



**CORNERSTONE**

EDUCATION WITH A FIRM FOUNDATION

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## **2023-2024 Course Descriptions**

The descriptions here give an overview of each course. Please note that some courses in the high school level have prerequisites or specific skills that must be mastered. Certain courses have separate lab or supply fees that will be used by the instructor to cover materials and expenses for the class.

Please also note that classes have a minimum and maximum number of students due to space and cost considerations. All classes are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. On occasion, classes may need to be canceled before they begin, due either to lack of adequate enrollment or teacher fulfillment. If this should occur, you will be notified immediately by e-mail and/or phone call, and money you have paid toward the class will be refunded. For other financial questions and information, please refer to our Financial Policies.

Parents of children in Elementary classes:

Please be aware that even in 1st - 6th grade it is Cornerstone's expectation that participation in these classes carry the same level of completion and diligence as in the Middle and High school classes. To that end please understand that assignments will be given on Monday by teachers. It is your responsibility to sit and work with your child on Tuesday through Friday to complete and correct the assignments as the teacher has directed. These assignments will be returned to the teacher on the next Monday for grading/review. Your child's teacher will have more instruction for each student as to organization and specific expectations. We expect that each family makes the most of each class to prepare them for future success in learning!

In addition, we conduct a brief reading assessment for all new elementary students, to ensure that the class reading content will be achievable for all students within those classes. This may also apply to current elementary students by teacher recommendation.

## Elementary Classes

### 1st-2nd Grade Classes

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes will run from 8:30-12:20 and be divided into two segments with a snack break and outdoor play in between. **The in-class instruction alone does not meet the requirements for the state of Maryland, and parents are expected to work with their child to complete all the homework assignments.**

#### **1/2 Language Arts, Literature and Art**

Segment 1 will focus on language activities and Art. The weekly classroom lessons for the first graders will introduce new skills in phonics, spelling, handwriting, and writing. The weekly classroom lessons for the second graders will introduce new skills in phonics, spelling, grammar and literature studies. At home assignments will be provided to further practice and develop their understanding. Students will also explore new art concepts in class on a weekly basis.

Instructors: Cath Howard and Becky Montgomery

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Materials:

**NOTEBOOK FEE: \$50**

First Graders: Sing, Spell, Read, and Write Level 1 **Audio CD only**

Cornerstone will provide the level 1 kit on a loan basis as well as a binder with all home assignments.

Second Graders: *Easy Grammar Daily Guided Teaching and Review Grade 2*

*Ox Cart Man*, by Donald Hall

*The Long Way to a New Land*, by Joan Sandin

*The Long Way Westward*, by Joan Sandin

*The Josefina Story Quilt*, by Eleanor Coerr

*Wagon Wheels*, by Barbara Brenner

*Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie*, by Alice Dalgliesh

(These books are very economical on [www.rainbowresource.com](http://www.rainbowresource.com) )

Cornerstone will provide a binder with all home assignments.

Binder will include:

Easy Grammar Workbook, Grade 2

Explode the Code, books 3 and 4

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### **1/2 History and Science**

Using *American Pioneers and Patriots*, by Caroline D. Emerson, history will be taught over a period of 16 weeks alternating with the planned science units. This text presents fictional but realistic adventure stories of seventeenth-to-nineteenth century pioneer children in America. The text is divided into twelve units each of which begins with a short synopsis of the period being studied. The history of that period is then told over several chapters in first-person narratives from the perspective of children who were living during that time. The text will be read aloud to the students. Each unit concludes with an interesting fact on how things were done in the past (such as "how the pioneers made cloth," or "how the blacksmith worked"), unit review questions, and suggested projects.

Science will include a variety of 16 earth science topics. Bi-weekly classroom lessons include hands on, appealing activities and science experiments. At-home assignments will range from worksheets and writing activities, to interactive online activities. Expect at-home assignments to take students up to an average of one to two hours per week. Throughout the course, parental support is provided in the form of suggestions for supplemental literature, web-links, and additional fun activities.

Instructors: Becky Scancella and Angela Caswell

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Materials:

**NOTEBOOK FEE: \$50**

*American Pioneers and Patriots*, by Caroline D. Emerson (second edition)

*American Pioneers and Patriots*, Answer Key

All science materials will be provided by Cornerstone

### **3rd-4th Grade Classes**

**3/4 English** This course will include literature, basic writing skills, and grammar. Students will read four novels that coordinate with the 3/4 History course *Our Star-Spangled History*, and the writing lessons will be coordinated with these books. Writing activities will include an array of essays, story writing, and more. In addition, a grammar assignment will be given each week. Parents will be required to correct the grammar and literature homework weekly. In addition, parents will be editing writing activities as the teacher directs.

Instructor: Cara Lemenager

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Texts:

IEW, *Student Resource Package* (Packet and Binder)

*Mountain Born* by Elizabeth Yates

*Emily's Runaway Imagination* by Beverly Cleary

*The Year of Miss Agnes* by Kirkpatrick Hill

*Toliver's Secret*, by Ester Wood Brady

*Easy Grammar 4 Student Text* (if purchased this last year, do not need a new copy)

*Easy Grammar 4 Teacher's Edition*

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**3/4 History** *Our Star-Spangled Story* guides students on a journey through U.S. history, from the native peoples and early European explorers to the 21st century. Students learn about key people and events through stories about individuals and families, historic photographs and illustrations, and hands-on activities. They also learn about American culture and music with a collection of songs, poems, and dances. The *Timeline* provides an overview of American history, and the *Student Workbook* reviews the material covered in each unit.

Instructor: Cara Lemenager

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Texts:

*Our Star-Spangled Story, Part 1*

*Our Star-Spangled Story, Part 2*

*Star-Spangled Rhythms and Rhymes*

*A Star-Spangled Timeline*

*My Star-Spangled Student Workbook*

*Our Star-Spangled Story Answer Key and Literature Guide*

**3/4 Science** *Exploring Creation with Zoology 3: Land Animals of the Sixth Day* will take students on a safari through jungles, deserts, forests, farms, and even their own backyard to explore, examine, and enjoy the enchanting creatures God designed to inhabit the terrain. Students will also keep a record of where each animal is found on a map and learn to identify animal tracks. As with all the Apologia elementary books, students will continue the practice of narration, keeping a notebook of what they have learned, and enjoy many hands-on projects and experiments through-out the course. Some projects students will complete for this course include playing predator to colored candies that hide in camouflage, acting like a primate to judge depth perception, discovering why giraffes have high blood pressure, identifying animal tracks, dissecting owl pellets and identifying the owl's last meal, and much more! In the fourth quarter, students will take some time to study the scientific method in greater depth and have a science fair. Students will choose and complete a project to be displayed at the Cornerstone end of the year showcase.

We will also be using the regular Notebooking Journal, which Cornerstone will be purchasing and putting into a loose-leaf notebook for ease of turning assignments in each week.

Instructor: Deb Wilhide

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Texts:

**NOTEBOOK FEE:\$35**

*Exploring Creation with Zoology 3: Land Animals of the Sixth Day*, textbook only

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### **3/4 MINI SESSIONS:**

**3/4 Introduction to Spanish (Semester 1)** Each week students will spend time in class learning to speak, read, write, & comprehend the Spanish language. This will be done through dialogues, games, songs, and activities. There will be classroom instruction covering basic Spanish vocabulary, conversation, and cultural glimpses into Spanish-speaking countries. The goal will be for students to complete the semester with a stronger comprehension of a prevalent language in our nation today and with a cultural understanding of countries & people groups who speak Spanish.

Instructor: Becky Vega  
Required Materials: TBD

**CLASS FEE: \$25**

**3/4 Art (Semester 2)** In this class, your 3rd or 4th grade child will have the opportunity to complete a variety of fun, engaging teacher-guided art projects. They will become acclimated with many different artistic mediums and how they are used. They will draw inspiration from the artists that we discuss and have opportunities for their own artistic expression as well. Art is an excellent academic way to strengthen confidence in abilities and ideas, attention to instruction and detail, and creative risk-taking. There will be both at-home and in-class projects assigned each week. All projects will change each year. No experience is necessary.

Instructor: Erica Hansbrough

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

As of 7/28/23

## **5th-6th Grade Classes**

**5/6 English** This course will include literature, basic writing skills, and grammar. Students will read several novels that coordinate with the 5/6 History course *Uncle Sam and You*. Writing for this year will be from IEW Bible-Based Writing Lessons and will include an array of essays, story writing, and more. In addition, a grammar assignment will be given each week. Parents will be required to correct the grammar and literature homework weekly. In addition, parents will be helping kids to edit writing activities as the teacher directs.

Instructor: Marie Smith

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Texts:

IEW Bible-Based Writing Lessons - Student book and teacher's manual

### **Literature Selections:**

*A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt* by C. Coco De Young  
*Brightly of the Grand Canyon* by Marguerite Henry  
*Basher Five-Two* by Scott O'Grady  
*The Long Winter* by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*Lost on a Mountain in Maine* by Donn Fendler

*Easy Grammar 5 Student Text*

*Easy Grammar 5 Teacher's Edition*

**5/6 History** *Uncle Sam and You* is a one-year course on American civics and government for students in grades five through eight. The lessons focus on America's founding documents, branches of government, patriotic symbols, voting, the election process, Washington, D.C., the presidency, how Congress works, American holidays, and aspects of federal, state, and local government.

Instructor: TBD

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Texts:

*Uncle Sam and You*, by Charlene Notgrass, Curriculum Package  
*Uncle Sam and You*, Student Workbook  
*Uncle Sam and You*, Lesson Review

**5/6 Science** *Exploring Creation with Zoology 3: Land Animals of the Sixth Day* will take students on a safari through jungles, deserts, forests, farms, and even their own backyard to explore, examine, and enjoy the enchanting creatures God designed to inhabit the terrain. Students will also keep a record of where each animal is found on a map and learn to identify animal tracks. As with all the Apologia elementary books, students will continue the practice of narration, keeping a notebook of what they have learned, and enjoy many hands-on projects and experiments through-out the course. (Continued on next page)

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Some projects students will complete for this course include playing predator to colored candies that hide in camouflage, acting like a primate to judge depth perception, discovering why giraffes have high blood pressure, identifying animal tracks, dissecting owl pellets and identifying the owl's last meal, and much more! In the fourth quarter, students will take some time to study the scientific method in greater depth and have a science fair. Students will choose and complete a project to be displayed at the Cornerstone end of the year showcase.

We will also be using the regular Notebooking Journal, which Cornerstone will be purchasing and putting into a loose-leaf notebook for ease of turning assignments in each week.

Instructor: Deb Wilhide

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

Required Texts:

**NOTEBOOK FEE:\$35**

*Exploring Creation with Zoology 3: Land Animals of the Sixth Day*, textbook only

### **5/6 MINI SESSIONS:**

**5/6 Art (Semester 1)** In this class, your 5th or 6th grade child will have the opportunity to complete a variety of fun, engaging teacher-guided art projects appropriate to their grade level. They will develop techniques using various artistic mediums and artistic styles. They will draw inspiration from the artists that we discuss and have opportunities for their own artistic expression as well. They will begin to learn how to apply basic design principles in their artwork. Art is an excellent academic way to strengthen confidence in abilities and ideas, attention to instruction and detail, and creative risk-taking. There will be both at-home and in-class projects assigned each week. All projects will change each year. No experience is necessary.

Instructor: Erica Hansbrough

**CLASS FEE: \$50**

**5/6 Introduction to Spanish (Semester 2)** Each week students will spend time in class learning to speak, read, write, & comprehend the Spanish language. This will be done through dialogues, games, songs, and activities. There will be classroom instruction covering basic Spanish vocabulary, conversation, and cultural glimpses into Spanish-speaking countries. The goal will be for students to complete the semester with a stronger comprehension of a prevalent language in our nation today and with a cultural understanding of countries & people groups who speak Spanish.

Instructor: Becky Vega

**CLASS FEE: \$25**

Required Materials: TBD

As of 7/28/23

## **1st-6th Grade Class**

**Elementary Choir for Grades 1st-6th (Semester 2)** This Elementary Choir is for anyone in grades 1-6 who wants to have fun singing together in a group. We will learn the basics of singing, reading music, and preparing to perform in front of an audience. Students do not need to have any prior singing experience and do not need to know how to read music in order to sign up. Our goal will be to perform a few songs at the choir concert/spring showcase next spring. Please join us for this fun new adventure as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord together!

Instructor: Denise Nellies

**CLASS FEE: \$15**

## **Middle School Classes**

**7/8 English** This course is designed to help students become more thoughtful and critical readers, as well as more deliberate and skillful writers. It focuses on literature connected to American history. The course is literature-based and writing-intensive. The literature will include historical fiction, short stories, poems, speeches, and some historical primary sources. Writing assignments will connect to the literature selections and include a variety of styles and formats. We will also work on specific writing skills, such as varying sentence structure, composing unified paragraphs, and organizing the structure of our writing to effectively fit the purpose. In addition, students will receive weekly grammar assignments, which parents will be required to check on a regular basis.

Instructor: Karan Cobb

**CLASS FEE: \$125**

Required Texts:

**STUDY GUIDE FEE: \$25**

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes

*Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare

*Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare

*Carry On Mr. Bowditch* by Jean Lee Latham

*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

*Easy Grammar Plus* (students who purchased this last year do not need a new copy)

*Easy Grammar Plus* Teacher's Edition



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**7/8 American History** This history course will cover the timeframe of 1735-1865, beginning with the American colonies, and ending with the reconstruction of America. While *A History of US* is a great study tool of American history, it is not necessarily written from a Christian perspective. Therefore, the instructor will also use the Sonlight teacher's guide to help incorporate a Christian world view in our class instruction.

Through weekly reading & assignments, class discussion, map work, timelines, tests, and quarterly written/oral projects we will explore our American history together. You will compile your work together to create an American History Journal. We will also focus on critical thinking and study skills: such as reading for details, following directions thoroughly, etc.

Instructor: Alana Krispin

**CLASS FEE: \$125**

Required Text: *A History of Us*, books 3-6, and part of 7

**BOOK FEE: \$10**

Please note, Cornerstone has copies of these textbooks to loan out to students. To receive the first textbook of the set, a \$10 book fee will be required. Once a volume is completed it will be traded in for the next.

**7/8 Life Science** This Life Science course is a comprehensive Middle School course that will cover the following topics: Life, microorganisms, plants, animals, the human body, genetics, heredity, and ecology. Class time will include lab work, lectures, exams and other activities. The lab portion of the class is designed to increase the understanding of the text and will include an introduction to basic lab techniques and tools to include microscopy. Activities and lectures will attempt to engage the student in an exploration of the world around them.

Instructor: Jennifer Yeung

**CLASS FEE: \$125**

Required Texts:

**LAB FEE:\$25**

*Life Science*, 2nd edition, TEXTBOOK ONLY, by Christian Schools International

This text is available in digital form or can be purchased used. Cornerstone has 5 copies available to rent if you can't find a used copy.

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**7/8 Middle School Art (Semester 1)** In this middle school course, our projects will be inspired by artists from world cultures. Art is like a language, and when you start to look at how it has been used in different cultures through the ages, it is fascinating and fun to try. By the end of the semester, you will have worked with a variety of techniques, styles, and media. You will better understand the Elements and Principles of Design as we study and apply them in this course. You'll be developing an ongoing Elements and Principles collage book over the duration of the course as well as many at-home and in-class projects. No previous art knowledge needed. Homework will be weekly and mandatory. This class will receive a grade.

Instructor: Erica Hansbrough

**CLASS FEE: \$100**

**MATERIALS FEE: \$50**

**MS/HS Choir (Semester 2)** Our choral ensemble is for anyone in middle or high school who has a desire to sing together. While learning fun, new music, students will be taught basic technique on how to properly sing, how to blend their voices in unity, how to sing in harmony (different melody lines being sung simultaneously), and how to work together with others. Singing in choir builds focus, self-awareness, self-confidence, teamwork, memorization, and responsibility. The class includes preparation for a choir concert at the end of the semester. Practice MP3s will be provided for reinforcement at home. No previous singing experience is required. While we aim to sing well, the greater emphasis of this class is to enjoy the wonderful gift of music that God has given us.

Qualifies for 1/2 high school credit

Instructor: Casey Golden

**CLASS FEE: \$100**

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## High School Classes

**HS American Literature** The literature read in this course includes novels, short stories, devotional literature, plays, theological essays, biographies, memoirs, poetry, and hymns. This course is designed to coordinate with the high school history course “Exploring America.” Emphasis is placed on historical context, literary analysis, and varied interactions with the texts.

Instructor: Karan Cobb

**CLASS FEE: \$225**

Required Texts:

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

*American Voices* from Notgrass

**HS Just Writing** This course is designed to give high school students lots of practice and guidance in all nonfiction writing modes: persuasion, exposition, description, and narration. The goal is to equip them with tools and skills that every writer needs for high school, college, and professional writing. All levels of writers are welcome; however, all students are expected to turn in typed work as opposed to handwritten.

Instructor: Marie Smith

**CLASS FEE: \$225**

Required Text:

*The Power in Your Hands: Writing Nonfiction in High School* by Sharon Watson, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

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**HS Physical Science** This is the required prerequisite class for further high school science; it should be taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Text includes introductory chemistry, introductory physics, and the metric system in preparation for upper-level laboratory courses. There will also be lab activities. A prerequisite for this course is a working knowledge of basic algebraic principles or pre-algebra. Students may take Algebra 1 concurrently with this course.

Instructor: Sue Grimm

**CLASS FEE: \$225**

Required Text:

**LAB FEE: \$50**

*Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science*, **2nd edition**, Textbook

*Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science*, **2nd edition**, Answer Key/Test Booklet, optional but may be useful

**HS Biology** This course will begin to further the student's understanding of science and life as we cover a wide range of topics to include cell life, genetics, creation science, evolution, ecology, insects, plants, reptiles, mammals, and more. Class time will include alternating labs and lectures. Labs will include extensive microscopy and several dissections, as well as many other activities. Labs will be completed in class. Students will be encouraged to develop logical defenses for their faith as well as to identify practical applications of the material covered.

Prerequisite: Students must have *completed* Physical Science or equivalent and Algebra I.

Instructor: Sue Grimm

**CLASS FEE: \$225**

Required Texts:

**LAB FEE: \$50**

*Discovering Design With Biology* by Madtes and Wile, published by Berean Builders, Textbook

Answer Key is optional

Notebooking Journal is optional and please contact instructor prior to purchase

As of 7/28/23

**HS Exploring America** This is a one-year survey of American history for students in grades nine through twelve. The student will study American history from the time of the native peoples and first European explorers to the 21st century. The course discusses events, issues, and policies on the national level, especially involving the federal government, as well as developments in American culture. To complement the lessons, students will examine a variety of primary documents including speeches, maps, letters, journals, and historical documents.

Instructor: Jim Brunson

**CLASS FEE: \$225**

Required Texts:

*Exploring America, part 1* by Ray Notgrass

*Exploring America, part 2* (2019 edition)

*American Voices: Original Documents, Speeches, Poems, Stories, and Hymns from American History*

**These books are bundled on the Notgrass website along with the guide for parents as the “Exploring America Curriculum Package”**

*Exploring America, Student Review Book*

**HS Government (Semester 1)** This is a one-semester course on American government for students in grades nine through twelve. The student will study Biblical teachings about government and leadership, definitions and historical examples of different forms of government, and the background to the American constitutional system. The course provides a thorough study of the U.S. Constitution and the workings of the federal government today. The student will also study state and local government, the revenue and budgeting process, international relations, specific issues that government faces today, and ways that the individual citizen can be involved in government. The student will read a significant number of original source documents and essays about government while studying the narrative of lessons.

Qualifies for 1/2 high school credit

Instructor: Karan Cobb

**CLASS FEE: \$125**

Required Text: *Exploring Government* by Ray Notgrass (2016 edition)

*We Hold These Truths* edited by Ray Notgrass and John Notgrass

Exploring Government Student Review Pack

**Do to the release of a new edition of this curriculum for the spring of 2024, supplies of the current edition are limited. We strongly encourage you to purchase new/used textbooks for this class and the consumables ASAP.**

As of 7/28/23

**HS Art: Watercolor (Semester 1)** Watercolor artist Cath Howard invites you to move to new levels of achievement in a relaxed atmosphere of enjoyable sessions. Delve into watercolor painting while exploring artistic abilities and learning new painting techniques. Learn the basics of painting and new techniques. Explore this rewarding activity and gain satisfaction from personal works of art. Beginning students are welcome and returning students will discover all-new content and instruction.

Qualifies for 1/2 high school fine arts credit

Instructor: Cath Howard

**CLASS FEE: \$100**  
**SUPPLY FEE: \$75**

**HS Art and Design (Semester 2)** What makes a quality design? This high school level course will improve your knowledge of the foundations of design, whether through traditional or contemporary methods. You'll try out a variety of 2D and 3D media and apply the key techniques that will develop your skills and improve the aesthetic of your work. You'll be completing sketch/journaling work, at-home projects, and in-class projects. What is it that takes art beyond a quality design to an inspiring and impactful piece? One focus in this course will be to develop an artistic vision; Just like everyone has a speaking voice, everyone has a creative voice, and this is a space for you to strengthen yours. By the end of the semester, you'll have a better sense for something you "want to say" through your work and how you want to say it. You'll have the opportunity for a studio project of your choosing as your final assignment. We'll try new things, learn from other artists, and discuss our viewpoints and styles along the way. No previous art knowledge needed. Homework will be weekly and mandatory. This class will receive a grade. Qualifies for 1/2 high school fine arts credit

Instructor: Erica Hansbrough

**CLASS FEE: \$100**  
**SUPPLY FEE: \$65**

**MS/HS Choir (Semester 2)** Our choral ensemble is for anyone in middle or high school who has a desire to sing together. While learning fun, new music, students will be taught basic technique on how to properly sing, how to blend their voices in unity, how to sing in harmony (different melody lines being sung simultaneously), and how to work together with others. Singing in choir builds focus, self-awareness, self-confidence, teamwork, memorization, and responsibility. The class includes preparation for a choir concert at the end of the semester. Practice MP3s will be provided for reinforcement at home. No previous singing experience is required. While we aim to sing well, the greater emphasis of this class is to enjoy the wonderful gift of music that God has given us.

Qualifies for 1/2 high school fine arts credit

Instructor: Casey Golden

**CLASS FEE: \$100**

As of 7/28/23

**HS Financial Literacy (Semester 1)** This one-semester course is designed to introduce students to basic financial literacy using Dave Ramsey's Foundations in Personal Finance. Concepts covered include budgeting, saving, credit and debit, consumer awareness, college planning, insurance, taxes, investing, and giving. The overall objective of this class is to prepare students to be good stewards of their money and to help them be prepared financially for the future.

Instructor: Rashonna Lewis

**CLASS FEE: \$125**

**DIGITAL TEXTBOOK FEE: \$55**

Required Text: Cornerstone will purchase the digital textbook for each student. Once the purchase has been made, students will then have the option to purchase a printed copy of their own, if desired.

**HS Life Skills (Semester 2)** Life Skills will focus on stewarding what God has given us: time, talent, treasure, heart, and health. Students will learn valuable personal skills like how to set goals, resolve conflict, set boundaries and level up in all aspects of life. They will examine their skills and strengths; write resumes; prepare budgets, and more. Students will have homework, as well as a book report for the semester. Social skills are an important life skill, and students will have opportunities to interact inside and outside of the classroom. This class is designed to be informative, interactive and fun.

Instructor: Courtney Lilly

**CLASS FEE: \$125**

Required Text: None

As of 7/28/23