

CHEX Second Level Courses 2024-2025

Course Dates

Fall 2024 8-week courses: September 18, 25; October 2, 9, 23, 30; November 6, 13

Fall 2024 12-week courses: September 4, 11, 18, 25; October 2, 9, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20; Dec 4

Spring 2025 8-week courses: January 22, 29; February 5, 12, 26; March 5, 12, 19

Spring 2025 12-week courses: January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2

2024-25 24-week courses: Meet for both Fall and Spring 12-week course dates

Course Descriptions

Courses for Credit: Please note that some courses are listed as being for credit. For 1 credit courses, students are expected to complete at least 120 hours of coursework, including class time and homework. For ½ credit courses, students are expected to complete at least 60 hours of coursework, including class time and homework. It is the responsibility of the student and parents to keep track of this work time and present it to their evaluator. For all classes, the time spent on the CHEX class can be combined with other subject area coursework to earn high school credit.

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STEM courses

MasterBooks Life Science / Jamie Rohrer / 24 Weeks / Grades 7-8 / \$75

God's Design for Life curriculum reveals the amazing world of God's creation through the study of plants, animals, and the human body! Over the course of 24 weeks, we will study three main topics:

The World of Plants: Discover the Creator's handiwork as you study the beauty and intricacy of seeds, leaves, and flowers. Explore trees, fungi, algae, unusual plants, moss, and more.

The Human Body: The human body is an incredibly complex and created wonder. Learn about the amazing functions of each system and understand that you are made in God's image!

The World of Animals: Discover how each animal was designed by God to be unique, from cuddly mammals and slimy frogs to jellyfish, butterflies, and bacteria. Get ready for an exciting adventure!

Homework: Students should expect to spend about 2-3 hours a week on homework. In class, we will review the materials learned and perform different experiments that coincide with the weekly assigned lessons.

Supplies: Each student will need to purchase a MasterBooks God's Design for Life (MB) Student Workbook (ISBN 9781683441274). A spiral notebook is also required for students to provide answers to their homework and take in-class notes. All other supplies will be provided.

Physical Science / Jen Anteau / 24 weeks / Grades 8-12 / \$175 / 1 credit

In physical science, we will be using the High School Physical Science in Your Home curriculum. This class is an overview of the study of non-living things (geology, astronomy, etc) During class, we will be reviewing what the students learned over the past week and performing labs related to the subject. Students will be expected to research and answer topic questions at home to be prepared for the week's lesson and lab. The course fee includes the student manual and lab supplies. *Note: this curriculum is a different curriculum than we have used in the past. There is no "textbook" reading, but students will have to research and answer questions each week.

Homework: Students should expect 2-3 hours of homework each week to research the questions properly.

Supplies: Students should have a binder to keep their assignments in each week.

Biology Labs / Anne Smith / 24 weeks / Grades 9-12 / \$175 / 1 credit

This course follows the textbook *Discovering Design with Biology* published by Berean Builders. Classes will focus on performing the hands-on experiments and labs with additional explanation of concepts as time allows. A syllabus will be provided and students should expect to spend 3-4 hours per week on homework including reading the text, answering questions, and writing lab reports. Each family must purchase the textbook independently. If desired, parents will administer and grade tests, also purchased independently. *Prerequisite:* Physical Science or an equivalent academic-level course.

Homework: Students should expect to spend 3-4 hours per week on homework including writing lab reports.

Supplies: Each student must have access to a copy of the textbook (ISBN 979-8-9852529-4-1).

Chemistry Labs / Johanna Graves / 24 weeks / Grades 9-12 / \$175 / 1 credit

This course follows Jay Wile's *Discovering Design with Chemistry* textbook and will focus on performing hands-on experiments during class time with additional explanation of concepts as time allows. A syllabus will be provided. Parents will administer and grade tests if desired. *Prerequisite:* Must have completed Algebra I. Completion of another high school level science (such as biology) is highly recommended.

Homework: Students should expect to spend 3-4 hours per week on homework including writing lab reports.

Supplies: Each student must have access to a copy of the textbook (ISBN 978-0-9962784-6-1).

Kitchen Science- Nutrition / Jenice Weaver / 8 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$25

Be prepared to cook as we chow down on nutritional concepts. What exactly does a person need each day in protein, vitamins, minerals, water, fat, and carbohydrates? What is a calorie? What is the role of sweets in our diets? What is the history and development of artificial sweeteners, modified fats, preservatives, and colors found in processed foods? How do we interpret the information on a food label? How do I prepare healthy food that tastes good? We will have a "food for thought" question that each student can research as much as they wish. We will discuss this question. Then make a recipe to go along with that idea. As well as learn important culinary skills. A semester long project the students will work on at home. They will make a poster board or Canva. They will pick a culture and tell: How do people in different cultures and countries eat differently? How did their history and geography shape their diets? How healthy are the diets in other countries? What happens as countries "westernize" their diets when they become more developed? What is the importance of food preparation and family meals in other

countries? How do inadequate diets in some countries affect children's growth and people's lifespans?

Homework: Expect 1 hour of homework a week

Advanced Computer Skills/ Jen Anteau / 12 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$20

In this advanced computer skills course, students will learn how to use Excel, PowerPoint, and Canva. They will be taught how to create worksheets, perform calculations, and create graphs using Excel. In the PowerPoint section, students will learn how to create visually appealing presentations. They will also learn how to use the free version of Canva to create flyers, brochures, and videos. Keyboard shortcuts will also be covered to help students use computers more efficiently.

Homework: Homework will be assigned as students learn to use the software and complete projects outside of class.

Supplies: It is required that students bring their laptop computer to class each week. Both PC and Mac computers are acceptable for this course. Students will need access to spreadsheets and presentation software, as well as the Internet. While no textbook is required, students should have a binder or folder to keep all handouts in one place.

Communication courses

Wordsmith Beginning Grammar and Writing / Jamie Rohrer / Spring 12 weeks / Grades 7-8 / \$20

Writing is a TOWER process: *Thinking, Organizing, Writing, Evaluating, and Rewriting*. Wordsmith helps students begin to evaluate their own work to make it better as well as clearer and more concise. Through humor and creative writing, students will focus on three main parts to the writing process: word usage, sentences, and a build up to longer writing assignments. Topics that will be covered include word games (nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and pronouns), and building stronger sentences (basics, secrets of successful construction, connections, and combinations). Several essays will be written to apply the skills and see the writer's progress throughout the 12 weeks.

Homework: Students can expect about 1-2 hours of homework per week.

Supplies: Each student will need to purchase the Wordsmith 3rd Edition 6-9 Grade Skills student workbook (ISBN 9781929683352). A spiral notebook is also required for taking in-class notes and journaling.

IEW Bible-based Writing / Sarah Conn / 24 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$120 / 1 credit

Using the Institute for Excellence in Writing's Bible-based curriculum, students will improve their writing abilities while increasing their understanding of Scripture. Students will learn to take notes, retell narrative stories, summarize references, write from pictures, create inventive writing, and compose essays. Students will enhance their writing by using descriptive words and phrases and incorporating variety in their sentence structures. Students' papers will be graded and returned to them for revision. This course will include the study of grammar topics, vocabulary words, and the optional reading of four assigned novels. Student assignments and feedback will be adapted to the individual student's writing level and experience.

Homework: Students should complete 3-4 hours of homework each week including reading literature, practicing editing, and writing in response to prompts.

Supplies: Students will need to provide their own copy of the IEW Bible-based Writing Lessons Student book (ISBN: 9781623413156), novels (if using), a binder, and approximately 20 sheet protectors.

Journalism / Jen Anteau / 12 weeks / Grades 8-12 / \$30

In this class, students will be exploring the world of journalism. Students will be learning about the basics of journalism using the Associated Press Style. The class will be learning about news stories, feature stories, and opinion pieces. They will also learn about the editing process throughout the semester. Toward the end of the semester, students will be creating a newspaper as a class. They should be able to write a well-organized paragraph and have experience writing short essays.

Homework: Students should expect 1-2 hours of homework each week.

Supplies: Students will need to purchase The Associated Press Stylebook (ISBN 978-1541601659) for this class. Students will need a notebook or binder with notepaper for the class.

Research Project Seminar / Sarah Conn / Spring 12 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$50 / ½ credit

Your student will be guided through the process of completing an in-depth research paper in this course. The paper topic is completely open, so this course credit could apply to almost subject area depending on the topic the student chooses. We will learn about selecting topics, finding resources, taking and organizing notes, creating a thesis statement, writing a paper without plagiarizing, and editing the paper to create a final product that is clear and coherent. The assignments will be adapted to the individual student's ability so middle school students would be writing shorter papers with fewer sources than an experienced high school writer. We'll take the mystery and intimidation out of the scary research paper!

Homework: Students should expect 2-4 hours of homework each week doing research, writing, and editing.

Supplies: Students will need index cards and a folder or binder to keep their papers organized.

Swiss Family Robinson Book Study / Jennifer Denning / 8 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$30

Your students are invited to visit a tropical island as we follow the adventures of a family stranded on a deserted island. We will use a study guide from Progeny Press. Some of the literary techniques used will include a dictionary, characterization, themes, cause and effect analysis, synonyms and antonyms, allusions, contextual understanding, similes, metaphors and more. We will consider and discuss moral lessons and character values such as seeking God's help through prayer, finding contentment, observing the Sabbath, valuing hard work and provision, avoiding pride, embracing strength and optimism, overcoming pessimism through perseverance, fostering independence, and honoring parents while providing encouragement. Students are expected to work in their study guide during class as we review the chapters. A specific version of this book is needed to coordinate with the study guide and will be provided along with a copy of the study guide. (While this class is an 8-week course, if time and classroom availability allow, we may try to watch the 1960 Swiss Family Robinson movie for two extra weeks.)

Homework: Students will be required to read chapters as assigned. Any other homework will be minimal.

Supplies: Pencil and eraser will be necessary in class.

Debate Journal / Rhi Landis / 8 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$10

In this class, students will be given 1 or 2 writing prompts each week. The prompts will center around “___ vs. ___” and each student will have the opportunity to “pick a side” and write about why they believe this side over the other. Then we’ll have a discussion time where everyone can share their thoughts. Come ready to think on the fly and use your best logic to defend the side of your choice!

Social Studies courses

PA History / Jenice Weaver / 12 weeks / Grades 7-8 / \$25

The course presents an overview of the state’s history; physical and cultural geography; industry & agriculture; government and political structure; and economic systems relevant to the Commonwealth’s location and spatial relationships. Your student will study interesting facts,

landmarks, and animals of Pennsylvania. Also, current issues and events in Pennsylvania will be examined.

Homework: The homework for this class will be about 2 hours a week. Homework will include listening to the podcast, “Real Life History for Kids”, watching Drive Thru History, researching Historical events, fun worksheets and reading articles. A ticket system will be used as an incentive to complete homework.

Civics / Sarah Conn / Fall 8 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$30

What are the rights and responsibilities of the citizens? That’s the focus of this course. We will primarily be using current events, relevant news articles, and the civics citizenship test to examine the role of the citizen in the US government. We will learn about the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and the duties that citizens must perform for the government to function properly.

Homework: Students should be less than an hour of homework each week. This will usually be reading assigned news articles to prepare for the next class.

Supplies: Students should have a folder or binder to keep their papers organized.

Intro to Economics / Jenice Weaver/ 12 weeks / Grades 9-12 / \$25

(This class does not have to be taken with Intro to Business as the students will learn different concepts but both classes can be taken.) This class aims to help students understand what economics is, how it plays a part in their daily lives, and how it affects the world around them. In addition, students also gain some insight into how to manage their money wisely by learning about topics like personal financial planning, budgeting, and investing. This class will include reading the book *Whatever Happened to Penny Candy* by Richard J. Maybury for homework. A fun online game will teach economic concepts such as supply and demand, budget, interest rate. Basic math skills will be used to add/subtract inventory, multiplication for interest rates, and how to keep a budget with Google Sheets, or Excel.

Homework: About 2 hours of homework can be expected.

Supplies: Students will need to have access to a copy of *Whatever Happened to Penny Candy* (ISBN: 978-0942617641)

Business / Jenice Weaver / 12 weeks / Grades 9-12 /\$25

(This class does not have to be taken with Intro to Economics as the students will learn different concepts but both classes can be taken.) Not sure what you want to do after high school? Part of this class will be looking at different careers and seeing what jobs there are in the business field.

This class aims to help students understand the concepts of business, ethics in business, entrepreneurship, creating a business plan, marketing, and more. As a fun activity the students will play a stock market game. They will also take a personality test, career quiz, research a job in the area, compare salaries of jobs they are interested in as well as look at the cost of living in the area.

Homework: About 1 hour of homework can be expected with this class each week.

Arts courses

Intro to photography / Danielle Spangenberg / Spring 8 weeks / grades 7- 12 / \$20

Photography and videography have gone from limited accessibility to something most people have in the palm of their hand. Photography is not only a form of art, but it also gives its viewers the opportunity to look through the lens of someone else's eye. Photographs convey emotions and allow everyone access to the world from the comfort of their homes.

In this course, students will be exploring digital photography. They will learn how to take professional photographs by focusing on a few components of photography. For example: getting the right exposure, achieving the right contrast, taking close-up photos, wide angle lenses, rule of thirds, the color of light, and conveying movement. Students will be required to submit photos each week that incorporate the concept of that week's lesson. There will be a weekly competition displaying the students' photos. Students will be judged/graded both on creativity as well as how well they conveyed that lesson's concept in their photos. I believe each student has a unique perspective to give. I look forward to seeing that displayed through their lens!

Supplies: Students will need to have access to either a cell phone with a camera, or a digital camera.

Geography through Art / Jen Denning / Fall weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$40

Students will be combining art with geography and a little history from around the world. Each week, we will discuss and duplicate a form of art from different countries or regions. The ideas for these art/craft projects are from the book *Geography Through Art*. Some examples include butterfly art(mosaics) from the Central African Republic, Aboriginal stone painting from Australia, and chainsaw carvings (soap carving) from the Ozark Mountains in America.

Homework: Expect the average amount of homework to be 30 minutes to an hour weekly. Homework time will depend on which project is taught that week and how far along the student is on his/her project before leaving class. Please note that students are responsible for bringing their completed projects back to class each week.

Supplies: Student should bring pencils and sharpeners, scissors, markers, and glue. All other supplies will be provided, including individual paint sets and brushes. Students will be able to take home unused supplies after the class is over. (Allergy note, flour may be used for some of the dough.)

History of Famous Artists / Jamie Rohrer / Fall 12 Weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$45

In this interactive art class, students will study the history and style of the most influential artists of our time along with the story behind their creations. Some of the artists studied will include Michaelangelo, Picasso, Monet, Van Gogh, and more. Students will then recreate these works of art through different mediums such as paint, clay, watercolor, and more. All art supplies for this class will be provided. Homework will be an hour or less a week.

Choir / Leann Whitacre / Fall and/or Spring 8 weeks / Grades 7-12 / \$35 per semester

Students will enjoy singing and performing Christ-centered songs with a group as well as learning basic music theory, sight reading and singing techniques. Concepts may be adjusted according to the students' previous experience. The choir will perform at CHEX at the end of each semester. Students may choose one or two semesters; the same concepts will be taught using different exercises and songs.

Homework: less than one hour per week

Supplies: folder, pencil, water bottle

Other Elective Courses

Active Games / Jenice Weaver/ Fall and Spring 7 weeks / grades 6-12 / \$10

This class will include all the games kids love to play with each other. We will run off energy and make friends while playing dodgeball, steal the bacon, relay races, capture the flag, and other group games. The primary focus of the class is to enjoy our time together playing and having fun.

Red Cross CPR-AED-Intro to FIRST AID / Elisha Bomberger / Spring 8 weeks/ Grades 7-12 / \$20

(Additional \$40 if student wants official certification from the Red Cross- good for 2 years)

This course will teach students skills in CPR, AED use, and basic First Aid skills. The course is through the Red Cross and the students have the options to take the official Red Cross exam to be certified officially through the Red Cross in CPR/AED/First Aid. The class includes an American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED participant's manual, as well as other take home materials.

Study Hall / Various Teachers / Both semester / Grades 7-12 / Free

Study hall is available for students who do not register for another course during one or more of the class hours. Students are expected to bring schoolwork to complete or some other quiet activity to occupy their time. Cell phones or other electronic usage is not allowed except as necessary for completing academic assignments.

Fall Schedule 2024

2024-25 Fall	9:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am	12:15 pm
6 th grade	Study Skills (Petro) 8 weeks	Creative Thinking (Landis) 8 weeks	History	Active Games 6-12 (Weaver) 7 weeks \$10
7-12 th grades	Life Science 7-8 (Rohrer) 24 weeks \$75	Biology 9-12 (Smith) 24 weeks \$175	Physical Science 8-12 (Anteau) 24 weeks \$175	
	Chemistry 9-12 (Graves) 24 weeks \$175	PA History 7-8 (Weaver) 12 weeks \$25	IEW Writing 9-12 (Conn) 24 weeks \$120	
	Intro to Econ 9-12 (Weaver) 12 weeks \$25	Journalism 8-12 (Anteau) 12 weeks \$30	History of Famous Artists 7-12 (Rohrer) 12 weeks \$45	
	Civics 7-12 (Conn) 8 weeks \$30	Choir 7-12 (Whitacre) 8 weeks \$35	Debate Journal 7-12 (Landis) 8 weeks \$10	
		Geography through Art 7-12 (Denning) 8 weeks \$40		
	Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall	

Spring Schedule 2025

2024-25 Spring	9:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am	12:15 pm
6 th grade	Computer Skills	Writing	Science	Active Games 6-12 (Weaver) 7 weeks \$10
7 th -12 th grades	Life Science 7-8 (Rohrer) 24 weeks \$75	Biology 9-12 (Smith) 24 weeks \$175	Physical Science 8-12 (Anteau) 24 weeks \$175	
	Chemistry 9-12 (Graves) 24 weeks \$175	Advanced Computer Skills 7-12 (Anteau) 12 weeks \$20	IEW Writing 9-12 (Conn) 24 weeks \$120	
	Intro to Business 9-12 (Weaver) 12 weeks \$25	CPR/ First Aid 7-12 (Bomberger) 8 weeks \$20	Beginning Writing 7-8 (Rohrer) 12 weeks \$20	
	<i>Swiss Family Robinson</i> Book Study 7-12 (Denning) 8 weeks \$30	Choir 7-12 (Whitacre) 8 weeks \$35	Photography 7-12 (Spangenberg) 8 weeks \$20	
	Research Seminar 7-12 (Conn) 12 weeks \$50		Kitchen Science 7-12 (Weaver) 8 weeks \$25	
	Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall	