

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Courses	Grade Level	Instructor	Student Limit	Time
Early Classes				
Hour 1				
7/6/5 Science—Chemistry/Physics (p. 18)	5 th -7 th	Johnson VanderArk	15	12:30—1:40
General Science (p. 3)	7 th -9 th	Wilson	15	12:30—1:40
Biology (p. 4)	9 th -12 th	Osburn Lawrick	10	12:30—1:40
Advanced Biology & Physiology (p. 5)	11 th -12 th	Sybesma Davis	10	12:30—1:40
Literature (p. 6)	9 th -12 th	Dobson Younger	15	12:30—1:40
Hour 2				
7/6/5 Wellness & Movement (p. 19)	5 th -7 th	G. Wisner	15	1:45—2:40
Core Writing (p. 7)	7 th -8 th	Siegmund	7	1:45—2:40
Competency Writing 1 (p. 8)	8 th -9 th	Christopher	10	1:45—2:40
Competency Writing 2 (p. 9)	9 th -10 th	Ascolese Keres	10	1:45—2:40
Essay—Semester One (p. 10)	11 th -12 th	Dobson	15	1:45—2:40
Research—Semester Two (p. 11)	11 th -12 th	Dobson	15	1:45—2:40
Hour 3				
7/6/5 Writing Fundamentals (p. 20)	5 th -7 th	Smith	15	2:45—3:40
Yearbook (p.12)	7 th -12 th	Adam	10	2:45—3:40
Geography (p. 13)	9 th -12 th	Orvis	15	2:45—3:40
Spanish 1 (p. 14)	9 th -12 th	Fuentes	12	2:45—3:40
Government—Semester 1 (p. 15)	10 th -12 th	Rossmann	12	2:45—3:40
Economics—Semester 2 (p. 16)	10 th -12 th	Rossmann	12	2:45—3:40
Worldviews (p. 17)	11 th -12 th	Hageman J. Wisner	10	2:45—3:40

Prerequisites: Courses designated with an asterisk (*) have a required or recommended prerequisite. Students must qualify to enroll.

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2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Study Hall: A study hall for 7th through 12th-grade students may be offered each hour, depending upon need and availability of adults to staff the rooms. Please note any study hall requests on the application for enrollment.

Semester Courses: Though it is an option for a family to enroll in only one semester course, every family must commit to a full-year of CLC involvement.

Commitment: Every family must commit to registering for at least two hours of CLC classes each week.

Regarding textbooks:

Families are responsible for securing their own required textbooks for each course. It is feasible to share some textbooks between students in the same family, but workbooks generally may not be shared due to their consumable nature.

New texts – While there are numerous options for purchasing new textbooks, a recommended source, generally based on lowest price CLC found for the text, has been shown for each course. The estimated price for a new text is shown behind each ISBN. If a more cost-effective source is found, CLC encourages the sharing of that information through the CLC website.

For some new textbook purchases, there is a distinct savings by ordering as a group. The teacher or other enrolled family may be willing to take orders and make the bulk purchase for that particular course.

Used texts —In many cases, purchasing used textbooks is an economical way to acquire the needed resources. Some used textbooks can be purchased through resources such as amazon.com, half.com, ebay.com, or other internet sites. When purchasing used texts, be attentive to the condition of the books and the edition you intend to purchase. Additionally, CLC families often are willing to sell textbooks they have finished using and may post their items for sale on the CLC website. On occasion, a CLC family will lend a textbook that they are not using for a particular school year.

The International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) have been provided for most textbooks that are required for CLC courses. Always use the ISBN when searching for books (used or new) in order to find the correct edition.

Enrichment Classes:

The following schedule is the expected 2026/2027 class layout for enrichment-age students whose ages are nursery to grade 6 and not enrolled in CLC courses. It is always possible that certain unforeseen circumstances may cause the schedule to change.

	Grades 7/6/5	Grades 4/3	Grades 2/1/K	Under 3 years
Hour 1 12:30-1:40	7/6/5 Chemistry/Physics	4/3 PE	FIAR	Nursery
Hour 2 1:45-2:40	7/6/5 Wellness & Movement	4/3 Chemistry/Physics	Science	Nursery
Hour 3 2:45-3:40	7/6/5 Writing Fundamentals	4/3 Geography/Art	PE	Nursery

See pages 14-16 for important Enrichment Classes.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

General Science

Time: Hour 1 (12:30-1:40)

Level: 7th– 9th

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Jodie Wilson

Required costs: Course fee \$25

Required Texts: *Exploring Creation with General Science, 3rd Ed.* ISBN 9781946506573 **\$71.20** and *Solutions Manual 3rd Ed.* (Tests, Answer key for Tests & Study Guides) ISBN 9781946506283 **\$39.20**

Class size limit: 15

Suggested credit: 1 year science

Additional supplies required: a folder (or binder), a calculator, writing utensil and a good attitude.

This course is designed to be a traditional middle school general science course. We cover 14 modules over 32 weeks. We do a very basic introduction to the following topics: the scientific method, designing experiments, simple machines, geology, archaeology, biology, and more, with a large focus on Earth Science (astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, earth study, geology, paleontology, and environmental science). Hands-on experiments are included throughout, giving students practical experience as they discover the principles behind science and learn how to record and report data. Completing lab write ups and turning in your lab books is required to pass this class. The final module is a project of creating a Rube-Goldberg machine; we work on this for multiple weeks incorporating many of the scientific principles they learned throughout the year.

Many students have found the Student Notebook helpful, but it is not required.

Having the solutions manual in the home proves helpful for parents as they work with their students to understand concepts—the solutions manual may fill in a knowledge gap for the parent as he/she works with the student.

Fall of 2026, Jodie Wilson will begin her twelfth year homeschooling her children and seventh year as a part of CLC. While attending college at Rockford College (now Rockford University), she experienced many different areas of study and majors, including elementary education, biochemistry, music history, music performance, and psychology. Jodie has always loved to perform, whether in choir, band or theater; and you can find her often in performance with her children. She grew up in Sawyer, Michigan, and has a strong connection to the land and water of Southwest Michigan. She considers it a daily gift from God to notice or discover new (to her) facts about His creation and thoroughly enjoys gardening, taking care of the family's chickens, working with youth, reading, trying new recipes, and anything at the beach!

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Biology

Time: Hour 1 (12:30-1:40)

Level: 9th – 12th

Prerequisite or concurrent requirement: None

Instructor: Tho Osburn, Gina Lawrick

Required costs: Course fee \$40

Required Texts: *Exploring Creation with Biology, 3rd Ed.* ISBN-13:9781946506450 and solutions manual ISBN-13:9781946506467 **\$83.20** for both. Available from Christian Book Distributor

Additional supplies required: 3-ring binder with paper; colored pencils

Class size limit: 10

Suggested credit: 1 year science

Using Apologia Educational Ministry, Inc.'s text, *Exploring Creation with Biology, 3rd Edition*, this course will cover high school-level biology in 16 modules over 32 sessions. The Apologia curriculum is designed to prepare students with a reasoned defense of the Christian faith in part through a strong scientific education. The text modules cover background in areas such as chemistry, cells, cellular reproduction, genetics, ecosystems, the five major kingdoms and creation versus evolution theory. The text and labs for each session must be read in preparation for each class. Students will be required to write lab reports. Students will be assigned various projects and tests to be completed at home and returned to the instructor to be graded. These projects include, but may not be limited to, a leaf project and a research paper comparing creationism versus evolution theory.

Approximately four times during the school year the student will be required to attend an extended class time to complete some dissections and microscope work. On those occasions the course will usually meet during early class time that starts at 11:55 am.

It is required for each family to have a solutions manual at their home. There are occasions when the teacher is not able to copy the bi-weekly tests, and it becomes necessary for the parent to provide the test included with the manual. The book also proves helpful for some parents when they work with their students to understand concepts—the solutions manual may fill in a knowledge gap for the parent as she works with her child.

Tho and Jon Osburn have seven children and have been homeschooling since 2003. Tho earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Michigan in 1995. She enjoys staying at home and teaching her children as well as reading and cooking. Tho has taught biology and chemistry, watched little ones in the nursery, and taught third and fourth-grade chemistry/physics.

Gina and Andrew Lawrick have four children and have been homeschooling since 2024. Gina earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from Oakland University in 2008 and Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Central Michigan University in 2011. She works in pediatrics one day a week, while homeschooling on the other days. She also enjoys camping, hiking, and biking with her family.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Advanced Biology – Human Anatomy

Time: Hour 1 (12:30-1:40)

Level: 10th – 12th

Prerequisite or concurrent requirement: high school biology, high school chemistry helpful

Instructor: Holly Sybesma, Stacey Davis

Required costs: Course fee \$65

Texts: *The Human Body: Advanced Biology in Creation, Second Edition* ISBN13: 978-1-935495-72-7 (**\$64.98**)

Solutions and Tests for *The Human Body* ISBN13: 978-1-935-495-97-0 (**\$18.55**) (optional for parents only)

Kaplan Anatomy Coloring Book Ninth Edition ISBN-13: 978-1506281216 (**not optional**) (**\$17.70**)

Recommended source for texts: Amazon, CBD, Rainbow Resource.

Additional supplies required: colored pencils, note-taking supplies.

Class size limit: 15

Suggested credit: 1 year science

Using Apologia Educational Ministry, Inc.'s text, *The Human Body: Advanced Biology in Creation*, this course will cover high school-level human anatomy in 16 modules over 32 sessions. The Apologia curriculum is designed to prepare students with a reasoned defense of the Christian faith in part through a strong scientific education. The text modules cover human anatomy from a cellular and sometimes chemical level to a gross anatomy perspective in order to attain a complete understanding of the human body. There will be 3 dissections done in class. The text and labs for each session must be read in preparation for each class. Students will be assigned various projects and tests to be completed at home and returned to the instructor to be graded. The coloring book is an exceptional tool to help memorize and localize body parts and functions. It will also be part of their grade.

At times during the school year, the student will be required to attend an extended class time to complete some dissections. On those occasions the class will meet at 11:50am. The dissections include a cow eye, a sheep heart, sheep brain, sheep kidney and a fetal pig. The dissections are pertinent to learning about the functions of the human body and are not optional. Each student will have their own organ and will be guided on how to dissect it properly. A proper lab write-up will be done and graded. A proper lab will be discussed in class for a better understanding of what is required. All the prior science labs have prepared them for this!

The solution manual book also proves helpful for some parents when they work with their students to understand concepts—the solutions manual may fill in a knowledge gap for the parent as they work with their child. Not necessarily needed, but may be nice to have on hand.

The Sybesmas have 10 children, 4 dogs, 2 geckos, a turtle, and many fish. Holly received an Associate degree in Applied Science with a certificate in surgical technology from Baker College in Flint, Michigan. After completing her degree, she worked 3rd shift at Hurley Medical Center, a level one trauma center in Flint. There, she met her husband, Justin, who is an orthopedic trauma surgeon. After having their first 2 children, Holly focused on raising a family and teaching her children at home while taking continuing education classes at Phoenix University for teaching. Their hobbies include going to the beach, fishing, hunting, boating, and flying.

Stacey Davis has a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Andrews University in Southwest Michigan. After grad school she focused on specializing in oncology rehab and pelvic health. The Davis family also opened Biggby Coffee of Bridgman in 2022 and then began homeschooling in 2023. They have two daughters who enjoy dance classes, the beach, and baking.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Literature

Time: Hour 1 (12:30–1:40)

Level: 9th – 12th

Prerequisite or concurrent requirement: None

Instructor: Kristen Dobson, Dawn Younger

Required costs: Course fee \$20

Texts: Handouts in class

Additional supplies required: 3-ring binder with paper and 5 tabs; access to a computer Microsoft Word or Google Docs; printer and e-mail access

Class size limit: 15

Suggested credit: 1 year English

Literature not only reflects life and various worldviews but also shapes culture. Thus, this high school level class will entail more than just learning to dissect literary elements, interpret literature, and increase appreciation for classic literature. The true goal of this class will be to enhance the students' discernment of unbiblical and biblical philosophies as they appear in literature and thereby to heighten their awareness of the influence that literature plays in society. The first semester we will focus on short stories and move to novels the second semester. We will also touch on poetry and plays. Covering an array of authors from various countries and time periods, we will note their reflection of their culture as well as the impact they had on society. This course will include a great deal of reading, obviously, as well as much discussion, tests/quizzes over material covered, and one literary project per semester. The reading list will be uploaded on the website, and students will be notified in early summer.

After graduating from Northland International University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English education and speech, Kristen taught for two years at her alma mater. In 1998, the Dobsons joined the homeschooling scene when Kristen began offering courses in writing, grammar, literature, and speech. When their oldest entered kindergarten and homeschooling began in earnest, Kristen quickly realized why she had NOT become an elementary teacher! However, God has taught her much, particularly regarding patience. She has survived and even enjoyed kindergarten seven times. Offering classes in her fields of study to various groups of homeschoolers throughout the past twenty-five years has helped maintain her sanity.

Dawn earned a BS in Biology with a minor in Linguistics from Texas Tech University in 2003. In college, she met and married her husband, Cole. They have a son and three daughters, whom they are blessed to have been homeschooling since 2016. Dawn loves teaching science to high schoolers and preschoolers—those in-between kids can be a challenge—as well as French and Portuguese. Reading any kind of book she can get her hands on and talking about them with her kids is her favorite pastime.

Handouts will be supplied in class

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Core Writing

Time: Hour 2 (1:45-2:40)

Level: 7th – 8th

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Tamra Siegmund

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Texts: *Following Narnia Volume 1: The Lion's Song, Third Edition* ISBN: 978-1-62341-238-8 \$35 (available from IEW and Rainbow Resource); *The Magician's Nephew*; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; and *The Horse and His Boy* by C.S. Lewis (available from Barnes & Noble and Rainbow Resource)

Class size limit: 7

Suggested credit: 8th - 9th Grade Composition

Additional supplies required: Students will need a 3-ring binder, for class notes and handouts, lined paper, 5 tab dividers, thesaurus, dictionary; highlighter, paper clips, access to a computer with Internet availability and a word processing program (preferably Google Docs, which is free) and printer

Good writing is essential. When used effectively, it conveys facts, it persuades, it inspires and much more. Following lesson plans from *Following Narnia Volume 1: The Lion's Song* by *Institute for Excellence in Writing*, the student will practice descriptive and informative paragraph writing as well as regular grammar and vocabulary exercises. Students will learn to communicate their thoughts intelligently and creatively, starting with the use of key word outlines to begin the writing process. Over the year they will learn five techniques for "dressing up" their essays and six "sentence openers" to improve a composition's readability. Students will need to spend up to one hour daily on assignments depending on the type of writing being explored. Most assignments will need to be computer-processed.

It will be **required** for a parent to review and verify the student's compliance with teacher-supplied objective measurements for each assignment. The student should possess a *good grasp of grammar* as well as have a *solid understanding* of the following parts of speech: nouns, verbs, pronouns, adverbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Successful completion of Core Writing satisfies one of the prerequisites for enrollment into the Competency Writing course.

In 2003, Tamra graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology/special education with a minor in elementary education. In 2006, Tamra earned a master's degree from GVSU in early childhood education. She was employed as a preschool teacher and teacher consultant for hearing-impaired students but became a proud stay-at-home mom after her children were born. When her oldest child entered kindergarten, she and her husband decided to homeschool their children. She has been a helper in the Core Writing class at CLC this past school year.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Competency Writing 1

Time: Hour 2 (1:45-2:40)

Level: 8th – 9th

Prerequisite or concurrent requirement: Successful completion of Core Writing

Instructor: Ashley Christopher

Required costs: Course fees \$15

Texts: *Writing with Skill Level 1* (ISBN #978-1-933339-53-5) **\$23.28**; *Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind—Red book* (ISBN # 978-1-945841-26-2) **\$32.36**

Additional supplies required: A folder/binder/ tabs, Google Docs, a printer; e-mail access highly recommended

Class size limit: 10

Suggested credit: one year high school English composition

Learning how to write with confidence is essential for all high school students. The goal of Competency 1 Writing is to prepare students for Competency 2 Writing.

This course will cover various aspects of the writing process, utilizing *Writing with Skill Level 1* and *Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind* (red book). This course will dovetail off of Core Writing, taking the students skills in creating key word outlines to create detailed two-level outlines and use those in more mature writing. Students will be encouraged to use their “dress ups” and “sentence openers” while expanding on those skills. Students will continue to practice various kinds of writing — including but not limited to — summaries, outlines, sequencing in history in science, descriptions, biographical sketches, writing about stories, brief research, and poetry. This course will help develop the build blocks for composition. All students will also be challenged to expand their vocabulary and incorporate stronger word choice into their compositions.

Students will need to spend up to one hour daily, five days a week, on their work. Most assignments will need to be typed. It will be essential for a parent to review and verify the student’s compliance with the teacher-supplied rubric for each assignment.

We also include a grammar portion in this class, diving deeper into the parts of speech, sentence diagramming, tenses, clauses, and more. The goal is that by the end of this course, students will have had an introduction to, and gained practice with, many types and styles of writing.

While newer to CLC, Ashley Christopher has been homeschooling for eleven years. Through teaching her own children, she has found an appreciation for grammar and words and hopes to spread that appreciation to her own children and others.

Recommended source for texts: <https://welltrainedmind.com> or www.amazon.com

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Competency 2

Time: Hour 2 (1:45-2:40)

Level: 9th – 10th

Prerequisite or concurrent requirement: Successful completion of Core Writing and/or Speech

Instructor: Jennifer Ascolese, Kaylin Keres

Required costs: Course fees \$15

Texts: *Writing with Skill Level 2* ISBN 9781933339610 **\$26.36** *Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind*–Red book ISBN # 978-1-945841-26-2 **\$32.36**

Additional supplies required: A folder with pockets + a notebook (or a binder with paper and sections) Google Docs, a printer; e-mail access highly recommended

Class size limit: 10

Suggested credit: one year high school English composition

Learning how to write with confidence is essential for all high school students. The goal of Competency 2 Writing is to prepare students for the upper-level writing classes.

This course will cover various aspects of the writing process, utilizing *Writing with Skill Level 2* and *Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind* (red book). We will review basic grammar and writing elements and will learn how to write many differing types of papers. Students will continue to practice various kinds of writing, including but not limited to outlines, summaries, sequencing in history and science, comparisons, literary analyses, brief research, and essay writing. All students will also be challenged to expand their vocabulary and incorporate stronger word choice into their compositions.

Students will need to spend up to one hour daily, five days a week, on their work. Most assignments will need to be typed. It will be essential for a parent to review and verify the student's compliance with the teacher-supplied rubric for each assignment.

We also include a grammar portion in this class, diving deeper into the parts of speech, sentence diagramming, tenses, clauses, and more. The goal is that by the end of this course, students will have had an introduction to, and gained practice with, many types and styles of writing.

Born and raised in Berrien County, Jennifer Ascolese is passionate about teaching. She graduated from Western Michigan University with an elementary education degree and a master's in elementary language arts. In 2003, she married her husband Matt, and the Ascolese family now has three children and a Maltipoo. Matt and Jennifer have been homeschooling for seven years. Prior to being at home with her children, Jennifer taught upper-grade elementary school at Hollywood Elementary for eleven years. The Ascolese family has attended CLC for the past five years and are looking forward to many more.

Kaylin and Steve Keres both grew up in the Chicago suburbs but moved to Southwest Michigan in 2010. They very much prefer the Michigan side of Lake Michigan and still pinch themselves now and then to make sure it's not just a dream. They've been homeschooling their 5 kids since 2014.

Recommended source for texts: <https://welltrainedmind.com> or www.amazon.com

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Essay Writing (Semester 1)

Time: Hour 2 (1:45-2:40)

Level: 11th – 12th

Prerequisite: None, but the IEW-based classes or competency classes would be beneficial; students must have a basic understanding of a word processing program

Instructor: Kristen Dobson

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Texts: *Handouts will be supplied in class*

Additional supplies required: 3-ring binder and at least 3 divider tabs; access to a computer with Microsoft Word or Google Docs and printer; e-mail access

Class size limit: 15

Suggested credit: 1 semester English

This course covers various aspects of the writing process with a particular emphasis on college-level essays and timed writing. The purposes of this course include cultivating the student's ability to communicate meaning effectively through writing, improving the student's ability to think and write clearly in a timed period, and increasing the student's writing vocabulary. By the end of the semester, the student will have written five or more timed essays, as well as three or more college-level essays, will have been introduced to APA documentation, and will have increased his vocabulary by at least thirty words.

This course is a precursor to the research writing course offered in the spring, but this course will not be a prerequisite for that class.

After graduating from Northland International University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English education and speech, Kristen entered the homeschool scene by offering high school-level courses. When her husband returned to NIU for his master's, she taught English 101, creative writing, and novel at the university. In 1998, Kristen returned to the homeschooling scene where she again taught grammar, writing, literature, and speech to local homeschooled high-schoolers. When their oldest entered kindergarten and homeschooling began in earnest, Kristen quickly realized why she had NOT become an elementary teacher! However, God has taught her much over the years, particularly regarding patience. She has survived and even enjoyed kindergarten seven times. Offering classes in her fields of study to various groups of homeschoolers throughout the past thirty years has helped maintain her sanity.

A family must commit to *full-year* CLC involvement even if a student enrolls in only a one-semester course.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Research Writing (Semester 2)

Time: Hour 2 (1:45-2:45)

Level: 11th – 12th

Prerequisite: None, but the IEW-based classes and competency classes would be beneficial; students must have a basic understanding of a word processing program

Instructor: Kristen Dobson

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Texts: *Handouts will be supplied in class*

Additional supplies required: 3-ring binder and at least 3 divider tabs; access to a computer with Microsoft Word or Google Docs and printer; e-mail access

Class size limit: 15

Suggested credit: 1 semester English

This course centers on the writing of a properly organized, well-documented argumentative or persuasive research paper. The students will review the research process, be acquainted with a variety of research tools, be equipped to write college-level papers, and will have the opportunity to conduct a detailed study of topics they find interesting. By the end of the semester each student should be able to identify appropriate topics for research, narrow a topic to fit the scope of the assigned paper, compile a bibliography on his chosen topic with appropriate MLA documentation, define and recognize plagiarism, paraphrase source materials without plagiarizing, take accurate notes, construct a parallel sentence outline, develop an abstract, write an 8-12-page paper, and defend his research before the class.

After graduating from Northland International University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English education and speech, Kristen entered the homeschool scene by offering high school-level courses. When her husband returned to NIU for his master's, she taught English 101, Creative Writing, and Novel at the university. In 1998, Kristen returned to the homeschooling scene where she again taught grammar, writing, literature, and speech to local homeschooled high-schoolers. When their oldest entered kindergarten and homeschooling began in earnest, Kristen quickly realized why she had NOT become an elementary teacher! However, God has taught her much, particularly regarding patience, over the years. She has survived and even enjoyed kindergarten seven times. Offering classes in her fields of study to various groups of homeschoolers throughout the past twenty plus years has helped maintain her sanity.

A family must commit to *full-year* CLC involvement even if a student enrolls in only a one-semester course.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Yearbook

Time: Hour 3 (2:45-3:40)

Level: 7th – 12th

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Amanda Adam

Required costs: Course Fee \$15

Texts: *Practical Graphic Design*, Paul Bunch & Melvin G. Peterman: ISBN: 0-9722958-5-3 **\$38.50** (used available on Amazon); Photography Book TBD

Additional supplies required: camera (smartphone acceptable), laptop for use in class when designing yearbook

Class size limit: 10

Suggested credit: 1 credit graphic design

The main goal of this class is to produce a yearbook that all our CLC families will enjoy for many years to come! So that students will have a well-rounded vision on how to layout our yearbook, students in this class will be reading through *Practical Graphic Design*, as well as a photography book that has yet to be determined.

This course will be an introduction to layout and design, and students will incorporate the things they learn into our yearbook. The yearbook will be available for all CLC families to purchase at the end of the school year.

Amanda has not taught this class before but looks forward to instructing this class and encouraging students to enjoy photography and to tap into their own creativity! She is thankful for those interested in taking this course; without them, there would be no yearbook!

Amanda and Derek Adam have 3 children. After seeking the Lord's direction, much to their surprise, the Lord led them to homeschool. They have been homeschooling for 14 years. Amanda's family joined CLC in 2022.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Geography

Time: Hour 3 (2:45-3:40)

Level: 9th – 12th

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Natasha Orvis

Required costs: Course fee \$30

Texts: *BJU Press Cultural Geography Student Text, 5th Edition* ISBN-13: 9781628566475 **\$77.22** *BJU Press Geography Grade 9 Student Activity Manual, 5th Edition* ISBN-13:9781628566499 **\$42.22** (Available from Christianbook.com)

Additional supplies required: 3-ring binder and colored pencils. Possibly other basic school/craft supplies.

Class size limit: 15

Suggested credit: 1 credit world geography

The *Cultural Geography* text teaches geography by combining the systemic and regional approach. We will look at physical geography, climate, economics, and society, and how we can apply these principles to learn about any country in the world. Then we will begin to study each region/country separately, gaining an understanding of its climate, vegetation, economy, government, and culture. Map study/work will be incorporated in order to develop a mental map of the countries of the world. Class projects will reinforce material, provide an opportunity for further exploration, provide a chance to work on some hands-on activities, and, hopefully, inject some fun into the class!

The *Student Activities Manual* is designed to be used with the student textbook. It expounds upon the text lessons with colorful map and chart activities, chapter review questions, reading passages with comprehension questions, internet research activities, and more. These activities provide reinforcement for the lessons given in the student text and help with preparation for chapter tests.

The Orvis family moved to SW Michigan in 2016 after being in ministry for 12 years; however, their homeschooling journey started long before that when our oldest of four started school in 2010. This will be Natasha's first time teaching geography in this capacity, but she looks forward to learning alongside the kids and hopes to make it fun along the way. She loves music, spending time outdoors, going on adventures with my family, creating things and growing things, especially flowers.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Spanish 1

Time: Hour 3 (2:45-3:40)

Level: 9th-12th

Prerequisite or concurrent requirement: None

Instructor: Anne Fuentes

Required costs: Course fee \$20

Texts: Main Textbook TBD; *501 Spanish Verbs* ISBN 1506293565 Christopher Kendris, Theodore Kendris (Instructor has some) **\$17.27**; Any Spanish-English dictionary

Additional Requirements: 3-ring 1" binder with paper tabs, weekly printing, weekly internet access (up to 2-3 hours)

Class Size: 12

Suggested Credit: 1 year foreign language

Students' grades are based on class participation, homework assignments, quizzes, tests, and special projects with lots of extra credit given for finding and using Spanish outside of class.

We will engage in learning about the grammar of the language, culture, people, geography, etc. This course does require outside instruction in the form of online videos that need to be watched most weeks. This resource is a great benefit to students as our one-hour instruction a week is not sufficient to get comfortable with a language. Internet access is essential for this class. By the end of the year, students will be able to speak and pray in Spanish, be familiar with holiday practices, and grasp the basic geography of Central and South America and Spain. They will begin to feel more comfortable with everyday Spanish-speaking situations.

Learning a foreign language also helps students to become better acquainted with English, so there are many benefits to learning Spanish. Anne hopes to help students understand the language through instruction with class conversation, repetition of concepts, chanting of verb conjugations as a class, placement of parts of speech etc. However, much of the learning rests on the students' efforts outside of class.

Anne has had a lot of Spanish instruction with four years in high school, two years in college, and classes for continuing education at local language schools. She has co-taught Spanish I and II with Senora Nash the past two years at CLC, which helped her own reclaiming of the language. She is excited to help students along their journey with the language. Anne lives in Coloma with her husband Victor and daughter Cecilia.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Government (Semester 1)

Time: Hour 3 (2:45 - 3:40)

Level: 10th – 12th

Prerequisite or concurrent requirement: None

Instructor: Amanda Rossman

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Texts: *Exploring Government* (Notgrass) Text (**\$50**), Publication Date: 2016; Exploring Government Student Review Pack (**\$15**) Christianbooks.com : Stock No: WW991784, WW991777

Additional supplies required: 3-ring binder with paper, internet access for research, and a Bible

Class size limit: 12

Suggested credit: 1 semester government or social studies

Exploring Government by Ray Notgrass provides a thorough, Biblical understanding of federal, state, and local governments. The course begins with the Biblical basis of government, then covers different forms of government utilized in the history of the world before moving into the history of the government of the United States. Next, the course covers the branches of the government, articles and amendments and bureaucratic issues before discussing state and local governments. Finally, the course covers contemporary issues facing citizens today. Students are encouraged to think critically and Biblically about our government and what it means to be a citizen of this country.

The curriculum consists of 15 units of 5 lessons each. There are review questions for each lesson and quizzes for each unit. Please allow at least one hour per lesson or 5 hours per week. Instead of purchasing the companion book *We Hold These Truths*, other supplemental readings will be assigned. A final research project will be included in the course as time allows. The optional English component for this course will not be included in the course work.

Amanda Rossman has been homeschooling her children for over a decade. This will be her second year teaching at CLC. She earned a BA in Business with a concentration in Finance from Michigan Technological University.

A family must commit to *full-year* CLC involvement even if a student enrolls in only a one-semester course.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Economics (Semester 2)

Time: Hour 3 (2:45-3:40)

Level: 10th – 12th

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Amanda Rossman

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Texts: *Exploring Economics* (Notgrass) Textbook (**\$50**) barcode 9781609990947; Publication Date: 2016, and *Exploring Economics Student Review Pack* (**\$15**) Christianbooks.com: Stock No: WW990947 and WW990930

Class size limit: 12

Suggested credit: 1 semester economics or social studies

Additional supplies required: 3-ring binder with paper, Bible, internet access for research

Exploring Economics by Ray Notgrass provides a thorough overview of basic economic concepts and terminology with a Biblical worldview. The course covers both macroeconomics and microeconomics and is designed to help the student relate to the material on a personal level. The units in the curriculum will be rearranged to better facilitate learning. After the introduction unit (unit 1), we will skip over units 2-4 that discuss economic issues in ancient Israel, Church history, and US history and return to them later in the semester as time allows. We will pick up after unit 1 at unit 5 and continue on with the rest of the book which explores the fundamental concepts of economics. The course explores both free market economies and command economies as well as government intervention in both. After completing this course, students should be able to understand economic principles that will help them think critically about the financial choices of our country and their own financial choices.

The curriculum consists of 15 units of 5 lessons each. There are review questions for each lesson and quizzes for each unit. Please allow at least one hour per lesson or 5 hours per week. Instead of purchasing the companion book *Making Choices*, other supplemental readings will be assigned. A final research project will be included in the course as time allows. The optional English component for this course will not be included in the course work.

Amanda Rossman has been homeschooling her children for over a decade. This will be her second year teaching at CLC. She earned a BA in Business with a concentration in Finance from Michigan Technological University.

A family must commit to full-year CLC involvement even if a student enrolls in only a one-semester course.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Worldviews

Time: Hour 3 (2:45-3:40)

Level: 11th – 12th

Prerequisite: Thinking Biblically, recommended

Instructor: Hilary Hageman

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Texts: *Understanding the Times 5th edition Student Manual*: **\$22.50** (summit.org); *Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews*: **\$29.50** (summit.org)

Additional supplies required: 2" 3-ring binder with paper; Bible

Class size limit: 10

Suggested credit: 1 year social studies

Using the most recent update of David Noebel's *Understanding the Times*, this course explores how various worldviews influence modern culture. The Nicene Creed and other foundational documents will provide the standard by which we evaluate religions, cults, and philosophies. Our goal is to understand today's most pervasive perspectives and see how a biblically-based Christian worldview stands firm against any argument.

As class discussions are integral to developing these concepts, students are expected to arrive prepared to engage deeply with the reading. Evaluation will be based on class participation, written assignments from the student manual, memorization of the Nicene Creed, topical Bible studies, and unit tests.

Hilary Hageman is a 2008 graduate of CLC. She and her husband, Doug, feel a burden of blessing in having received a homeschool education, which has provided a firm foundation for their faith. It is an honor to continue the legacy their parents began as they homeschool their five daughters. Hillary also works as a sonographer (RDMS, RVT) and an adjunct faculty member at Lake Michigan College, where she teaches on topics including clinical ethics, OB/GYN anatomy and physiology, and ultrasound physics while continuing to work as a freelance sonographer.

Joshua Wisner is a 2005 CLC graduate, who still feels the lasting gift of this community—especially the high school Worldviews course, which shaped how he sees faith, culture, and truth. He and his wife Grace are raising four children at Covenant Learning Co-op, grateful for the foundation it's given them all. A church member, educator, former civil servant, and business owner, Joshua is eager to guide students toward clear thinking, faithful engagement, and a steady grasp of worldviews in today's world. Together with Hilary, he looks forward to the conversations ahead!

Recommended source for textbooks: www.summit.org , www.christianbook.com , www.thriftbooks.com

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Enrichment Science—Chemistry & Physics Science grades 3-7

Time: Hour 1 & 2 (12:45-1:40) (1:45-2:40)

Level: 3rd - 7th

Instructor: Judi Johnson and Beth Vander Ark

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Text: *Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics*, Apologia ISBN: 9781935495987 **\$40** (available from www.christianbook.com or www.amazon.com), one per family

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” Hebrews 11:3

The enrichment students will be giving glory to God as they study creation through chemistry and physics. With interesting activities and projects, including a buoyancy experiment, exploring the periodic table, and demonstrating the laws of motion, children are sure to remember the information they are learning.

The course begins with a lesson on the nature of matter, and then it covers the basics of chemistry and physics. The course emphasizes the laws of nature that students can readily see around them: what happens to water if you heat it or freeze it, how friction dictates life, how they use energy, how light and sound work, and what is needed to light their world.

Most importantly, of course, a creationist worldview is stressed throughout. Time and time again, God is glorified as the Master Creator of all that the students are studying. In addition, sections entitled "Creation Confirmation" provide evidence for young-earth creationism in the context of the topic that the students are studying.

The textbook can easily be shared within a family if you have students in both classes. Students in 7/6/5 Science will have weekly note-taking pages and questions to answer in their notebooks. Seventh-grade students will have a possible take-home test at the end of each module. This is meant to help prepare them for future science courses with an increased workload.

Beth Vander Ark graduated from Huntington University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and previously worked in workforce development. She is also a homeschool graduate of CLC (her favorite classes were worldviews and marine biology) and loves giving back to the community that shaped her own education. Beth has been homeschooling her 3 children since 2020 and previously taught animal science during the 2025–26 school year. She especially enjoys helping students explore and marvel at God's creation. When she's not teaching, she enjoys gardening, traveling, and long summer days at the beach.

The Johnson family has been homeschooling since 2001. This year will mark the end of a beautiful journey when the youngest of their six children graduates in May. CLC has been a tremendous blessing to the Johnson family for the past 19 years. Judi earned a Bachelor's degree in Special Education (MIMH and LD) in 1992 from Indiana University. She enjoys using a variety of methods to reach different learning types and making subjects interactive. Judi has greatly enjoyed exploring God's creation through teaching anatomy, astronomy, chemistry/physics, and the world of animals to grades 3-7 the last several years.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

Wellness and Movement

Time: Hour 2 (1:45-2:40)

Level: 5th - 7th

Instructor: Grace Wisner

Required costs: Course fee \$10

Class size limit: 15

Course Goals:

Students learn how amazing their bodies are designed by their loving Creator and are encouraged to have a thankful spirit for the gift that they have in a functional body. ~ "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:14 ESV

Students spend time learning about the gift that our bodies are and that God calls us to care for our bodies and build strength so that we can serve Him as he calls each of us to. "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." ~1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV

Class time each week will be spent learning proper form for exercises that strengthen several muscle groups. Students will be learning the names of them as they practice doing a full workout with good effort. We'll cover the basic health fundamentals like breathing correctly, hydrating, eating high nutrient food, and the importance of rest. Students learn to prefer and honor each other, as we practice leadership. We will have fun playing group games while getting our heart rates up and building endurance and flexibility. ~"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." ~Romans 12:10-11 ESV

Grace Wisner has a passion for interactive teaching and creative implementation of multiple learning styles to make learning come alive and capture the imagination and interest of children's amazing minds! She has taught sewing and piano lessons through the Berrien Springs Partnership for 7 years and has now been homeschooling for 7 years. Married to a CLC graduate, she and her husband Joshua Wisner have a love for teaching and finding creative ways to help children discover the wonders of learning. The Wisner family has 4 children and has been part of the CLC community for 2 years. They look forward to continuing to grow with the CLC community as they strive to raise their children for the Lord and invest in this rich community found at CLC.

Covenant Learning Co-op
2026/2027
CLC Course Descriptions

7/6/5 Writing Fundamentals: U.S. History-Based Writing

Time: Hour 3 (2:45-3:40)

Level: 5th-7th

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Michelle Smith

Required costs: Course fee \$15

Texts: *U.S. History-Based Writing Lessons, Second Edition* ISBN: 978-1-62341-324-8 **\$35** (Available from iew.com and Rainbow Resource)

Additional Supplies Required: One ½ inch three-ring binder with 30 clear protector sheets for final drafts and a notebook or loose paper in the binder for writing rough drafts. A simple thesaurus may be helpful for brainstorming but is not required.

Class size limit: 15

In order to establish a cohesive and robust writing program at CLC, we will be offering Writing Fundamentals again for our 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students. We will be using the *U.S. History-Based Writing Lessons* from IEW as the backbone of our studies. The goals of this class are to introduce (or further practice for those already familiar) the core concepts of structure and style from IEW and prepare them for the rigors of our upper level writing courses. Students should expect to grow in their writing skills!

*Special Note - EDITORS - In this class, parents will be expected to edit rough drafts for spelling and simple grammar errors. It is not possible to move along at an acceptable rate and cover enough topics if the teacher has to do all the grading of rough and final drafts. Therefore, each student will need an editor (most likely Mom or Dad) to help with assignments weekly. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

Michelle Smith has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Taylor University. Michelle met her husband, Britton, at Taylor and has been homeschooling their three children since 2020. In addition to homeschooling her children, Michelle enjoys her role as a relational and emotional skills coach, helping people build deeper connection with God and one another. She loves learning, reading, running and spending time at the beach.