

**The Journey Homeschool Group**  
**Teacher Bios and Class Descriptions 2025-2026**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Teacher bios & Contact info** \_\_\_\_\_ 2-9

**ELEMENTARY CLASSES ~ PREK-GRADE 6**

PreK/Kindergarten \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10  
Geography \_\_\_\_\_ 10-11  
Elementary General Music \_\_\_\_\_ 11  
Elementary Engineering Design: Creative Builders \_\_\_\_\_ 11-12  
Writing \_\_\_\_\_ 13  
Science Scouting \_\_\_\_\_ 14  
Science \_\_\_\_\_ 14-16  
Elementary Communication Skills \_\_\_\_\_ 16-17  
Elementary Art \_\_\_\_\_ 17  
Physical Education \_\_\_\_\_ 18

**COMBINED ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SENIOR HIGH CLASSES ~ GRADES 4-12**

Orchestra 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 18-19  
Orchestra 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 19

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES ~ GRADE 7/8**

Writing (Online) \_\_\_\_\_ 20  
Overview of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ 20  
American History \_\_\_\_\_ 21  
General Science \_\_\_\_\_ 21-22  
Middle School Art: Mixed Media \_\_\_\_\_ 22

**COMBINED MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SENIOR HIGH CLASSES ~ GRADES 7-12**

Orchestra 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 18-19  
Orchestra 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 19  
Math Grades 7-12 \_\_\_\_\_ 22-23  
Choir Grades 7-12 \_\_\_\_\_ 23  
German 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 24  
Engineering Design \_\_\_\_\_ 24-25

**SENIOR HIGH CLASSES ~ GRADES 9-12**

French 2-3 (Offsite) \_\_\_\_\_ 26-27  
Writing (Online) \_\_\_\_\_ 27-28  
Physics \_\_\_\_\_ 28-29  
Equine Science 101 \_\_\_\_\_ 29-30  
Introductory Logic \_\_\_\_\_ 30-31  
Psychology \_\_\_\_\_ 31  
Bible \_\_\_\_\_ 32  
American History \_\_\_\_\_ 32  
Biology \_\_\_\_\_ 33  
High School Art: Traditional and Modern \_\_\_\_\_ 33

# TEACHER BIOS

## **Brooke Ahlert ~ French**

brookeahlert@gmail.com

*Hello! To say that I am excited to be teaching four classes this year is an understatement. I love teaching my daughters, and it has been such a blessing to be able to extend that teaching to the Journey students. I strive to bring creativity, enthusiasm, and diligence to the classroom. I also strive to glorify our Lord in my teaching. This year I will be teaching two French classes..*

*Outside of the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family, spending time with my church family, playing tennis, bicycling, reading, knitting, crocheting, the list could go on and on! I have been married to my husband, Josh, for sixteen years and we share two daughters whom we've homeschooled from the very beginning. While we started out living in River Falls, little by little we've moved north and now reside in Amery which is as far north as we plan to go!*

*I can't wait to share my passion for French with your children!*

## **Kendal Bauermeister ~ Middle School/High School Writing**

bauermeisterkendal@gmail.com

*This will be my first year teaching for Journey and I am thrilled to be able to share my love of writing with our next generation of writers, authors, editors, and reporters. It is my goal to prepare students for their next steps in life whether that be for high school level writing, college, careers or their own personal writing. We will examine writing for purpose, literary themes and structures, literary analysis, research based strategies, essay responses, and creating five paragraph essays to name a few. All units will be closed with the student's own writing as they develop their skills and voice in the written word.*

*When I am not teaching at Journey, I can be found at home reading or writing, homeschooling my three children (Logan, Oakley, and Porter) or traveling with my family. Looking forward to a great year!*

## **Lisa Buckle ~ Elementary Geography**

lisawwg@outlook.com

*Hello, Families! I'm excited to be a part of continuing our Journey students' geography experience. I consider myself a lifelong learner and look forward to discovering more of our world alongside my students. Hudson has been my home for 14 years. I have been a part of homeschooling co-ops for over a decade and a half. I have loved homeschooling my own 4 children and one of my greatest joys is raising them while teaching them how to recognize the Lord's blessing in their lives. I enjoy cooking ethnic and diverse foods, gardening, and spending time outdoors doing whatever is in season with my family. I hope to bring my enthusiasm for discovery and missions into the classroom as we Gallop the Globe, Canter the Country, and Map the World by Heart together! I look forward to my twelfth year of teaching at The Journey Homeschool Group and the joy of sharing the amazing gift of this world that God gave us. Our world is so much more than a map!*

### **Jill Burgess ~ PreK/Kindergarten**

[jburgess10@hotmail.com](mailto:jburgess10@hotmail.com)

*Greetings, families! My name is Jill Burgess, and I will be the PreK/Kindergarten teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. This will be my third-year teaching here at The Journey. My husband, Samuel and I live in Ellsworth, WI on a small hobby farm with our three children. We decided to try giving homeschooling a try after I had been a stay-at-home-mom for a few years, and we were unsure where to enroll our eldest child during our transition from North Carolina back to Wisconsin.*

*I have a degree in Early Childhood Development from the University of Minnesota - Crookston. Prior to having children, I worked as the Assistant Center Director and Preschool teacher at a learning center in Menomonie, WI. I have always had a love for teaching and being engaged with children and the world around us. I have come to really enjoy teaching and learning beside our children at home. I am so excited to be teaching again this year and offering our youngest class available at The Journey!*

### **Kelly Caliguri~ Math & Physics**

[kellycaliguri@gmail.com](mailto:kellycaliguri@gmail.com)

*Hi, I'm Kelly Caliguri. I've been homeschooling my daughters for five years and began teaching Math at Sparrows in the spring of 2024. During the 2024–2025 school year, I taught both Math and Science at Spread the Word Education and Sparrows in Amery. I hold a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University. Over the past 25 years, I've worked in various industries—including HVAC and aerospace—and for the past 20 years, I've been focused on implantable medical devices at Medtronic. I truly enjoyed teaching at Spread the Word and Sparrows, and I'm excited to join Journey!*

### **Pastor Adam Christian ~ Logic**

[adamchristian.journey@gmail.com](mailto:adamchristian.journey@gmail.com)

*I have the incredible privilege of serving as the Lead Pastor at First Covenant Church here in River Falls. More than anything else, I'm passionate about helping people encounter Jesus Christ and learn to live as His disciples. I believe Christians are called to whole-life discipleship, meaning that even our academic endeavors are part of our discipleship journey and can be acts of profound worship - loving God with all our minds - and I bring this perspective into the classroom as I teach. I'm particularly excited to be teaching courses on Logic and Church History as these are two subjects which I really love.*

*I hold a B.A. From UW-Eau Claire (history and philosophy), an M.Div. from Bethel University in St. Paul, and have done additional post-grad work at NorthPark University in Chicago. I have previously served as a youth pastor, a teaching pastor, and spent 15 years with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship helping students and faculty advance and defend the Gospel in universities across the upper Midwest. I've seen firsthand how students with a solid foundation thrive in college and young-adulthood, and how those who lack such a foundation really struggle. As such, I'm passionate about helping young people to be firmly rooted in their faith and knowing how to think critically and reason carefully so that they will be equipped for the challenges and opportunities of life.*

*My wife (Mary) and I live just outside of River Falls with our three boys (Anders, Ivar, & Haakon). As a family, we're unapologetically filled with curiosity, questions, and wonder, and we're addicted to learning; each of us having our own particular area of fascination and interest. My personal hobbies include reading, making music, cooking food,*

*working out, skiing, running, sailing, hunting, and rock climbing with my kids. Mary and I love traveling and exploring new cultures, and we (usually) enjoy building and working on projects together around the house. If you have questions about me, the classes, or the church please don't hesitate to reach out!*

### **Ingrid Cook ~ German 2/Equine Science**

ingccook@gmail.com

*I am really thankful to be able to continue teaching at the Journey Co-op! This will be my 9<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Journey and my 14<sup>th</sup> year homeschooling overall. I'm regularly amazed at how there are always new layers and levels of learning that God is just waiting to guide us into, if only we will take the time to seek truth, reflect and ponder. My hope is that I can guide students on their own journeys of gaining knowledge about what has happened in our world, and to see God's ever faithful, and ever present, involvement in all of it.*

*My educational background includes a BA in German and Animal Science from UW-River Falls, and an MA in German from UW-Madison. My life experiences include multiple trips to Europe that have been very impactful to me, with a family trip in 1976 that included the [at the time] communist countries of East Germany and Poland, and a visit to both West and East Berlin during the era of the Berlin Wall. I also spent a summer working in Germany through an internship at a Western horse training facility.*

*I have been teaching at various homeschool co-ops since 2012 because I have come to see that instructing and preparing the next generation is a true privilege and duty that God invites His people to carry out. My husband, Doug, and I have lived in the River Falls area since 1996 and have had the joy (and at times stress!) of homeschooling our own 3 children - Logan (now on to college), Klara and Ian (in high school) - while also being a part of the Journey co-op. My favorite personal pursuits include reading, praying, getting outdoors, working with & riding horses, taking walks with our dogs, traveling and cooking/baking.*

### **Danielle Colbenson~ Choir/Elementary General Music 1/2**

Danielle.colbenson1988@gmail.com

*My name is Danielle Colbenson and I am overjoyed to be teaching in my first year for Journey Homeschool Co-op! My husband, Ben, and I are residents of Spring Valley, WI, where we live a mile from our family dairy farm and raise five beautiful children on our homestead (ages newborn- 8 years old). We like to spend our free time finding new ways to build our hobby farm and getting dirty on the family dairy farm. Our family is almost always busy with new projects and dreams.*

*I graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a degree in Vocal Music Education in 2011. Singing has been a tremendous love of mine for as long as I can remember, and I love to share my love of music with the next generation of young people. This year will be my return to the world of teaching choir. I taught for two years after graduating school and have now been raising children for the last eight years from home, while also teaching private piano and voice on the side. I cannot wait for the opportunity to work with your children this year!*

## **Melissa Huppert PhD ~ Engineering Design**

MH.engineer.class@gmail.com

*I am excited to ignite an interest in engineering design in your children - especially through a biblical worldview. I have a diverse background in agricultural, STEM, and engineering education. I earned my M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University, where I will be recognized as a distinguished alumni in September 2025. My academic journey began with an A.A.S. from Rochester Community and Technical College in Equine Science and a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in Animal Sciences and Agribusiness.*

*I have been the Director of STEM Outreach for the Minnesota State Engineering Center of Excellence since 2017 and enjoy the flexibility and creativity of the position. My work primarily focuses on developing project-based activities that engage students in hands-on learning experiences with the intent of creating awareness and inspiring interest in engineering and manufacturing technology career pathways. One of my first tasks in this role was creating the Engineering Machine Design Contest (EMDC), a multi-state program for which I serve as the director. I also serve as the scientific review committee chair for the Southern Minnesota Engineering and Science Fairs. Before my position with Minnesota State, I worked with the 4-H Youth Development programs at Iowa State University and Purdue University.*

*With much support from my husband (Nate) and my parents/in-laws, I manage my work-life balance while homeschooling my two children, Eleanora (6) and Colton (4). I enjoy helping Ella and Colton explore their curiosities around our hobby farm. I recently developed a passion for gardening and am attempting to master the art of growing a healthy bounty of food for my family as we develop our homestead.*

## **Alyssa Kruschke ~ Elementary Writing**

alyssakruschke@gmail.com

*Hi, I'm Alyssa Kruschke. I'm looking forward to my third year as part of The Journey's community! For the last nine years I have been home raising my two sons Harrison and Jameson. Before having kids I was an elementary teacher in New Richmond, the town where my husband Joe and I were both raised. I absolutely loved teaching, although I seem to have become more of an "unschooler" with my own children. What I treasured most in the classroom setting was the time with "my" students - knowing them so well, guiding, teaching and watching them learn and grow. The Journey has opened up this opportunity to me again, and words cannot describe the heart I have for my students from my first year at Journey.*

*Outside of school, I love to journal, write, read, and study my Bible. We have two baskets designated for our insane amount of library books. (Thank you librarians!) My boys love to be outside in all types of weather and I'm right there with them! I never saw it coming, but I absolutely love playing in the mud, catching tadpoles in the ponds, fishing, skiing, gardening (with lots of weeds!), and just being outside as much as humanly possible. We enjoy every season and all the activities that go along with them.*

## **Marleen Meyer MSSW, LICSW, MBA ~ Psychology**

marleenmeyerteacher@gmail.com

*Some of you may know me from my years of teaching Faith Kids and Awana at FCC in Hudson. I am excited to be here with you this year teaching Psychology from a Christian Perspective to Junior and Senior high students.*

*My educational background is a Master's in Social Work (MSSW) from UW-Madison and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Bethel College in St. Paul. I am a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW). I*

have worked for over 30 years as a therapist and clinical supervisor serving children, families, adults and couples in a variety of settings with a myriad of issues.

*I have been homeschooling my daughter for the last 8 years. It has been exciting to watch the Lord direct each path of my career of which homeschooling has been the best and most rewarding experience so far!*

*I look forward to working with and teaching your upper-class students who may have an interest in a helping profession or may want to learn more about themselves. I welcome any student with learning differences and want to partner with parents and students to encourage a positive classroom learning experience. Let's move forward together to serve the Lord/reach people for the Lord! "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15.*

### **Kristell Miller PhD ~ Science Scouting**

*DrMiller@WoodsyWild.com*

*Hi! I'm Kristell Miller, and I'm thrilled to bring Science Scouts to The Journey this year! I'm a scientist, writer, and outdoor educator who loves helping kids explore the amazing world God designed - from animal tracks and ecosystems to hands-on experiments and outdoor adventures. I hold a PhD in Natural Resources Science and spent years teaching college courses and working as a corporate sustainability scientist. Now I lead Science Scouts, a program that blends nature study, outdoor skills, and real science discovery - all while looking for clues and evidence of intelligent design in the world around us. My husband and I live in Hudson, but we spend lots of time at our family's log cabin in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, where I write wildlife books and explore the woods with our kids and grandkids. What I love most about teaching is seeing that "lightbulb moment" when something clicks and kids light up with curiosity. I can't wait to meet your young scientists and spark some discoveries together!*

### **Daniel Radke ~ Middle School & High School Bible Classes**

*dradke@ambassadorcollege.education*

*Greetings, Journey families! Faithfully teaching students God's Word is my vocational calling and delight! Since age 15, God has blessed me with the privilege of doing so in a variety of settings for children, teens, and young adults, including two years as a Christian school Bible and History teacher. I serve full-time with Ambassador College of Bible and Ministry, a part of Teens For Christ in Hudson. I love combining teaching with personal discipleship to equip my students for both life and ministry. My educational background includes earning a BA in Biblical Studies and a BS in History from the University of Northwestern - St. Paul, a MA in Biblical and Theological Studies from Knox Theological Seminary, and a second MA in Theological Studies from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.*

*My wife Rachel and I are a homeschooling family with three young children. We enjoy reading good books, playing board games, and taking walks along nature trails. I am excited to continue teaching middle school and senior high students Bible courses this year at Journey as we endeavor together to grow in understanding and treasuring Christ and His Word!*

### **Tim Shaw~ Middle School & High School History**

*trshaw7@hotmail.com*

*I am excited to be teaching middle and high school history at The Journey Co-op! I graduated from the University of Northwestern with a degree in Ancient and Classical Languages and History. I consider myself a perpetual*

student, and my primary areas of focus over the past ten years have been Ancient Egypt, Medieval Japan, and Church history.

Although I was formally schooled growing up, as a confirmed autodidact I've been informally homeschooling myself since about the second grade. I live in Brooklyn Park with my daughter and son. In my spare time, I read, hike, tend my orchard, study Japanese, and serve as my family's (self-appointed) genealogist.

### **Caitlin Simon ~ Elementary Science**

caitlinmmeath@gmail.com

I feel so blessed to be teaching elementary science at Journey this year! I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Minnesota State University, Mankato. I taught as an elementary teacher in Southern MN for five years before leaving the profession to be closer to family and friends. I am so excited to be returning to the classroom! My hope and prayer for every child is that they not only develop a deep love for learning but they will also grow in their journey of faith while in my classroom. I believe the beauty of science is that you can see God everywhere in it! It is such a gift to share this with your children!

I live in New Richmond with my husband, Josh, and three children: Gabriella (10), Charlie (9) and Jack (7). In my free time I enjoy cooking/baking, homeschooling my children, gardening, reading, hosting, creating and traveling! My son Charlie was born profoundly deaf so American Sign Language (ASL) is actively used at our house. I plan on sharing this beautiful language with our young science students through weekly ASL vocabulary that relates to topics covered in class. So students, get ready to get your hands moving through experimentation, investigation and ASL!

### **Cara Skarsten ~ Middle School & High School Science**

cara.skarsten@gmail.com

I'm excited to be back in the classroom exploring earth science with your kids this year. Before I started homeschooling, I taught middle school and high school science. I got my teaching license at Viterbo University in La Crosse and my undergraduate in Cellular and Molecular Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Spanish at UW La Crosse. My overall goal in class is for each student to enjoy learning and science while also developing higher skills and confidence as we do experiments, make mistakes and try again. My husband Danny and I have three children, Sophia (13), Jubilee (11) and Peter (8). We love being outdoors, and summer is our favorite season. In our free time we've begun mountain biking and we enjoy finding new rivers or lakes for us to explore and swim. I also enjoy creatively gardening and growing mushrooms.

### **Kari Slominski ~ Elementary and MS/HS Orchestra Classes**

me@karislominski.com

Hello families! This is my fourth year teaching music with Journey, and I am so excited to be part of this community. I earned my Bachelors of Music Education degree (Classroom and Instrumental Music) from Bethel University with a minor in Teaching English as a Second Language. During my 14 years of teaching, I have taught orchestra in public schools with grades 4-12, as well as private and group lessons on piano, violin, viola, cello and bass. Just before joining the Journey, I spent 5 years teaching 4th and 5th grade orchestra and 1 year teaching General Music K-5 in the South Washington County School District in MN. I was a long-time member playing bass in the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, and now I stay active making music on the Faith Community Church worship team.

*I grew up in the Twin Cities area, and was homeschooled in 3rd and 4th grade myself! My husband Jordan and I have been part of the Faith Community Church since before we were married in 2017. Our children are such joys in our lives! Jonathan will be 4 in September 2024, and Sylvia (who has Down Syndrome) will be 2 in January 2025. We are expecting Baby #3 in October 2025! Some of my favorite hobbies are reading, hiking, learning to preserve food from our garden and spending time with my husband and two golden retrievers.*

*Music is an incredible gift from God. It is one of the ways we express ourselves and connect with others and with God. It gives me so much joy to see young students grow as young musicians, because studying music helps to foster confidence, independence, responsibility, creativity- not to mention it's just fun! I look forward to meeting you and your children this next year!*

### **Erin Walejko ~ Communication Skills**

erin.walejko@gmail.com

*Hello families! I am delighted to begin my first year at The Journey as both a teacher and a parent! I live in Hudson with my husband and our two young boys. This year, I will be teaching Communication Skills, where students will learn about and improve the ways they express themselves and connect with others.*

*I received my Master's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at UW-Eau Claire. I then spent nine years at an elementary school as a speech-language pathologist until I was pulled to begin our homeschooling journey. In the school setting, I appreciated seeing the uniqueness of each student and finding ways to support them.*

*Outside of school, I love spending time in nature where I can take in the beauty of God's creations. I enjoy hiking with my family, traveling, swimming, kayaking, and reading outside together. I also find joy in caring for babies and young children; hearing their early language develop and watching them learn about the world around them.*

*I am so excited to begin this year together!*

### **Liz Wertz ~ Elementary, Middle School, and High School Art**

eliz.wertz@gmail.com

*Hello from your Homeschool Art teacher! I've been teaching at Journey since 2010, and this is easily the best job I've ever had. Every year I'm here, I feel more and more excited to do what I do.*

*I have a BFA in visual art with a concentration in graphic design from Colorado State University, and I've been licensed to teach art for K-12 in WI and MN. My husband and I moved to River Falls after we got married in 2008; we love the St. Croix Valley and are so pleased to be raising our two kids here in a community so passionate about parenting and teaching!*

*When I'm not teaching art at The Journey, you'll find me enjoying long hours of read alouds with my own kiddos, working on my own art projects in my studio, mentoring young artists, hosting, creating lesson plans, being involved with my local congregation of The River Church, or enjoying the abundance of God's inspiring creation here in the Midwest. God made us all in His image, which means our creativity reflects His...which is something I tell all my students, especially the ones who say those all-too common words: "I can't draw!" I feel incredibly blessed to be back at The Journey again this year, and I am looking forward to seeing what God's plan is for us in art!*

## **Chelsea Wesley ~ Physical Education**

chelsea.carlson.27@gmail.com

*This will be my first-year teaching at Journey, and I am so excited to be offering physical education to first and second grade students! I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. I have worked in the education field in some capacity for the past 17+ years. I've also been a summer camp counselor, a nanny, and a music team leader for VBS and Sunday school. I'm looking forward to taking all my experience and incorporating it into a fast-paced, musically charged, fun and dynamic class!*

*God created our bodies to run, skip, dance, jump and play and that's exactly what we'll be doing in class—all while focusing on teamwork, character building and biblical principles! Students will work on and develop physical skills and sportsmanship in a fun, supportive environment, while also learning about the importance of healthy lifestyles and using their bodies as instruments for God.*

*I live in River Falls with my husband, Jeff, and our three kids: Henrik (7.5), Audra (6) and Anders (4). We have been homeschooling our older two for the past year and love the freedom and flexibility it provides! I enjoy spending time in the kitchen and especially love to bake. When I'm not baking, I enjoy reading non-fiction, being outside, strong black coffee, and watching the Green Bay Packers. I also lead music for the Sunday school students at our home church and I co-coordinate our local MomCo chapter.*

# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Elementary Classes: PreK-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### PreK/Kindergarten

#### **3-HOUR PRE-K/K CLASS (AM OR PM)**

**For children ages 4-6: Must turn 4 years old (for Pre-K) or 5 years old (for K) BY September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Tuition: \$475**

**Teacher: Jill Burgess**

**Email: [jburgess10@hotmail.com](mailto:jburgess10@hotmail.com)**

PreK/Kindergarteners will learn through a variety of lessons and activities based around children's rich literature. With these books we will have a chance to expand and explore social studies, language, art, applied math and even science. We will learn together through a variety of activities that will be developmentally age appropriate to your child. There will be a chance to further explore these activities with suggested books and activities to do with your child at home if you desire. Children will be exposed to a friendly classroom environment and expected to work respectfully and cooperatively with teachers, assistants, and peers learning/strengthening basic classroom manners. During the school year, we will also have a chance to explore our outside environment. Suggested and appropriate seasonal attire is required on all days unless severe weather is present.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Each week, children should bring a backpack with a **pencil box** filled with:

1. 2 sharpened pencils
2. 1 box of Crayola 8 Crayons (this gives the basic colors we will need to work with)
3. 1 child-sized scissor
4. 2 glue sticks
5. 1 bottle of white glue
6. 1 folder
7. 1 *non-lined* spiral notebook (for journaling)
8. 1 pair of dice

PLEASE LABEL your child's supplies.

\*Parents are asked to sign up and supply a snack and drink item for the class 2-3 times during the school year.

## Elementary Geography: Galloping the Globe

**Grade:** 1/2

**Tuition:** \$150

**Teacher:** Lisa Buckle

**Email:** lisawwg@outlook.com

Throw on that cowboy hat, and hop on your saddle! This class is *Galloping the Globe* (authors Loree Pettit & Dari Mullins)! Register for this class and you'll find yourself trottin' your way through a captivating introduction to world geography – unit study style. Take a gander at the 7 continents and their major countries, investigate the oceans, and “journey” to the poles in this 2-year hands-on adventure course. Investigate maps, flags, recipes, literature, famous people, science, and more. You'll be spurred on to creativity as you record your learning in a lapbook. And, most importantly, grasp the foundational truth that this earth has a purpose: not only is its origin in our amazing Creator, but its ends and purposes are all for His glory. Note: This class covers different material over the course of 2 years. If your child was enrolled in it last year, it is still fitting to enroll again in order to complete his/her gallop around the globe!

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Colored pencils
2. Pen or pencil
3. Scissor
4. Glue stick
5. 1” three-ring binder for notebooking

## Elementary Geography: Cantering the Country

**Grade:** 3/4

**Tuition:** \$150

**Teacher:** Lisa Buckle

**Email:** lisawwg@outlook.com

Saddle up for a cross-country adventure through the good old USA! Over the course of 2 years (if you so choose), take an in-depth look at all 50 states, the capital cities, and major landforms of this great country we call “home.” Lasso some facts and brand them into your notebook for long-term keeping: state birds, flowers, trees, travel, tourism, climate, animals, and more. Consider some famous heroes (possibly an outlaw or two as well!) and where they lived, studied, and worked. Open your eyes and hearts to see how our great Creator has blessed us with an amazing and beautiful land ~ for our joy and for His glory. Based on Loree Pettit & Dari Mullin's resource *Cantering the Country*. Note: This class covers different material over the course of 2 years. If your child was enrolled in it last year, it is still fitting to enroll again in order to complete his/her canter around the country!

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Colored pencils
2. Pen or pencil
3. Scissor
4. Glue stick
5. 1” three-ring binder for notebooking

## Elementary Geography: Mapping the World by Heart

**Grade:** 5/6

**Tuition:** \$150

**Teacher:** Lisa Buckle

**Email:** [lisawwg@outlook.com](mailto:lisawwg@outlook.com)

Are you ready for a real challenge? Did you ever stop to think that you might be able to draw a map of the WORLD – over 190 countries – from MEMORY? David Smith’s *Mapping the World by Heart* is described as an “innovative approach” where students do intensive study of the world – its continents, countries, mountain ranges, rivers, and major cities – inspiring in them a love for geography and God’s creation, the ability to think globally, and the satisfaction of imprinting a map of the entire world into long-term memory. The use of clever mnemonics aids students in their learning -- Some already written and shared by the teacher (Did you know that “Ecuador is on the equator?”), and others to be created by the students themselves and shared in class! So, bring your grapefruit, a determination to tackle a challenge, and go for the globe! You’ll impress even yourself with what you’ll be able to accomplish. Why a grapefruit, you ask? To skin it in such a way as to demonstrate the challenge and distortion of a flat map of the world, of course! The content of this class is extensive and rich and will take 2 years to accomplish fully. Plan for weekly homework.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Colored pencils
2. Pen or pencil
3. Loose leaf paper for note taking
4. 1” three-ring binder for notebooking
5. Set of 25 maps online at Mapping the World by Heart, FableVision Learning or Rainbow Resources

## Elementary General Music

**Grade:** 1/2

**Tuition:** \$220

**Teacher:** Danielle Colbenson

**Email:** [danielle.colbenson1988@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.colbenson1988@gmail.com)

### Elementary General Music

This class will focus on fostering a love for music in the early years. Students will experience the joy of music through singing, a variety of instruments (including xylophone), movement and dance, and listening. No previous experience is required and our greatest goal is for our young people to leave class with a smile on their face and an enthusiasm to continue to explore the world of music.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Pencil
2. Xylophone and carrying case (\$50- included in cost of tuition. I will purchase and distribute on the first day.)

## Elementary Engineering Design: Creative Builders

**Grade:** 3-6

**Tuition:** \$170

**Teacher:** Melissa Huppert, PhD

**Email:** MH.engineer.class@gmail.com

### Engineering Design: Creative Builders

This hands-on course introduces students to the exciting world of engineering through creative problem-solving and teamwork. Students will explore the engineering design process while learning how simple machines work and how they can be combined to create complex chain-reaction machines.

Throughout the course, students will engage in team-building activities, design challenges, and iterative prototyping. They'll practice brainstorming, sketching, testing, and refining their ideas, all while developing communication skills and thinking creatively. Along the way, students will gain exposure to real-world engineering careers and disciplines.

The course culminates in final presentations where students showcase their projects and reflect on their learning and future interests in engineering.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the *Engineering Machine Design Contest*, a regional event in March and a championship in April at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where teams present their chain-reaction machines. Contest participation is optional. Parents/guardians will be responsible for associated costs and some logistics (e.g., registration, transportation, supervision). Dr. Huppert will coordinate contest information and sign-ups in September.

### Overarching Learning Goals:

1. **Explore Engineering.** Understand what engineering is, why it matters, and how engineers solve real-world problems in everyday life.
2. **Discover Simple and Chain-Reaction Machines.** Learn about simple machines (like levers, pulleys, and inclined planes) and how they can be combined to create exciting chain-reaction machines.
3. **Use the Engineering Design Process.** Practice the steps engineers follow - Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve - to solve problems and build better designs.
4. **Build Teamwork Skills.** Work in teams to share ideas, support one another, and complete projects together.
5. **Design, Sketch, and Test Prototypes.** Turn ideas into sketches and models, test them, and improve designs based on results and feedback.
6. **Be Creative and Communicate Clearly.** Think outside the box to find new solutions and practice explaining your ideas through writing and presentations.
7. **Explore Engineering Careers.** Discover different types of engineering jobs and learn what skills and interests they involve.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbook: TBD (will be approximately \$10-25)
2. 2 spiral notebooks or composition books (1 for engineering journal, 1 for reflective journal)
3. Folder with pockets (to store handouts)
4. Pencils w/ erasers
5. Colored pencils or markers (for detailed sketches) - optional
6. Ruler (for sketching)
7. Heavy-duty scissors (must be able to cut cardboard)
8. Glue stick
9. Roll of masking tape
10. Roll of duct tape
11. Box or case for organizing supplies
12. Hot glue gun and glue sticks
13. Safety glasses
14. Miscellaneous household supplies and junk (varies by activity; details will be sent home with the student at the appropriate time)

## **Elementary Writing: Words Matter**

**Grade:** 1/2  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Alyssa Kruschke  
**Email:** alyssakruschke@gmail.com

God has placed something unique and valuable in each and every one of us. These unique interests, passions, gifts, and voices are what this class is all about. We want to hear YOUR voice! Using literature as inspiration, students will investigate what authors do well. We will then practice and develop those literary skills in students' writing. We will work as a group to write drafts of all different types of writing to persuade, inform, and entertain readers. There will be lots of freedom and choice as we aim to honor each unique voice and celebrate our passions and interests.

Because God has placed something valuable and unique in each of us, students will be asked to create writing projects that they can share in a variety of ways - at the comfort level and choice of each student. This is going to be FUN! Being together is a chance for us to develop friendships and learn how to work with partners and as a group, which will be another focus of this class. Students will write with partners and as groups and practice encouraging and building up their classmates through positive feedback.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Pocket folder
2. Sharpened Pencils
3. Notebook - Elementary Lined with space for pictures
4. Large Eraser
5. Crayons or Colored Pencils (no markers please)
6. Pencil sharpener

## **Elementary Writing: Words Matter**

**Grade:** 3/4 & 5/6  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Alyssa Kruschke  
**Email:** alyssakruschke@gmail.com

God has placed something unique and valuable in each and every one of us. These unique interests, passions, gifts, and voices are what this class is all about. We want to hear YOUR voice! Using literature as inspiration, students will investigate what authors do well. We will then practice and develop those literary skills in students' writing. We will work as a group to write drafts of all different types of writing to persuade, inform, and entertain readers. There will be lots of freedom and choice as we aim to honor each unique voice and celebrate our passions and interests.

Because God has placed something valuable and unique in each of us, students will be asked to create writing projects that they can share in a variety of ways - at the comfort level and choice of each student. This is going to be FUN! Being together is a chance for us to develop friendships and learn how to work with partners and as a group, which will be another focus of this class. Students will write with partners and as groups and practice encouraging and building up their classmates through positive feedback.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Folder
2. Sharpened Pencils
3. Notebook
4. Large Eraser
5. Crayons or Colored Pencils (no markers please)
6. Pencil sharpener
7. Highlighter

## **Science Scouting: Finding Evidence of God's Masterful Design in Nature**

**Grade:** 3-6  
**Tuition:** \$200  
**Teacher:** Kristell Miller PhD  
**Email:** DrMiller@woodsylvild.com

Explore the great outdoors while building real science skills! In this hands-on class, students will learn how to observe closely, track wildlife, use a compass, and think like young scientists. Using the *Science Scouts Fundamentals Workbook* and simplified lessons from the Master Books series (*Made in Heaven*, *Men of Science*, *Men of God*, *Discovery of Design*), we'll explore fascinating features of animals and plants, inventions inspired by nature, and stories of scientists who saw God's hand in creation. Each week will include guided outdoor exploration and nature science experiments, journaling, and interactive activities designed to spark wonder and discovery in the world God made. Learn more at <https://woodsylvild.com/>

### **Topics Include:**

- Becoming a Science Scout: Observation, Curiosity & Outdoor Skills
- God's Designs in Nature: Creatures & Plants
- Nature's Inventions: Real Tools Inspired by Creation
- Men of Science, Men of God: Meet Pioneers of Faith & Discovery
- The Scientific Method in Everyday Life
- Evidence of Design: What the World Around Us Tells Us About Its Maker

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Science Scouts Fundamentals Workbook, by Dr. Kristell Miller, PhD (will be available for purchase this fall)
2. Made in Heaven, from Master Books, by Seto, Jeff & Comfort, Ray,  
<https://www.masterbooks.com/made-in-heaven-hardback-single>

### **OPTIONAL MATERIALS:**

3. Men of Science, Men of God, From Master Books, by Morris, Henry  
<https://www.masterbooks.com/men-of-science-men-of-god-hmsc>

## **Elementary Science: Investigate and Explore!**

**Grade:** 1/2  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Caitlin Simon  
**Email:** caitlinmmeath@gmail.com

### **Investigate and Explore**

This class will be all about fun and developing a love and curiosity for science, the world around us, and the God that made it all! It doesn't matter if your child learns best through visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or reading and writing-there will be something for everyone in this course! The principles for this "Investigate and Explore" adventure will be to expose students to a diversity of topics and vocabulary, without information overkill. Students will be exposed to American Sign Language (ASL) through ASL vocabulary that relates to topics covered throughout the course. This year's topics will include things like geology, botany, outdoor education, and animals. No text necessary and no outside class work required. For families who are interested in outside class work, review questions/answers and activity/experiment ideas will be emailed weekly for you to complete at home as you wish. (2-year rotation course)

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Pencils
2. Colored pencils or crayons
3. Scissor

- 4. Glue stick
- 5. Folder

## **Elementary Science: Exploring Creation with Botany**

**Grade:** 3/4  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Caitlin Simon  
**Email:** caitlinmmeath@gmail.com

### **Exploring Creation with Botany**

I can't wait to study all things plants this year! Flowers, trees, leaves, seeds, and pollination...these are some of the things we will be studying in botany. It doesn't matter if your child learns best through visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or reading and writing-there will be something for everyone in this course! Students will be exposed to American Sign Language (ASL) through ASL vocabulary that relates to topics covered throughout the course too! Class time will involve nature journaling, experiments, and projects to help us see in action what we are reading in the textbook. We will use Apologia's Exploring Creation series, which is a favorite science curriculum used by many homeschool families. It is built on a solid creationist foundation and always directs our attention to the amazing character of our Creator God. It also incorporates a Charlotte Mason approach using the tools of narration and note booking. Class will be quick-paced with a wide variety of activities including growing many things all through the year! Homework is optional but strongly encouraged as it reinforces what is covered in class. Homework will include textbook reading and completing student journal pages as homework during the week. No previous exposure to any of Apologia's texts is necessary.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Botany, Textbook* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Jeannie Fulbright. (apologia.com does also offer an audiobook if this works better for your child)
2. Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Botany, Note booking Journal* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (NOT the "Junior" unless you feel your child would prefer it.)
3. Nature Journal- Should be non-lined, with thicker paper that can hold up to watercolors. (Here is an example of one from Amazon-- Strathmore 400 Series Visual Watercolor Journal, 140 LB 5.5"x8" Cold Press, Wire Bound, 22 Sheets)
4. Pencil
5. Colored pencils
6. Scissor
7. Glue stick
8. Folder

## **Elementary Science: Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics**

**Grade:** 5/6  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Caitlin Simon  
**Email:** caitlinmmeath@gmail.com

### **Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics**

This year's topic for Class 5/6 is Chemistry and Physics! There is a lot to learn and explore under these topics. We will have exciting, fast-moving classes with hands-on activities and projects. Topics include matter, atoms, molecules, laws of motion, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, and MORE. Lots of fun experiments in this course! It doesn't matter if your child learns best through visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or reading and writing-there will be something for everyone in this course! Students will be exposed to American Sign Language (ASL) through ASL vocabulary that relates to topics covered throughout the course too! Covering chemistry and physics now will give students a great head start when they see it again in future years. We will use Apologia's Exploring Creation series,

which is a favorite science curriculum used by many homeschool families. It is built on a solid creationist foundation, always directs our attention to the amazing character of our Creator God, and incorporates a Charlotte Mason approach using the tools of narration and note booking. Homework is optional but strongly encouraged as it reinforces what is covered in class. Homework will include textbook reading and completing student journal pages as homework during the week. No previous exposure to any of Apologia's texts is necessary.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics, Textbook* by Jeannie Fulbright. (apologia.com does also offer an audiobook if this works better for your child)
2. Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics, Note booking Journal* (Not the "Junior" version)
3. Pencil
4. Colored pencils
5. Scissor
6. Glue stick
7. folder

### **Elementary: Communication Skills**

**Grade:** 1/2

**Tuition:** \$160

**Teacher:** Erin Walejko

**Email:** erin.walejko@gmail.com

In our Communication Skills class we will learn about diverse ways in which others communicate, acknowledging that God created us with individual differences so we can all learn from each other. We will break down unspoken "rules" of communication including personal space, body language, voice volume, filtering thoughts before speaking, and taking conversational turns. We will also learn about sizes of problems and find solutions as well as identify categories of feelings and calming strategies. We will discuss growth mindset and practice reframing how we perceive challenges. As needed, students will practice speech sounds to be more easily understood. While specific needs will be targeted, this class will be a good fit for any student.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Notebook
2. Pencil
3. Colored pencils or crayons
4. Scissor
5. Glue stick

### **Elementary: Communication Skills**

**Grade:** 3/4

**Tuition:** \$160

**Teacher:** Erin Walejko

**Email:** erin.walejko@gmail.com

In our Communication Skills class we will learn about diverse ways in which others communicate, acknowledging that God created us with individual differences so we can all learn from each other. We will break down unspoken "rules" of communication including personal space, body language, voice volume, filtering thoughts before speaking, and taking conversational turns. We will also learn about sizes of problems and find solutions as well as identify categories of feelings and calming strategies. We will discuss growth mindset and practice reframing how we perceive challenges. As needed, students will practice speech sounds to be more easily understood. While specific needs will be targeted, this class will be a good fit for any student.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Notebook
6. Pencil
7. Colored pencils or crayons
8. Scissor
9. Glue stick

## Elementary Art

**Grades:** 1/2 & 3/4

**Tuition:** \$150 (\$155 for 3/4)

**Teacher:** Liz Wertz

**Email:** eliz.wertz@gmail.com

In art class, we'll be learning about and applying the elements and principles of art and design, with projects varying in media, duration and format. The year will be divided into media-based units (Basics, Drawing, Painting, Sculpture), and throughout these units we build on basic skills over the course of the year, working those skills into our various projects. Many techniques are practiced in our sketchbooks before we do our deep dive into the real deal! Each project usually takes around 2-3 weeks to complete, with each student being encouraged to work towards achieving their own personal best, regardless of their perceived level of gifting. There will be a variety of fun projects, often with connections to famous artists, movements in art history, or Biblical principles, with God getting the credit for our creations! The students will be encouraged to keep their best work in a "portfolio" that we make in class, and from which they'll choose their best pieces to be submitted to the Spring Showcase art show. We know you'll enjoy this class!

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

A paint shirt or smock, to be kept in your student's backpack and put on at the beginning of class

## Elementary Art: Focused Art Experience

**Grade:** 5/6

**Tuition:** \$165

**Teacher:** Liz Wertz

**Email:** eliz.wertz@gmail.com

This course is similar to the format and style of the younger grades' classes, with one major difference: it's more cumulative and focused, with students taking more responsibility for their projects, choosing artists to research and basing artwork off of them. One of the goals of this class is to instill the importance and impact of art in our world, and to give students the opportunity to grow in different creative directions, with purposeful guidance and direction. It is for this reason that students will be asked to keep sketchbooks, in which entries will be made, either as class work or homework. This class is just as fun and engaging as the younger classes, but with more advanced materials, techniques, and results!

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 8 x 10 (or larger) Sketchbook
2. Paint shirts to be kept in a backpack, especially during painting and sculpture units!

## Physical Education

**Grade:** 1/2  
**Tuition:** \$160  
**Teacher:** Chelsea Wesley  
**Email:** chelsea.carlson.27@gmail.com

### **Come join the fun in Phy Ed!**

Students will develop physical skills and sportsmanship in a fun, supportive environment while learning about the importance of healthy lifestyles and using their bodies as instruments for God. There will often be a focus on teamwork, character building, and biblical principles. These areas will be highlighted through various games, activities, sports, and music!

We're going to have FUN each week! Students will learn and practice team sports like soccer, football, and kickball—focusing on skills, strategies, and teamwork. They'll also take part in a variety of indoor and outdoor games and activities designed to encourage social interaction, physical activity, and enjoyment. Music and dance will be included to inspire creativity, self-expression, and to elevate the atmosphere!

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Sneakers or comfortable shoes to be active in
2. Water bottle
3. Clothing appropriate for playing games (Should be weather appropriate as we will be playing outside, weather permitting.)

## **Combined Elementary, Middle School, and High School Classes: Grades 4-12**

**Note:** These classes will be taught at a combined Elementary, Middle School Level and High School level. Classes will meet 24 sessions following the Elementary Schedule. Classes are one hour in duration. Upper level students who sign up for these classes will have a study hall on the fourth Monday during this class period. Parents of these students should plan accordingly.

## Orchestra 2

**Grade:** 4-7  
**Tuition:** \$150 This class follows the Elementary schedule (generally the first 3 weeks, just 60 minutes even for the 7th and 8th Grade Students.  
**Teacher:** Kari Slominski me@karislominski.com (September, and January-May)  
**Substitute:** Nissa Pieper nissa.pieper@gmail.com (stepping in for October-December)

**Note:** This class follows the Elementary Schedule and will only meet 24 times in the school year and is a one hour class period.

This is a class for students in grades 4-8 to continue their musical studies on violin, viola or cello. **REQUIRED:** Just 1 year of experience, either having taken Beginning Orchestra with Mrs. Slominski last year or has at least 1 year previous experience with private lessons. We will continue our work in the same book from last year- String Basics Book 1. Homework includes weekly practice on your instrument: 3-4 times a week for 15 minutes per practice time. Students will learn to read more advanced music and rhythm notation, and will perform at a winter concert and the Spring Showcase. We will also learn about important composers and hymns. **\*\*\*It is recommended to get a rental or purchase of your instrument and materials lined up in August OR EARLIER to be sure to have everything in hand by September.**

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 1-inch 3-ring binder
2. Pencil
3. String Basics Book 1 for your instrument: [Violin Viola Cello](#) or [Bass](#)
4. Violin, viola, cello or bass your size- available through [Brickhouse Music](#) in River Falls or [All Strings Attached](#) in Stillwater. If you plan to get an instrument elsewhere, please connect with me to vet your instrument, as a quality instrument is important even as a beginner.
5. Case, bow, rosin, cleaning cloth. Shoulder rest or sponge for violin/viola, or rock stop for cello/bass
6. Music stand- will need to be brought to class weekly. [Folding music stand](#) works great.

## Orchestra 3

**Grade:** 5-12

**Tuition:** \$150 This class follows the Elementary schedule (generally the first 3 weeks, just 60 minutes even for the 7 - 12th Grade Students.

**Teacher:** Kari Slominski [me@karislominski.com](mailto:me@karislominski.com) (September, and January-May)

**Substitute:** Nissa Pieper [nissa.pieper@gmail.com](mailto:nissa.pieper@gmail.com) (stepping in for October-December)

**Note:** This class follows the Elementary Schedule and will only meet 24 times in the school year and is a one hour class period.

This is a class for students in grades 5-12 to continue their musical studies on violin. REQUIRED: Either 2 years of experience in orchestra/violin class, or be in grades 7-12 with 1+ years of experience. We are bringing together students potentially from 3 different classes last school year and will use the String Basics Book 1, Essential Elements Book 2, as well as sheet music.

Homework includes weekly practice on your instrument: 3-4 times a week for 15 minutes per practice time. Students will learn to read more advanced music and rhythm notation, and will perform at a winter concert and the Spring Showcase. We will also learn about important composers and hymns. **\*\*\*It is recommended to get a rental or purchase of your instrument and materials lined up in August OR EARLIER to be sure to have everything in hand by September.**

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 1-inch 3-ring binder
2. Pencil
3. String Basics Book 1 for your instrument: [Violin Viola Cello](#) or [Bass](#)
4. ALSO String Basics **Book 2** for your instrument: [Violin Viola](#) or [Cello](#)
5. Violin, viola, cello or bass your size- available through [Brickhouse Music](#) in River Falls or [All Strings Attached](#) in Stillwater. If you plan to get an instrument elsewhere, please connect with me to vet your instrument, as a quality instrument is important.
6. Case, bow, rosin, cleaning cloth. Shoulder rest or sponge for violin/viola, or rock stop for cello/bass
7. Music stand- will need to be brought to class weekly. [Folding music stand](#) works great.

## **Middle School Classes: Grade 7/8**

**Note:** The middle school courses are designed with a preparatory purpose. Students will be challenged with a higher level of academic expectation and independence in order to prepare them for the rigor of high school level classes where their grades count toward a GPA. Students at this level and higher are encouraged to communicate with teachers on their own and manage homework assignments independently. Students are given in-class tests and quizzes and will receive feedback from teachers in the form of a quarterly grade report. Many teachers at this level also incorporate study skills into their classes. The students have 30 class periods instead of the 24, at the elementary level. The workload is a little heavier, and the expectation a little higher, yet it's all done within the fold of gracious teachers who lead, guide, inspire, and celebrate as your student grows! With the exception of Christmas break and spring break, both middle school and senior high students will be given homework even on the weeks when classes do not meet.

## **Middle School Written Communications Intro \*\*Online\*\***

**Grade:** 7/8  
**Tuition:** \$300  
**Teacher:** Kendal Bauermeister  
**Email:** bauermeisterkendal@gmail.com

### **Written Communications Intro**

#### **Online class**

Intro to written communications is ideal for the beginning writer. We will delve into how to take notes from lectures, organize notes to help with studying, MLA citations, and paper formatting. We will explore proper short answers and short essay writing, learn about adequate research, and write a research paper from beginning to end. We will also explore persuasive, narrative, and descriptive writing. We will also have a poetry unit where we study and create our own poetry. Last, but not least, the fan favorite from last year: we will have a short story unit where we will break down all of the elements of fictional literature, learn how to create characters, scenes, and plots for short stories (alternately we also can do a novel study with a literary analysis). Students will leave with more confidence in their writing and an ability to peer review others' work, edit, and know what to look for when self-editing their own work.

\*If your student is an advanced writer for their age/grade, please feel free to sign them up for Written Communications I  
\*\* Students will need access to Google Classroom, Google Docs or Word, and possibly an email address to exchange papers for peer reviews.

\*\*\*I will post lectures, however, I will also have “office hours” available by zoom for students to ask questions or get help on their writing.

\*\*\*\*Students will also have small groups where I will hold zoom meetings for them to peer review one another’s work and give feedback.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. 3 ring binder
4. Pencils
5. Loose leaf paper
6. Access to computer

## **Overview of the Bible: Old Testament Survey**

**Grade:** 7/8  
**Tuition:** \$240  
**Teacher:** Daniel Radke  
**Email:** dradke@ambassadorcollege.education

This two-semester course integrates a fast-moving Old Testament overview specifically designed for middle school students with personal application and an emphasis on God’s sovereign power and activity. During their journey, students will visit all 39 books of the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi, from creation to the exile and beyond. Along the way, we will focus on key Bible chapters and verses, events, characters, themes, and doctrines. There will also be a special focus on identifying ways in which Christ is predicted, pictured, or present throughout the Old Testament. The assignments for this course will include Bible reading, memory verses, written reflections, and quizzes. The goal of this course is that students might grow in their understanding of the Bible and how the various parts fit together to tell one grand story that centers on Jesus, and be equipped for a life-long journey of learning to know and treasure God through studying and applying His Word to their everyday lives.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Bible (preferred translation: ESV, NASB, or NIV)
2. Reed, Mark. *Route 66: Travel Through the Bible Student Manual*. 3rd ed. Whitakers, NC: Positive Action for Christ, 2007. \$21.95

## Middle School: American History

**Grades:** 7-8

**Tuition:** \$250

**Teacher:** Tim Shaw

**Email:** trshaw7@hotmail.com

Learn the history of the United States from the earliest explorers to the present day. Understand our country's place in historic and geographic context, and how this relates to our role in the present world. Understand how various streams of Christian thought have interacted with our political and social history.

Students will complete Charlene Notgrass's America The Beautiful curriculum, which provides a high level overview of American history and geography. Weekly quizzes are in the America the Beautiful Student Workbook. Four quarterly writing projects of one to two pages will be assigned.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbook: *America the Beautiful Parts 1* by Charlene Notgrass  
1. <https://shop.notgrass.com/shop/ab1-america-the-beautiful-part-1-110?category=28#attr=>
2. Textbook: *America the Beautiful Parts 2* by Charlene Notgrass  
3. <https://shop.notgrass.com/shop/ab2-america-the-beautiful-part-2-111?category=28#attr=>
4. *Workbook: America the Beautiful Workbook from Notgrass*
5. <https://shop.notgrass.com/shop/absw-america-the-beautiful-student-workbook-132?category=28#attr=>
6. *Textbook: We the People Student Book from America the Beautiful series* by Notgrass
7. <https://shop.notgrass.com/shop/wp-we-the-people-114?category=28#attr=>

### OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

1. The America the Beautiful Literature Package is **NOT required**. This **OPTIONAL** package, designed to dovetail with Notgrass's history curriculum is intended to provide a separate English credit. This is outside the scope of this course.

## General Science: Science in the Atomic Age

**Grades:** 7-8

**Tuition:** \$290

**Teacher:** Cara Skarsten

**Email:** cara.skarsten@gmail.com

Science in the Atomic Age by Wile is a great survey of general science, introducing chemistry, botany, microbiology, anatomy and physiology and earth science. Tuition fees will also cover perishable/non-reusable lab materials, dissections and paper/copying costs.

### **CLASSROOM GOALS:**

We will cover the main ideas and concepts during class and apply our understanding with hands-on labs and dissections. We will take notes and do various activities in addition to the labs from the textbook, to help us understand the concepts as well.

### **SCIENCE HOMEWORK:**

To fully master these new concepts students need to read (or listen to) the assigned text each week and answer the comprehension check questions spread through the chapter, using a separate plain notebook to write answers. You are free to print all of the comprehension questions from the Berean Builders site for **free**, if you prefer to keep the comprehension check questions written with the student answers. On the Berean Builders site, click on the *Science in the Atomic Ages* textbook, then on the left side, click "product resources" and print the "student worksheets" or "student

workbook.” The workbook is the same plus pictures. I will either provide a test review or tell you which review questions to practice from the textbook. Due to the large volume of material, and to maximize class time, tests will be take-home. We also have a few assigned projects to complete outside of class for some chapters, instead of tests.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. *Science in The Atomic Age + Answer Key and Tests* by Dr. Jay L. Wile, publisher: Berean Builders.  
<https://bereanbuilders.com/ecommerce/product/science-in-the-atomic-age-set/>  
**\*\*Optional\*\*** *Science in the Atomic Age*, audio book. On the Berean Builders website, search, “audio.” It is \$21. If you want to hear a sample, look on Amazon, but buy from Berean Builders, Amazon is way more expensive. This is a fabulous option to help students learn these new concepts without being bogged down by the new science language and to keep on track. It is highly recommended, in addition to the textbook, if possible. <https://bereanbuilders.com/ecommerce/product/science-in-the-atomic-age-audio-book/>
2. One three-ring binder, 1 inch
3. One notebook, wide or college ruled, or one packet of loose leaf paper, three-hole-punched

## **Middle School Art: Mixed Media**

**Grades:** 7/8

**Tuition:** \$250

**Teacher:** Liz Wertz

**Email:** [eliz.wertz@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.wertz@gmail.com)

I’m so excited to finally offer a separate class for my middle schoolers! This year we’ll be diving into mixed media projects, where we’ll be exploring some unusual and unexpected art materials to create incredible 2D and 3D artworks. We’ll be doing a little bit of everything, from drawing with markers and colored pencils, to scratch board, watercolors, bookmaking and paper marbling, collage, acrylic painting, basketry, and found object sculpture! Our goal this year is to explore, create, and have fun while refining skills like drawing from a reference, studying the style of well known artists, and working with media that help us grow in new ways. **Homework:** The bulk of our projects will be completed in class, but on occasion students may be asked to research an artist/technique, do preliminary sketches, or complete unfinished artwork at home. This will be communicated in class as well as via my weekly email updates.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Your student should keep a paint shirt in their backpack; no sketchbook needed this year, though! We’ll be making our own!

## **Combined Middle School and Senior High Classes: Grades 7-12**

### **Middle School/High School Pre-Algebra**

**Grade:** 8-12

**Tuition:** \$275

**Teacher:** Kelly Caliguri

**Email:** [kellycaliguri@gmail.com](mailto:kellycaliguri@gmail.com)

This class prepares students for standard high school algebra. The students will be introduced to integers, fractions, square roots, step equations, linear equations, and decimals. They will learn to solve basic equations using variables. At a minimum, students must have completed 7th grade math.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbook: Easy Peasy Math Pre Algebra Workbook, ISBN-13 : 979-8606937806
2. Recommended: Easy Peasy Pre-Algebra Parent’s Guide ISBN-13 : 979-8631323513
3. Notebook

4. Pencils

### **Middle School/High School Algebra**

**Grade:** 8-12  
**Tuition:** \$300  
**Teacher:** Kelly Caliguri  
**Email:** kellycaliguri@gmail.com

Algebra I is a high school level math course that teaches students how to use numbers, letters, and mathematical symbols to solve problems. The class will introduce students to variables, algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, and functions. They will also learn to evaluate expressions, write equations, graph functions, solve quadratics, & understand inequalities.

#### **PRE-REQUISITES:**

Students should have completed Pre-Algebra before enrolling in this class.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Textbook: Easy Peasy Math Algebra 1 Workbook, ISBN-13 : 979-8606937806
2. Recommended: Easy Peasy Algebra 1 Workbook Answers ISBN-13 : 979-8399284361
3. Notebook
4. Pencils

### **Middle School/High School Choir**

**Grade:** 7-12  
**Tuition:** \$300  
**Teacher:** Danielle Colbenson  
**Email:** danielle.colbenson1988@gmail.com

#### **Middle School/High School Choir**

Choir will focus on experiencing the joy of music through singing. No previous experience or skill level is required. In this class, we will sing a variety of music from different cultures, musical eras and languages. Students will learn to sing in multiple voice parts, read and analyze music, and make connections to meaningful human experiences through the text.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. \$50 music fee included in tuition to cover the cost of music being distributed. This music will be theirs to keep.
2. Binder
3. Notebook
4. Pencil
5. Formal black dress clothes for performance. Black pants/formal shirt (or long dress). Black dress shoes. Black socks.

## German 2

**Grades:** 8-12

**Tuition:** \$260

**Teacher:** Ingrid Cook

**Email:** [ingccook@gmail.com](mailto:ingccook@gmail.com)

**\*\*\*Prerequisite: Completion of German 1 with a B- or better; or consent of the instructor.**

This class is a continuation of German 1, and will build upon what students already mastered in German 1. Students will continue to develop and expand their knowledge and skills in German conversation, reading and writing. The second year will progress at a slightly faster pace, and new vocabulary and grammar concepts will be introduced. Upon completion of German 2, students should be able to have basic conversations in German about themselves, their families, their surroundings, order at a restaurant, make basic purchases, and ask directions. We will continue to learn about German culture, Geography and some important historical and political figures from current German-speaking countries. There will be weekly vocabulary quizzes (either written or oral), quarterly tests, and weekly written and listening/speaking homework activities. Students will be expected to practice speaking in partner and group activities during class time.

**Mini Reports** – Fall Semester, students will give short reports in German on the German Bundesländer, leading up to a Geography Test on German regions, major cities and rivers. During the Spring Semester, each student will pick a famous German person and present a short poster report in German that will be read and presented to the class.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Folder or binder to keep handouts & written work
2. 30-40 pages of loose leaf paper
3. Pencils
4. Textbook: *German in 10 Minutes a Day*, BOOK + Audio CD's, by Kristine Kerschul; publisher: Bilingual Books, Inc. This is a workbook PLUS 6 Audio CD's that students listen to at home to help them with learning to hear and pronounce German correctly.
5. *German Made Simple*, by Eugene Jackson and Arnold Leitner; publisher: Three Rivers Press, New York
6. **Recommended:** *A German-English Dictionary*
1. **Please note:** I am considering adding a textbook called *Komm Mit!* and the accompanying workbook (listed below). If so, I will order these for each student in August, and then parents can pay me when they get them either at the Parent Orientation Meeting or on the first day of class.
  - a. *Komm Mit! German I*, Holt Publishing, 2006 Edition (prices vary from \$10.00 – \$35.00 depending on new or used; I will purchase used in good condition to save on price) ISBN 978-0-030-37254-4
  - b. *Komm Mit! Übungsheft* (approx. \$16.00)

## Middle School/ High School: Engineering Design: Systems and Structures

**Grade:** 7-12

**Tuition:** \$330

**Teacher:** Melissa Huppert, PhD

**Email:** [MH.engineer.class@gmail.com](mailto:MH.engineer.class@gmail.com)

### Engineering Design: Systems and Structures

This course challenges students in grades 7–12 to deepen their understanding of mechanical and structural engineering while integrating concepts from electrical systems, fluid power, and chemical reactions. Through the hands-on design and construction of a chain-reaction machine, students will explore how diverse engineering systems interact in real-world applications. *Expectations, assignments, and homework will be scaled by grade level.*

Using the engineering design process as a foundation, students will brainstorm, prototype, test, and refine their ideas while documenting their work in an engineering journal. The course emphasizes creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication across all stages of project development.

Students will work in teams to build complex machines that incorporate a variety of systems, learning through trial, feedback, and iteration. Along the way, they will explore multiple branches of engineering and related career pathways, gaining insight into the skills and knowledge required in different fields.

The course concludes with final presentations, where students reflect on their learning, share their design process, and showcase their final chain-reaction machines.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the *Engineering Machine Design Contest*, a regional event in March and a championship in April at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where teams present their chain-reaction machines. Contest participation is optional. Parents/guardians will be responsible for associated costs and some logistics (e.g., registration, transportation, supervision). Dr. Huppert will coordinate contest information and sign-ups in September.

### **Overarching Learning Goals:**

1. **Systems Integration in Engineering.** Understand how mechanical, electrical, fluid-power, and chemical systems function individually and how they can be integrated into complex engineering solutions.
2. **Engineering Design Process Mastery.** Apply the full engineering design process - Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, and Improve - to solve problems systematically and iteratively refine designs.
3. **Creative Problem-Solving and Innovation.** Use brainstorming and ideation techniques to develop innovative solutions to engineering challenges, thinking creatively and analytically.
4. **Collaboration and Teamwork.** Strengthen teamwork skills through shared responsibility, idea exchange, and group problem-solving in collaborative engineering projects.
5. **Design Visualization and Prototyping.** Develop the ability to sketch design concepts, build functional prototypes, and conduct tests to improve designs based on data and feedback.
6. **Communication and Presentation Skills.** Communicate design ideas clearly and effectively through written documentation, visual models, and oral presentations.
7. **Exploration of Engineering Careers.** Investigate various engineering career pathways, understanding the skills, knowledge, and educational opportunities aligned with each field.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Textbook: TBD (will be approximately \$10-25)
2. 2 spiral notebooks or composition books (1 for engineering journal, 1 for reflective journal)
3. Folder with pockets (to store handouts)
4. Pencils w/ erasers
5. Colored pencils or markers (for detailed sketches) - *optional*
6. Ruler (for sketching)
7. Heavy-duty scissors (must be able to cut cardboard)
8. Glue stick
9. Roll of masking tape
10. Roll of duct tape
11. Box or case for organizing supplies
12. Hot glue gun and glue sticks
13. Safety glasses
14. Miscellaneous household supplies and junk (varies by activity; details will be sent home with the student at the appropriate time)

## Senior High Classes: Grades 9-12

### French 2 \*\*\*Off Campus\*\*\*

- Grades:** 8-12  
**Tuition:** \$300  
**Teacher:** Brooke Ahlert  
**Email:** brookeahlert@gmail.com  
**Note:** See class Syllabus for Schedules and Location

This class will consist of two components—an independent study at home, and group speaking practice at bi-monthly meetings.

The goals of this class will be...

- to further each student's abilities in French speaking, reading, and writing
- to further each student's speaking ability in everyday life situations
- to allow each student to move at his or her own pace

#### INDEPENDENT STUDY

A study place including lessons, drills, and exercises will be made for the student by the teacher. The student will move at his or her own pace through the study plan. The student will also be assigned poetry to recite at meetings to check for pronunciation, as well as compositions to hand in. These recitations and compositions will be catered to the student's needs.

#### MEETINGS

The meetings will take place at the listed locations. At meetings, the teacher will check in with the student's progress and work through any challenging areas with the student. The teacher will also have the student recite poetry and hand in any compositions assigned. As a group, the students will engage in various activities to work on speaking French in context. Students will also work together on projects such as creating a French newscast, a mini podcast, or a commercial.

Meetings will last approximately 2 hours. Students may drive themselves or parents may drop their child off and leave or stay.

Prerequisite: Completion of French 1 with a grade of B or higher

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Folder
2. Mme Ahlert's companion notebook. This notebook will include all grammar concepts, powerpoint slides (with sections for note taking), reading material, and glossary for class. Contact Mme Ahlert for more information.
3. Otto Siepmann's French Primary Book 1 \$10.00 (Amazon)
4. French Dictionary comparable to Oxford French Dictionary (recommended)
5. Notecards (recommended)
6. Families will need to have access to the internet in case we need to have zoom meetings to unforeseen circumstances, or inclement weather. I will also be sending practice videos and emails to the students or parents.

### French 3 \*\*\*Off Campus\*\*\*

- Grades:** 8-12  
**Tuition:** \$300  
**Teacher:** Brooke Ahlert  
**Email:** brookeahlert@gmail.com  
**Note:** See class Syllabus for Schedules and Location

This class will consist of two components—an independent study at home, and group speaking practice at bi-monthly meetings.

The goals of this class will be...

- to further each student’s abilities in French speaking, reading, and writing
- to further each student’s speaking ability in everyday life situations
- to allow each student to move at his or her own pace

#### INDEPENDENT STUDY

A study place including lessons, drills, and exercises will be made for the student by the teacher. The student will move at his or her own pace through the study plan. The student will also be assigned poetry to recite at meetings to check for pronunciation, as well as compositions to hand in. These recitations and compositions will be catered to the student’s needs.

#### MEETINGS

The meetings will take place at the listed locations. At meetings, the teacher will check in with the student’s progress and work through any challenging areas with the student. The teacher will also have the student recite poetry and hand in any compositions assigned. As a group, the students will engage in various activities to work on speaking French in context. Students will also work together on projects such as creating a French newscast, a mini podcast, or a commercial.

Meetings will last approximately 2 hours. Students may drive themselves or parents may drop their child off and leave or stay.

Prerequisite: Completion of French 2 with a grade of B or higher

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Folder
2. Mme Ahlert’s companion notebook. This notebook will include all grammar concepts, powerpoint slides (with sections for note taking), reading material, and glossary for class. Contact Mme Ahlert for more information.
3. Otto Siepmann’s French Primary Book 1 & 2 \$10.00 each (Amazon)
4. French Dictionary comparable to Oxford French Dictionary (recommended)
5. Notecards (recommended)
6. Families will need to have access to the internet in case we need to have zoom meetings to unforeseen circumstances, or inclement weather. I will also be sending practice videos and emails to the students or parents.

## **High School Written Communications 1 \*\*Online\*\***

**Grade:** 9/10

**Tuition:** \$300

**Teacher:** Kendal Bauermeister

**Email:** bauermeisterkendal@gmail.com

#### **Written Communications 1**

Written communications 1 is ideal for the exploring writer who has a lot of the basics down. We will delve into how to take notes from lectures, how to organize notes to help with studying, and citations and APA paper formatting. We will explore ideal short answers and short essay writing, learn about research strategies, and write a research paper from beginning to end. We will also explore persuasive and personal essays, often found in applications and real-life situations. We will also have a poetry unit where we study and create our own poetry. Last, but not least, the fan favorite of last year: we will have a short story unit where we will break down all of the elements of fictional literature, learn how to create characters, scenes, and plots for short stories. Students will leave with more confidence in their writing and an ability to peer review others' work, edit, and know what to look for when self-editing their work.

\*If your student is an advanced writer, please feel free to sign them up for Written Communications 2

\*\* Students will need access to Google Classroom, Google Docs or Word, and possibly an email address to exchange papers for peer reviews.

\*\*\*I will post lectures. However, I will also have “office hours” available by Zoom for students to ask questions or get help on their writing.

\*\*\*Students will also have small groups where I will hold zoom meetings for them to peer review one another's work and give feedback.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 3 ring binder
2. Pencils
3. Loose leaf paper
4. Access to computer

## High School Written Communications 2 \*\*Online\*\*

**Grade:** 11/12

**Tuition:** \$300

**Teacher:** Kendal Bauermeister

**Email:** bauermeisterkendal@gmail.com

### Written Communications 2

Written Communications 2 is ideal for the advanced writer looking forward to college, work, or personal achievements after high school. This class will explore organized note taking, fine-tuning proper citations, and paper formatting for future writing endeavors. We will perfect our short answer/essay writing and work more deeply into our research-based strategies before applying them to our research paper. We will then explore persuasive and personal essays, often found in applications and real-life situations. We will learn more about short stories, their emotional impact, and how to draw in a reader from beginning to end with character arcs and plot twists. Our class will end with a poetry unit or flash fiction, another fan favorite from last year. During the year, students will have the advantage of working at home with posted lectures, coming to "office hour" Zoom meetings for help with their writing, and having peer reviews as they learn what to look for in editing and giving feedback. This class is more rigorous and will be graded higher, preparing them for work or college standards.

\*\* Students will need access to Google Classroom, Google Docs or Word, and possibly an email address to exchange papers for peer reviews.

\*\*\*I will post lectures. However, I will also have "office hours" available by Zoom for students to ask questions or get help on their writing.

\*\*\*Students will also have small groups where I will hold zoom meetings for them to peer review one another's work and give feedback.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 3 ring binder
2. Pencil
3. Loose leaf paper
4. Access to computer

## Physics

**Grades:** 10-12 (Prerequisite Algebra and Geometry)

**Tuition:** \$350

**Teacher:** Kelly Caliguri

**Email:** kellycaliguri@gmail.com

Physics is the scientific study of matter, its fundamental constituents, its motion and behavior through space and time, and the related entities of energy and force. It is one of the most fundamental scientific disciplines. The class time will be used to discuss topics and perform physical labs that support the topic.

This class is designed for 10th-12th grade students who have completed Algebra 1 and Geometry. Classroom time will be divided into material review (1/3) and laboratory experiment (2/3). As you might expect with Physics, labs will center on exploring laws and theories of the created universe and require significant calculation and documentation. Tuition fee will also cover printing and copying costs and the use of other consumable goods for laboratory experiments.

Topics to be explored:

- Velocity and Acceleration
- Newton's Laws
- Vectors
- Gravity
- Kinetic and Potential Energy, Momentum and Power
- Rotational Motion
- Thermodynamics
- Sound, water and light waves, as well as reflection and refraction
- Electromagnetism

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. *Master's Class High School Physics, Textbook*, Dr. Dennis Englin. Published by Master's Books  
<https://www.masterbooks.com/masters-class-high-school-physics>
2. Supplemental Instruction is available on the Master's Books Academy website.  
<https://www.masterbooksacademy.com/course/physics>

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS:**

1. Three Ring Binder (1"), Tabbed subject dividers (3), and college rule loose-leaf paper.

**CLASSROOM GOALS:**

My time with your child each week is limited, and, therefore, we will spend most of each class in a laboratory setting. We will focus on both completing experiments in an effective and efficient manner and also documenting experiments in such a way that others can understand and interpret the data and reproduce the experiment. During classroom time we will also briefly review the material assigned for home study. At home your child will be expected to read from the text daily and complete any written assignments, tests, and experiments not scheduled for class. I do encourage you to email me with any questions throughout the year.

**SCIENCE HOMEWORK:**

Your child will be required to read the assigned text each week and record main points in their notebook. Study guides and practice problems are extremely helpful and should be completed as prep for module tests and/or quarterly exams. Module tests are required to be completed at home, turned in, and will be graded upon completion of each module. Quarterly Exams will be held in the classroom.

## **Equine Science 101**

**Grades:** 9-12

**Tuition:** \$150 (Spring Semester only)

**Teacher:** Ingrid Cook

**Email:** [ingccook@gmail.com](mailto:ingccook@gmail.com)

**\*1/2 Credit Science Elective**

This 1 semester class will provide students with an introduction to horse breeds, disciplines, care, equipment, basic horsemanship principles and an overview of the Horse Industry in the United States. According to *The Horse Review*:

“Recent economic studies by the American Horse Council (AHC) shed light on the monumental financial impact of equine activities nationwide. According to the AHC, the horse industry contributes approximately \$122 billion annually to the U.S. economy. This figure includes direct contributions such as breeding, training,

racing, and recreation, as well as ripple effects through indirect jobs and support industries like feed suppliers, veterinarians, and farriers.

### **Employment Impact**

The equine sector supports significant employment across the nation, providing jobs to nearly 1.7 million people. These range from trainers and riders to those involved in transportation and stable maintenance. Such employment opportunities directly fuel local and state economies, with many rural areas heavily reliant on the industry for financial stability.”

Cited from: <https://www.midsouthhorsereview.com/the-economic-impact-of-the-equine-industry-in-the-united-states>

Students will build a portfolio of their favorite breeds and disciplines, along with guides on equipment, care and basic horse handling principles. As part of the class they will give a presentation on a specific breed and discipline that interests them the most.

There will be one session scheduled in May at Mrs. Cook’s barn to get some hands-on experience in grooming and leading a horse.

The class will also be invited to participate in an optional trail ride arranged by Mrs. Cook at a Riding Outfitter in our area (about an hour and 30 minute drive). There will be an extra fee for this activity, typically \$50-60/person, and will be scheduled in May or June, 2026.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Folder or binder to keep handouts & written work
2. Binder inserts for making portfolio pages.
3. Textbook: *The Original Horse Bible: The Definitive Source for all Things Horse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*  
Paperback, selling for \$29.99 on Amazon.

## **Introductory Logic: The Fundamentals of Thinking Well**

**Grade:** 8-12

**Tuition:** \$300

**Teacher:** Pastor Adam Christian

**Email:** [adamchristian.journey@gmail.com](mailto:adamchristian.journey@gmail.com)

Logic is the science and art of reasoning well. Far more than mere common sense, it is reasoning conducted and assessed according to strict principles of validity, proof, and inference and involves the systematic use of symbolic techniques to determine the forms of a valid deductive argument.

In other words, logic is a super power! It allows you to become fluent in the language of reasoning which underpins much of life. Studying logic trains you to think critically, to identify assumptions and define terms, to construct effective arguments, and to avoid flawed reasoning. Logic is the foundation for clear communication, accurate comprehension, informed decision-making, problem solving, ordering operations, and understanding the world around us.

On a practical level, the skills learned in logic are transferable to a wide range of studies and fields such as: Science, Mathematics, Communication, Engineering, Law, Computer Science, Philosophy, Theology, and Apologetics. Studying logic is also particularly helpful for doing well on tests such as the ACT and SAT. From a Christian perspective, logic can help us better understand scripture and theology, thus leading to a deeper relationship with God. It also helps us discern truth from falsehood and identify the lies and false arguments which are harmful to our lives and our faith.

The goal of this class is to introduce students to: the basic terms and definitions used in logic; statements and their relationships; syllogisms and their validity; arguments in normal English; informal fallacies. Class will be in-person for 30 sessions with 2-4 hours of homework a week including readings, practice exercises, and short quizzes. Completion of the course will be one high school credit. The class is geared toward students grades 9-10, but is open to students grades 8-12.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Holy Bible (CSB, NIV, ESV, or NASB)

2. *Introductory Logic: The Fundamentals of Thinking Well* by Canon Press ISBN-13: 978-1-59128-165-8.  
<https://www.amazon.com/Introductory-Logic-Fundamentals-Thinking-Student/dp/1591281652>
3. One College Ruled Notebook (spiral or composition)
4. Pens
5. A Curious Mind

## **High School: Psychology**

**Grade:** 11/12 (mature 10th graders with instructor's permission)

**Tuition:** \$330

**Teacher:** Marleen Meyer MSSW, LICSW, MBA

**Email:** [marleenmeyerteacher@gmail.com](mailto:marleenmeyerteacher@gmail.com)

1 Peter 5:7 states, "Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you", and Phil. 4:13 states, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength". How apropos these verses are as we explore the world of psychology from a Biblical worldview; understanding that it is not by our might or by our power but by the Lord's spirit (Zechariah 4:6) that we are able to heal and make changes in our lives.

In this class we will not only be studying the topic of psychology but learning how to approach psychology from a Christian perspective; understanding that the Bible is our inspiration and authority for all our studies. Our textbook was written by Dr. Tim Rice, who holds a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree and is also a licensed professional counselor (LPC).

### **Classroom goals:**

1. Participation is paramount! Come to learn, share, grow and understand the people God created!
2. Discussion of our weekly readings.
3. Bi-weekly quizzes, year-end exam.

### **Psychology homework:**

1. Weekly readings from our textbook, additional books or other materials provided.
2. Weekly/bi-weekly study guide completion.
3. For AP or CLEP: Weekly/bi-weekly essay questions.

\*\*This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement (AP) or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests.

4. Additional projects: Clifton Strengths (Strengths Finder) and a family genogram.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Psychology A Christian Perspective High School Edition, 2015, (not the homeschool edition). Dr. Tim Rice.
2. Psychology: A Christian Perspective High School Edition Teacher's Guide, 2018 (not the homeschool edition). Dr. Tim Rice (Both books can be found at [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com))
3. \*\*Please note our textbook only covers 15 weeks and this is a 30-week course so we will supplement with the other listed books.
4. Your Amazing Brain (The Epic Illustrated Guide), Jessica Sinarski. (This can be either in book or e-book format).
5. Clifton Strengths for Students, 2017, by Gallup. (needs to be a new book with the access code unopened in the back of the book).

## From Eden to Eternity: The Bible's Story and Yours

**Grades:** 9-12

**Tuition:** \$240

**Teacher:** Daniel Radke

**Email:** dradke@ambassadorcollege.education

The Bible is fundamentally one grand narrative centered upon the person and work of Christ. In this two-semester course for high school students, we will walk through the overarching storyline of Scripture, from Eden to Eternity. Two major biblical-theological themes—covenant and God's kingdom—will be utilized to tell the grand story of the Bible.

Along the way, we will stop to focus on key spiritual formation concepts in our lives—our story—that arise out of the Bible's story. These include identity, purpose, vocation, fellowship, worship, hope, and mission. The assignments for this course will include Bible reading, memory verses, written reflections, and quizzes.

The major goals of this course are to grasp how the whole Bible fits together and to discern how our story fits into God's grand story for His world. Students are encouraged to see and live their lives out of the context of their place in the biblical drama, for God's glory and our neighbors' good. Along with every Bible course here at Journey, this course is designed to further equip students for a life-long journey of learning to know and treasure God through studying and applying His Word to their everyday lives.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Bible (preferred translation: ESV, NASB, or NIV)
2. Trent Hunter and Stephen Wellum, *Christ from Beginning to End: How the Full Story of Scripture Reveals the Full Glory of Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018. \$26.99.
3. Second textbook TBD

## High School: American History

**Grades:** 9-12

**Tuition:** \$250

**Teacher:** Tim Shaw

**Email:** trshaw7@hotmail.com

Learn the history of the United States from the earliest explorers to the present day. Understand our country's place in historical context, and how this relates to our role in the present world. Understand how various streams of Christian thought have interacted with our political and social history. Students will complete Ray Notgrass's *Exploring America* curriculum, and write weekly "tell it back to me" essays of 300-500 words.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbook: *Exploring America Part 1 and 2* by Ray Notgrass
8. <https://shop.notgrass.com/shop/eacp-exploring-america-curriculum-package-578?category=13#attr=>
9. Textbook: *American Voices*, from Notgrass History
10. <https://shop.notgrass.com/shop/av-american-voices-581?category=13#attr=>

### OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

1. The *Exploring American Literature Package* is **NOT required**. This **OPTIONAL** package, designed to dovetail with Notgrass's history curriculum is intended to provide a separate English credit. This is outside the scope of this course.

## **Discovering Design with Biology**

**Grades:** 9-12

**Tuition:** \$315

**Teacher:** Cara Skarsten

**Email:** cara.skarsten@gmail.com

This class is interactive, hands-on, diverse and challenging. Students discover the amazing design that exists from atoms and DNA to humans as we study all the kingdoms of living things. Class will be lab-focused with dissections, along with many experiments and frequent microscope use. Students are expected to prepare for class by reading (or listening to audio) text beforehand and completing required work. All labs, dissections, activities and printing costs are included in tuition. For a more complete description, please follow the link below:

<https://bereanbuilders.com/mkt/res/scope/9798985252941ss.pdf>

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Discovering Design With Biology + Test Manual Set by Dr. Jay L. Wile, publisher: Berean Builders. Student Text ISBN 979-8-9852529-4- <https://www.rainbowresource.com/ddwbio.html>
2. Three Ring Binder (1”), and loose-leaf paper.

### **CLASSROOM GOALS:**

We will come to class prepared to apply our understanding with hands-on labs and dissections. We will take notes and do various activities in addition to the labs from the textbook, to help us understand the concepts as well.

### **SCIENCE HOMEWORK:**

Your child will be required to read the assigned text each week and record main points in their Student Notebook. Study guides and practice problems are extremely helpful and should be completed as prep for module tests and/or quarterly exams. The study guides are free to print on the Berean website, in addition to being in the textbook. Module tests are required to be completed at home, turned in, and will be graded upon completion of each module. Quarterly Exams will be held in the classroom. I do encourage you to email me with any questions throughout the year.

## **Senior High Art: Traditional and Modern**

**Grades:** 9-12

**Tuition:** \$270

**Teacher:** Liz Wertz

**Email:** eliz.wertz@gmail.com

This is the first year that I’m offering an art class just for my high schoolers! Students will have the time and space to be able to dive into advanced techniques, while still being approachable for those who may not have as much prior experience with art. We’ll not only look at traditional art techniques like ceramics (which my older students have been requesting for a while!), still life painting and micrography, but we’ll also be looking at more recent applications in the art world that lead to more modern uses, from literary illustration to font design. Plus, students will have time to create a passion project, a painting of their choice using sketches, reference materials, ideas from art history, personal experiences, etc. I’m so excited to give these students the opportunity to delve deep into art and have the time to create detailed, incredible works of art!

**Homework:** The bulk of our projects will be completed in class, but on occasion students may be asked to research an artist/technique, do preliminary sketches, or complete unfinished artwork at home. This will be communicated in class as well as via my weekly email updates.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

1. 8 x 10 (or larger) Sketchbook