**CHEX Course Descriptions 2018-19**

**Writing, Literature, & Speech / Renita Gerlach / 24 weeks / $168 / Grades 9-12 1 credit**

Reading, writing, listening, & speaking: these are the foundations of communication that will be tackled by students in Writing-Literature-Speech class. Students will practice research writing and essay structure, including timed impromptu essays such as appear on the SAT. Other types of writing, such as text reconstruction, narrative, persuasive, literature response, and weekly informal journal writing, will be incorporated in the class as well. Students will plan and deliver several speeches, with topics to be determined. A unit on literature (book TBD) will be the basis for writing and speech during one segment of the class.

Mrs. Gerlach’s goal is to be the students’ writing coach and take them from where they are in communicating to the next level, based on their individual needs and abilities. It is important to her to create a “classroom community,” a safe place for young people to hear and be heard, encouraging one another in their communication skills. Students will have homework assignments that take approximately 30-40 minutes each weekday. *Prerequisite:* This is a high school level course, and students should have a good foundation in essay writing.

Students must own a copy of *Writers INC*, **2005 or 2006 edition** (one is hard cover, the other paperback, but contents are the same) ISBN # 978-0-669-52994-4 (purchase independently but please make sure it's the correct edition - the older editions do not work for this class). Price does not include a possible fee for literature study guide (approx. $5-10).

**Apologia Biology / Lisa J. Sanchez / 24 weeks / $170 / Grades 9-11 1 credit**

This course uses Apologia’s Exploring Creation with Biology, 2nd Edition, designed for 9th through 11th graders. Classes will focus on performing the hands-on experiments and labs. A syllabus will be provided and students should expect to spend 3-4 hours per week on homework including writing lab reports. Each family must purchase the textbook independently. Parents will administer and grade tests, also purchased independently. *Prerequisite:* Apologia’s Physical Science or an equivalent academic-level course.

**Apologia Advanced Biology / Elena Regitz / 24 weeks / $170 / Grades 10-12 1 credit**

This course uses Apologia’s Advanced Biology: The Human Body, 2nd Edition. Classes will focus on experiments and lab work as well as understanding of concepts. A syllabus will be provided and students should expect to spend 3-4 hours per week on homework including writing lab reports. Each family must purchase the textbook independently. Parents will administer and grade tests, also purchased independently. This is a college-prep course designed for 10th thru 12th graders. *Prerequisite:* Students must have completed high school biology.

**Apologia General Science / Elena Regitz / 16 weeks / $80 / Grades 7-9**

Apologia’s Exploring Creation with General Science, 2nd edition, is an overview course designed to introduce middle school students to the basic fields of science and to teach proper use of the scientific method. A syllabus will be provided and students should expect to spend 3-4 hours per week on homework including writing lab reports. Each family must purchase the textbook independently. Parents will administer and grade tests, also purchased independently. This class is an excellent foundation for future academic sciences.

**True U01: Does God Exist? / James Richter / 12 weeks / $84 / Grades 7-12**

The True U series, taught by Dr. Stephen Meyer and published by Focus on the Family, examines faith and reason, the scientific claims of the Big Bang Theory and DNA, the philosophical challenges to Christianity, and the moral necessity of theism. Dr. Meyer examines the evidence helping students defend their faith. This is an ideal introductory course for those interested in exploring how to answer questions or to deepen their own faith.

Additional resources will be introduced to encourage learning. We will explore philosophical, scientific, and religious perspectives. Classes will include discussions, role-playing, and research. *Requirements*: Students must purchase their own True U01 discussion guide ($7) ISBN-13: 9781589976917 and be involved in class discussions.

Homework will include discussion guide work, some light weekly reading or research, informal quizzes to asses understanding of the content, and a one or two-page essay due at the end of the course. Mr. Richter wants the class to encourage and inspire the students to learn about God, so homework will engage them in the process – stretching some but not overwhelming.

**True U02: Is the Bible Reliable? / James Richter / 12 weeks / $84 / Grades 7-12**

The True U series, taught by Dr. Stephen Meyer and published by Focus on the Family, examines the historical and archaeological research which demonstrates the veracity and reliability of Scripture. Dr. Meyer examines the evidence helping students strengthen and defend their faith. This is an ideal introductory course for those interested in exploring how to answer questions or to deepen their own faith.

Additional resources will be introduced to encourage learning. We will explore philosophical, scientific, and religious perspectives. Classes will include discussions, role-playing, and research. *Requirements*: Students must purchase their own True U02 discussion guide ($7) ISBN-13: 9781589976207 and be involved in class discussions.

Homework will include discussion guide work, some light weekly reading or research, informal quizzes to asses understanding of the content, and a one or two-page essay due at the end of the course. Mr. Richter wants the class to encourage and inspire the students to learn about God, so homework will engage them in the process – stretching some but not overwhelming.

**Smashbooks / Becky Schick / 8 weeks / $25 / Grades 7-12**

Smashbooking is a form of scrapbooking where anything goes. No nice, neat, perfectly planned pages. Lots of messy, good-enough “just smashing it in” pages. Each week I will choose a topic to focus our creation around and also an artistic technique to learn. This class will be fun, messy, and start the students on a fat, juicy smashbook they can continue after our eight weeks are through. Any age and ability can smashbook because it’s totally your own creation. Books and supplies will be provided.

**Real Food, Real Nutrition / Jennifer Anteau / 8 weeks / $40 / Grades 7-12**

In this class we will study what nutrition is and the effects it has on the human body. We will look at the benefits of whole foods while breaking it down into the different components, such as fats, proteins, fruits & vegetables, superfoods & vitamins, and grains. We will also discuss allergies and intolerances, as well as planning meals and budgeting. During several of the classes, we will be learning to make simple recipes using whole ingredients. I am excited about the opportunity to teach young people the value of making wise choices regarding the types of things they put into their bodies.

**Classic Short Stories / April Conroy / Two 8-week sessions / $10 each / Grades 7-12**

Students will read and discuss short stories from great authors like Hans Christian Anderson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Oscar Wilde, and many more. In addition to weekly reading and discussion questions, students will have a few short writing practices. These exercises will give students the opportunity to imitate good writing skills in order to strengthen their own writing. This class will be offered as a part A and part B. You may take one semester or both; it is not necessary to take part A to take part B. Students will need to purchase *Words Aptly Spoken: Short Stories*, 3rd ed., published by Classical Conversations. ISBN 978-0-9904720-3-2.

**Creative Writing / Amy Lyttle / 8 weeks / $10 / Grades 7-12**

Mrs. Lyttle says, “I absolutely love writing! I love finding just the perfect word to describe the feelings I have about something and paint a picture for the reader. Most of all, I love how my words are my own, and nobody else uses them quite the way I do. It's an awesome skill to cultivate, and I'm excited to see where it takes us all this semester!”

Class time will be spent brainstorming ideas, discussing the particular genre for the week, reading model writing for inspiration, and sharing our own work. Students should expect about an hour and a half of writing a week. Mrs. Lyttle will lay out daily assignments which will include journal entries (from prompts she provides), keeping a list of interesting words and their definitions (encountered while reading), and working on an assigned genre of writing. Older students may be given longer assignments or be asked to type their work. Evaluation rubrics will be provided for each assignment. Required text: Usborne's *Creative Writing Book* ($14.99, ISBN 978-0-7945-3874-3). Bring a composition book or notebook and pencils or pen. Highly recommended: Usborne’s *Not Your Every-day Illustrated Thesaurus* ($9.99) or another thesaurus.

**Poetic Lyric Writing / Jenny Weiss / 8 weeks / $20 / Grades 7-12**

Students will write lyrics, being challenged to consider rhythm, rhyme, imagery and point of view. We’ll examine lyrics from a variety of musical genres and attempt to imitate these different styles. No musical ability necessary! Optional: Interested students can set one or more of their songs to music and perform for the class. Homework will involve writing lyrics, ranging from snippets to full songs.

**Rome and the US / Sarah Conn / $10 / Grade 7-12**

Although the Roman Empire collapsed over 1500 years ago, the legacy of Rome still lives on today. This course will explore many influences of Rome around us now including language, government, architecture, engineering, sport, art, and more.  Most homework will include finding examples of that week’s topic in your life. Viva Roma!

**The Bill of Rights and the Courts / Sarah Conn / $10 / Grade 7-12**

The Bill of Rights was foundational to the beginning of the US government. It was one of the first examples of the US people demanding their government respond to them. But what do these 10 amendments mean for us today? This course will explore why the rights in the first 10 Amendments were so important to the early Americans and how the judicial system has interpreted them over time. We will look at several landmark court cases which have at times expanded and at times limited the original rights in our republic.

**Basics of Art thru Cartooning / Sam Mylin / 8 weeks / $50 / Grades 7-12**

Have fun while learning serious art skills with Sam! The class will cover the creation, format, development, and act of telling stories through the genre of cartoons. We will study cartoons of the past and present as well as cartoonists who have influenced the world over generations. Imaginations required! Tools needed: sketchbook (9x12), pencils, erasers, extra fine sharpies, fine sharpies, colored pencils, and clipboard.

**Electricity & Robotics / Jess Trask / 8 weeks / $25 / Grades 6-9**

Learn the basics of electricity including the history of its discovery, currents, circuits, and sources of electrical power followed by hands-on experiments. Then we’ll apply that knowledge to solar and battery-powered robotics. The class fee will be used to purchase robotics kits that students will work on together in class. Minimum 8 students; maximum 12.

**Chess Team / James Richter / 8 weeks / $56 / Grades 7-12**

New to chess or already a pro? This class is open to all skills levels – beginners who want to beat Dad, those seeking to play in official tournaments, or students who just want to have fun. Players will be assessed by their skill level so Mr. Richter, an experienced Chess Tournament player, can help players with their chess goals.

Students will learn, among other things: the official rules; the 3 phases: opening, middle, and endgame; tactics and strategy; good sportsmanship and camaraderie; thinking and concentration skills; confidence; and chess writing notation to record games. *Requirements*:

Bring complete chess set to class and a notebook to record games to be reviewed. Students will practice chess and items learned in class for homework.

**Coding with SCRATCH / Jess Trask / 8 weeks / $8 / Grades 4-8**

This class is a fantastic introduction to computer programming using a free online site developed by MIT called SCRATCH. The class will allow students to get inside the code of their computer and create simple games and animations on screen. Students will learn how computers work; develop logic, reasoning, and problem solving skills; expand their creativity and innovation; and open up lifetime opportunities. Each student must bring a laptop to class. *Required text:* Usborne *Coding for Beginners Using Scratch* ($15) ISBN 978-0-7945-3687-9. **NOTE:** High school students may sign up as teacher’s assistant at no cost. Please speak to Linda Kerr.

**Handchimes Choir / Jenny Weiss / 16 weeks / $10 / Grades 4-9**

A simpler version of hand bells, tone chimes provide a wonderful group experience in music. By learning to play handchimes, students will gain experience reading music, keeping a consistent tempo, following a director’s gestures and working as a group to create a unified sound. In an 11-member choir, each musician plays two handchimes, to span three octaves. The class will run both sessions so that students can build their musical understanding and experience and can perform at the Learning Showcase in the spring.

**Physical Education / Charlie Hirschy / Two 7-week sessions / $15 each / Grades 7-12**

Students will learn sports skills, physical fitness, and teamwork in this fun but challenging class.