should have a basic knowledge of animal kingdom studies to best benefit from this course. Lab fee: \$20.

Advisor: TBA Course length: 8 weeks 1.5 hours Grade Level: 7 - 12th Time: 12:00 – 1:30



LANGUAGE ARTS



Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) presents a system of structural models and stylistic techniques applicable for students of all ages and aptitudes. Unlike many creative writing programs, this classical system stresses modeling and builds a firm foundation of specific skills. As students practice each format and master each technique, they develop confidence and creativity.

Middle School Level IEW I: Students will improve their critical thinking and study skills as they learn to take notes, outline, create oral and written summaries, improve their vocabularies, analyze plot outlines, write basic reports and creative short stories, and “dress-up” their writing with stylistic techniques. As students master each structural model and stylistic technique, they develop greater confidence and creativity. Consequently, they may even discover that they enjoy writing! Students will use theme-based writing materials, along with their own notes and writing, to compile personal handbooks and portfolios. They will be able to take any source text and totally rewrite it in their own words, creating reports and essays.

Advisor: Jamie Gregory, Erin Coley Course length: 2 semesters Text available from Instructor (\$26.00)

Times: 10:30 – 12:00 and 12:00 – 2:30

Basic Grammar and Composition: This course will provide a sound foundation in grammar and usage ability using the text *Easy Grammar Plus* for comprehensive novel studies covering spelling, vocabulary, comprehension, listening, grammar/punctuation, analytical and critical thinking, writing and projects through enjoyable learning in a group setting.

Text: *Easy Grammar Plus Student Workbook*

Advisor: Julie Thompson Grade Level: HS/MS Course length: 1 semester Time: 1:00 – 2:00

American Short Stories: This course will provide opportunities for literary analysis, critical thinking, vocabulary enhancement, and a deeper knowledge of American authors and their works through writing and discussion.

Advisor: Julie Thompson Grade Level: MS/HS Course Length: 1 semester Time: 9:00 – 10:30

Classical Literature: This course is an introduction to the classics focusing upon the elements of great literature and teaching the skills necessary to appreciate and analyze great works. During the semester we will be reading and analyzing four classics. *Text: (Library loans allowed if available during weeks of course use) Materials fee: \$15.*
Advisor: Jennifer Obranic Course length: 1 semester Time: 11:00 – 12:30

ELECTIVES

Latin I

Latin I sets up the framework for learning Latin from a classical, Trivium based approach and uses ecclesiastical pronunciation. Vocabulary, systematic grammar, practice exercises, noun, adjective and verb endings (declensions and conjugations) are taught. We will also touch upon Roman history and culture and motivate learning with songs, prayers and games. The most practical reason for Latin study is that it gives students the tools to decode many of the unfamiliar English words. It is the key that opens the door to not only the English language but also to the Roman languages.

Text: Latina Christiana I student workbook. Memoria Press Grade Level: Elementary/Middle school
Advisor: Charlotte Ferri Course length: 2 semesters Time: 9:00 – 10:00

Spanish I:

This course is designed to teach students the basic elements of Conversational Spanish, which includes: the Spanish alphabet, numerical system, sentence-building, pronunciation, Spanish culture and etiquette. Students will learn parts of speech and sentence structure to expand conversational patterns and teach Spanish syntax.

Advisor: Rosa Madrigal Text: TBA Course length: 2 semesters Time: 11:00 – 12:00

American Sign Language I (ASL): This course will focus on developing the basic expressive and receptive skills necessary to communicate with deaf persons. Course content includes signs, fingerspelling, numbers, and grammatical and cultural information. Classroom exercises, homework and other activities are designed to help students feel comfortable and confident using the skills they acquire during this course.

Advisor: Hilary Ainbender Course length: 2 semesters Text: Learn to Sign the Fun Way! By Penny Warner
Time: 10:00 – 11:00

Study Skills: This course prepares students for success in learning. It covers valuable topics as organizational skills, studying and listening skills, test taking, reading strategies, note-taking, critical thinking, and problem solving. Mastering these skills can result in one letter grade increase.

Advisor: TBA Class fee: TBA Grade Level: MS/HS Course Length: 1 semester Time: 1:00 – 2:00

Calligraphy

In this 8 wk course, basic principles of Calligraphy will be taught; the Italic and Script alphabets and numerals. Addressing envelopes, writing scrolls, and certificates will be included. The course will improve the students' handwriting. (Fine Art credit)

Advisor: Harold Bernstein Material fee: \$25. Course length: 8 weeks Time: 2:00 – 3:00

Drawing

This course is for the upper MS or HS student who wants to develop and improve their drawing skills. Employing principles from the book "Drawing on the Right side of the Brain" by Betty Edwards, the instruction will emphasize learning to "see" an object by allowing the brain to enter into observatory mode. The five skills of drawing: The perception of edges, the perception of form and shape, the perception of perspective and proportion, the perception of light and shadow and the perception of the whole will be taught through various drawing projects.

Materials needed: A drawing pad and a set of various drawing pencils like *General Drawing Class Set* at Jerry's Artarama see link: <http://www.jerrysartarama.com/discount-art-supplies/Pencils-Leads-and-Powders/Generals-Drawing-Class-Set.htm>

Advisor: Charlotte Ferri Course Length: 1 semester, 1.5 hrs Time: 12:00 – 1:30

Pottery: MS/HS students will hand-form clay designs using slab construction, coil, and free-form. Clay techniques will be developed, preparation for firing, as well as learning terminology and the history of ceramics.

Advisor: Henny Bulten Grade level: MS/HS Course length: 8 weeks Materials fee: \$20.00 Time 10:00- 11:00

Art for Middle School

1st Semester: Still life and Interiors (Material fee: \$20)

In depth study of still life and Interiors; their origin, development, masters, and technique. Drawing skills of contour line, form, proportion, and shading will be taught followed by techniques of acrylic and collage. The course will culminate with the student making their own still life and interior paintings on canvas/board in the media of acrylic and collage.



2nd Semester: Scapes (Material fee: \$20)

In depth study of landscape, seascape and cityscape; their history, masters and technique. Drawing skills of contour line, shading, texture and perspective will be taught followed by techniques of watercolor and tempera. The course will culminate with the student making various scape paintings in watercolor and tempera.

Facilitator: Charlotte Kirkholt-Ferri Grade Level: 6-8 Course length: 2 semesters, 1 1/2 HR Time: 1:30 – 3:00



Intro to Guitar: This course is designed to provide training and experience at the beginning level of guitar playing. Course content will focus on development of basic music reading, basic music theory, composition, strumming and picking, first position melodies and chords.

Advisor: Alex Wooldridge Course length: 2 semesters 1 hour Materials fee: TBA Time: 3:00 – 4:00

Red Cross Babysitting Course: This course will provide the knowledge and skills needed to provide safe and responsible care for children and infants. Topics cover leadership, safety, child development, emergencies, and first aid. Students will receive certification at completion of the course.

Advisor: Anne Mejeur Course length: 8 weeks Grade level: upper elem/MS Materials fee: \$15:00 Time: 3:00 to 4:00

Beginners Handbell Choir Ringing in a handbell choir teaches students to read music, enhances their appreciation of music and gives them an opportunity to work as a musical team. Students do not need musical experience as they will be instructed in basic music principles including music theory, rhythm, musical notation as well as how to handle and ring handbells. They will begin with a single bell, adding more as they develop their skill. This is an excellent approach to musical awareness and preparation for future instrument instruction. There will be a performance at the close of the 8 week session.

Advisor: Jennifer Obranic Materials fee: TBA Grade Level: MS/upper EL Course Length:1 semester Time: 3:00 – 4:00

Florida History and Florida History through Architecture

Quarter One will cover Florida history beginning with its earliest inhabitants, the Spanish and French rule, Florida's part in the American Revolution, becoming a territory, the Seminole Wars, the effects of WWI, WWII, the railroads, and on to the present including state geography and resources. Little Red Schoolhouse field trip is included.

Quarter Two will focus on our local Florida Heritage Education, including figures as General Worth, Frank Dimick, Henry Flagler, Addison Mizner, including architectural history. Class sessions will comprise slide lectures focusing on the early history of Palm Beach and its architecture. Field trips will include local tours of land marks and the Flagler Museum. The final activity is the design and construction of a model house building. Text: Florida USA by Silver Burdett.

Advisor: TBA Grade level: 4th grade and up Course Length: 1 semester Time: 9:30 – 10:30