

Hilltop Potential Afternoon Classes for 2022/23

All Ages:

Piano Lessons

Katie Withrow, 35, lives in Island Lake and has been teaching piano for over 10 years. She believes reading music and making music is a gift every child should be given and loves to teach music via the piano. She has a BA in Church Music, Vocal Performance, from Indiana Wesleyan University and has been playing piano since she was 6 years old. Katie gives classical piano instruction while utilizing some methods of Suzuki and other contemporaries. She also teaches theory and chord understanding for those who are interested in playing piano in contemporary worship. Katie was a Worship Pastor for 4 years before following God's call to move with her family to the area. She is excited to continue to spread the love of music with you!

1st-3rd Grade

Prairie Primer - Laura Ingalls Wilder

Instructor: Steffanie Culp

This class is going to read a total of 6 Laura Ingalls Wilder books over the course of the school year. We will read Little House in the Big Woods, Little House on the Prairie, and On the Banks of Plum Creek in the fall. In the Spring semester, we will read The Long Winter, Farmer Boy, and These Happy Years. Students will be given weekly reading comprehension questions to answer at home. During class time, we will discuss the assigned chapters and do activities that connect to the things we've read. Sometimes that will be crafts, cooking, making candles, and all sorts of other ways we can connect to these delightful stories! This class entails a lot of reading. Parents of younger students should consider reading the books aloud to their kids or borrowing the audiobooks from their library to help them get through the material each week.

Let's Talk Science Adventures in Creation: Level 1 (Grades 1-3/Ages 5-7)

Instructor: Santina Orlando

Adventures in Creation is an early elementary science curriculum designed to bring the Bible to life and instill a love for science. Through exploration, investigations, and biblically inspired stories, your students will discover that science is a wonderful tool God has given us to study His creation. They will learn more about His nature as they ask questions and experience God's world through science. Students completing this course will:

- Learn that the study of science starts with the Bible
- Explore the days of creation and learn about the amazing things that God designed on each day
- Discover that science teaches many lessons about God and about our relationship with Him
- Develop a love for science through hands-on exploration and experimentation
- Compile a science notebook as they document their discoveries and share what they've learned with others

4th-6th Grade

Geography through Holling C. Holling Literature

Instructor: Steffanie Culp

In this class we will learn geography, history and so much more through the beautifully illustrated stories of Holling C. Holling. These books give children a memorable introduction to features of the world God has made. They also contain history of the continental United States and the biology of plants and animals of land and sea. Parents are encouraged to read 3-5 "chapters" each week at home with their students so they are familiar with what will be discussed in class. (The chapters are usually 1-2 pages.) In class we will talk about the stories and then engage in lapbook activities as crafts that connect with the things we've learned about in the week's reading. We will read *Paddle to the Sea* and *Tree in the Trail* in the Fall. For the Spring semester we will read *Minn of the Mississippi*, *Seabird*, and *Pagoo*. These books can be found on Amazon and Ebay inexpensively as well as through your local library.

4th-8th Grade

Lego Simple Machines

Instructor: Steffanie Culp

This class is an early introduction to how creativity leads to invention. Exploring the use of gears and other simple machines with the thousands of options that lego bricks provide will give students a chance to learn basic instruction following and develop their own ideas at the same time.

Greek and Latin Roots

Instructor: Steffanie Culp

Over 60% of English words have Greek or Latin roots. This class will help your student develop knowledge of those roots and learn to spot them in words we use every day! Most importantly, we will have a lot of fun doing it as every week will incorporate games to reinforce the content of the class.

Who Am I? And What Am I Doing Here?

Grades 6-8

Instructor: Donna Ricci

This is the second book in the "What We Believe" series, "Who Am I? And What Am I Doing Here?" this book helps students understand what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. Students will develop a healthy Biblical self-image based on these truths: God made me in His image and crowned me with glory; He has given me special gifts and a unique purpose in life; I can creatively express God's love; I am meant to think about praiseworthy things, especially God and His Word; I must make decisions based on God's truth; I am a beloved child of God whose identity is found in Christ. This class is an apologetics curriculum. Each lesson features an introduction to the main topic, short stories, thought-provoking questions, important vocabulary words, Bible memory verses, interesting interdisciplinary topics, godly character traits that students should demonstrate as a response, prayer. We will create a passport laptop book, to travel to different areas across the US and other Countries to understand and compare different worldviews/religions to that of Christianity. The book introduces a middle school age student's perspective on being a Muslim, Mormon, New Age Spiritualist, Hindu, Buddhist, Communist and other non-Christian beliefs. Homework/Week: 1-2 Hours.

High School

High School Spanish

Instructor: Lauren Ruiz

Grades 9-12 (willing to open to 8th if mature enough to handle the the weekly homework)
We will be learning some basic Spanish skills and conversation in various categories/themes.

Faith and Reason

Instructor: Char Manley

Faith and Reason Made Simple by Rick McGough will be our main textbook, along with the corresponding workbook and accompanying videos. Students will encounter topics including; our world view and our mission, how to share and defend our Christian faith, the six flaws in the Theory of Evolution, how design in the human cell & DNA affirms creation, understanding human history, the truth of Jesus Christ - Son of God, the Savior of the world, dealing with questions & criticisms of skeptics, dealing with homosexuality and other social issues, Christianity and other world religions, and reason, love and Holy Spirit power.

We will be exploring a variety of learning methods including memorization, interactive illustrations, written article analysis, oral presentations and debate scenarios to help sharpen students' skills in apologetics. I believe this to be a critical time in our students' development, especially for those who are planning to attend secular universities in the future. I am thrilled to dive into this class and His Word with your students this year!

Dust to Glory

Instructor: Donna Ricci

Through the short lecture videos provided by Dr. R.C Sproul, we will explore the major themes, events, and people that are brought to life in the Bible. Dust to Glory provides a panorama of Biblical truth and a starting point to help understand the content of the Bible. The goal is to energize your student's knowledge of the Bible, provide new insights and improve their ability to read, understand and apply Scripture to their life. This course is a combination of a comprehensive Bible study, lecture and teaching. Including; applied learning objectives, scripture readings, and class discussion. This class is for the student who has been reading the Bible for a while on their own or barely familiar with its contents. The overview series by R.C. Sproul will help them see the overarching development of God's plan of salvation by studying the Old Testament and New Testament, with a focus on the Old Testament. As Dr. R.C. Sproul states: "It is my hope that Dust to Glory will encourage, stimulate and assist students to master the Scriptures so that the Scriptures may master them."

Class will meet HSLDA requirements for a full credit.

History and Constitution

Instructor: Donna Ricci

First Semester: An overview of American history. This class you will learn the story of one nation, our nation, the United States of America. You will learn how America came to be a nation, who its famous people have been and what important events have taken place in America. From the Dawn of the Modern Age, European explorers to the new world, Colonial life, Early government, the War of Independence. You'll be learning every aspect of the road to the revolution which will lead to the Constitution of the United States of America. Also, you will discover America's great documents and learn how the truths of the Bible made America the greatest nation on the face of the earth. You will learn how America became "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Second Semester: We will focus on the U.S. Constitution, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Political Parties and Elections, Local Government and Foreign Policy.

High School Geometry

Instructor: Sandy Laker

In geometry you will do more than proofs. First you will learn the basics such as lines, rays and all about angles. You will learn area, perimeter and volume, radicals and special triangles. You will also learn Pythagorean Theorem and yes, you will do proofs. Class time is learning the new lesson and lesson practice. There is a test for each lesson that is graded by the teacher. Answers to daily pages are given by the teacher to parents so they can grade the daily pages before the student takes the lesson test. We will complete the book and students receive 1 HS credit. The class can be taken for honors credit. Weekly objectives, homework, and grades will be on Canvas.

Required book: Math-U-See Geometry student pack

Earth Science (grades 8 -10)

Instructor: Sandy Laker

In Earth Science you will be learning all about this wonderful world that God has created for us to live in, and our place in the universe. We will start by learning basic science concepts and the earth's crust, which includes rocks and minerals. We will then study the earth's lithosphere - tsunamis and volcanoes. You will also learn about fossils, the geological column, the hydrosphere and atmosphere and how that affects the weather. And you will end the year studying our solar system and the Universe. We will complete the book and students receive 1 HS credit. Weekly objectives, homework, and grades will be on Canvas.

Required book: Berean Builders Discovering Design with Earth Science textbook

American Sign Language II (ASL II)

Instructor: Sandy Laker

ASL II will expand on what you learned in ASL I to allow you to communicate in day to day life. We will start the class with storytelling from unit 6 of Signing Naturally Units 1-6 then the rest of the class will be from the unit 7 – 12 book. You will learn more about grammar, how to describe people and things in more detail, make requests and ask for advice. You will then learn how to describe neighborhoods and buildings, and give directions on how to get to places in town. Later you will learn to give opinions, and learn the different ways to sign numbers when telling age, time and prices. Class time is learning new signs, both expressively and receptively. Weekly homework includes watching videos of interpreters signing the material learned during class. Weekly objectives, homework, and grades will be on Canvas.

Required book: Signing naturally Units 7 - 12 (with homework DVD's)

Prerequisite: ASL I

High School Chemistry

Instructor: Sandy Laker

In Chemistry students will learn about matter and its interactions. Topics include measurements, organization of the periodic table, atomic structure, chemical bonding, molecular geometry, physical & chemical changes, stoichiometry, solutions, ideal gases, acids & bases, reduction/oxidation reactions and thermodynamics. This class will be 1 ½ hours and will combine both lecture/discussion and experiments. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Experiments and sample equations that support the concepts are done weekly in class. A chapter will be completed every 2 weeks. Tests and lab reports will be graded by the teacher. Students will receive 1 HS credit, and be well prepared for college level science. Class can be taken for honors credit.

Weekly objectives, homework are on Canvas in addition to tests and grades.

Required book: Berean Builders Discovering Design with Chemistry textbook

Chemistry 101 DVD's (if honors credit is desired)

Prerequisite: algebra I (or taking it concurrently)

High School Art History

Instructor: Steffanie Culp

This class is a place we will explore where history, technology, and an artist's perspective intersects. We will discuss various artists' styles and techniques. Then engage in making projects that give us a chance to experience more directly, and in depth, what we've learned about. I am willing to make this course a graded elective for those interested.

Stewardship A Biblical Approach to Personal Finance

Instructor: Jenny Swanson

Stewardship, 2nd Edition, Published by Math-U-See is Consumer Math taught from a biblical perspective. With Steve Demme's signature humility, humor, and sharp math skills, practical math instruction is combined with Biblical principles of finance and discipleship material. The second edition is updated with current topics relevant to young people aged 15-17, who are beginning to explore more independent financial opportunities and responsibilities.

In class, we will watch the video, discuss the math concepts and work on the first lesson. Subsequent lessons will be completed at home. We will also discuss the biblical principles that go along with that week's math lesson. For a sample lesson visit: <https://store.demmelearning.com> "Stewardship".

Cinema Studies for Literature Learning by 7Sisters

Instructor: Jenny Swanson

Cinema Studies for Literature Learning is a Language Arts curriculum for homeschool high school.

Can you REALLY use movies as literature?

While reading books is still a necessary part of a teen's high school education, ANALYSIS skills for literature is just as important. Cinema Studies for Literature Learning teaches analysis skills in the context of studying the great stories in great movies. In this way, teens get some basic Language Arts tools that they need.

It is geared to the visual learner in high school, to those who are reluctant readers or for whom reading is very time-consuming, and to those who love movies! Good movies tell good stories, and good storytelling requires the use of traditionally respected literary devices and techniques. With a little help from a study guide, many movies introduce the viewer to excellent literature that is being presented in a visual medium.