

# The Journey Homeschool Group

## Teacher Bios and Class Descriptions 2023-2024

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**Note:** The junior high 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 junior and senior high students will be given homework even on the weeks when classes do not meet.

# TEACHER BIOS

## **Brooke Ahlert ~ French**

brookeahlert@gmail.com

*Bonjour! J'adore le français! I am thrilled to be teaching two French classes at The Journey this year! I love being creative, whether it's drawing, painting, singing, or crafting, and I strive to bring that creativity into the French classroom. I also love the Lord, and work to glorify Him in all aspects of life, including teaching.*

*Outside of teaching, I enjoy playing tennis, bicycling, reading, and spending time with my family. I have been married to my husband, Josh, for fifteen years and we share two daughters whom we've homeschooled from the start.*

*I am excited to share my passion for the French language and culture with your children!*

## **Ingrid Barlow ~ Elementary Science**

ingridbarlow@gmail.com

*I love teaching science to our young students! In fact, I would call it a passion of mine. I have a biology degree from Northland College, Ashland, WI, and Bethel University, St. Paul. My biology degree has fostered a deep love for our natural world and the God who made it all! One of my goals is to help children develop a lifelong love of learning with a sense of curiosity and wonder and to help them ask questions and strive to find answers. My prayer is that the more our children discover, the richer their relationship with Jesus will be.*

*Our family has a small farm in Hudson called Barlow Roots, where we do intensive gardening, raise pigs, goats, ducks, and chickens, and homeschool our three children. I have way too many hobbies that I try to squeeze in around the rest of life....reading, gardening, baking, knitting, and sewing, among other things!*

## **Lisa Buckle ~ Elementary Geography**

danandlisagb@hotmail.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. My husband, Dan, and I have been on a marriage adventure for 27 years and have lived in Hudson for 13 years. We have 4 children whom we have homeschooled from birth and have been a part of homeschooling co-ops for well over a decade. One of my greatest joys is raising my children and 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 husband and kids. I believe as Christians we live in the local mission field, and I believe in the importance of foreign missions as well. 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 eleventh year of teaching at Journey 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 2023-2024 school year. This will be my second 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!*

**Ingrid Cook ~ Middle School American History/Geography**

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

*I'm really thankful to be able to continue teaching Junior High History at the Journey Co-op! This will be my 7th year teaching at Journey and my 12th 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 (7th grade) and Ian (6th grade) - while also being a part of the Journey co-op. My favorite personal pursuits include reading, praying, traveling, cooking/baking, getting outdoors, working with & riding horses, talking walks with our dogs, and in recent years - raising AKC/CKC puppies.*

**Alex Davenport ~ Elementary Discovering & Observing Weather/ Learning Navigation**

[alexcorwindavenport@yahoo.com](mailto:alexcorwindavenport@yahoo.com)

*Our family of five lives near Hammond, and you can usually find us at a local park, library, or out in the yard. We are members of Faith Community Church, part of the ECSC Missional Community, and involved in a local homeschool nature group. I'm looking forward to teaching this year, and sharing my enthusiasm for both weather and navigation. I have been an airline pilot for the past 18 years, and I've also taught both weather and navigation as a flight instructor in classroom settings. I'm very excited to be able to share the fun, excitement, and the awe of God in these topics.*

### **Esther Death ~ Public Speaking**

estherdeath@gmail.com

*Hi everyone! You don't know me yet, but my name is Esther Death. I have a passion for public speaking. I competed in Speech & Debate in a national league (NCFCA) for three of my four years in high school and loved every minute of it! Since I finished my own career, I have jumped at every opportunity to pour into current students and help them gain the confidence to stand up and speak that they will surely need in our world today!*

*I am currently continuing my education through an online Leadership and Ministry program as well as designing curriculum and teaching 25+ kids per week through an internship with my church. I look forward to seeing your students grow and develop their skills in my class. Here's to standing up and speaking out!*

### **Fred Gahl ~ Critical Thinking**

fredg126126@gmail.com

*Hello Journey parents. I am excited to have the opportunity to teach Critical Thinking - Problem solving with confidence. God has given each one of us minds to be honed in the pursuit of understanding the world around us in light of the Bible. Thus, the tools and habits of right reasoning can be applied to every area of life. This past year I had the privilege of leading the AWANA Cubbies program. This experience taught me to use repetition and fun activities to reinforce the truth we were learning. I will be implementing this technique in my classroom. Otherwise, I live in the countryside of Baldwin, WI with my dad, mom, little brothers and twin sister. Having recently graduated, I have participated in the Journey Co-op for almost a decade, and am now moving on to working in the construction industry, building houses, decks, and more. My hobbies include: bible quizzing & memorization, chess, reading, repairing things, frisbee, singing and woodworking. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.*

### **Jenny Johnson ~ Elementary Culinary Arts**

lynn2sadaf@protonmail.com

*I am excited to embark on this journey of teaching Culinary Arts for the Journey Homeschool Co-op. I have a Human Ecology degree (aka: Home Economics) and I enjoy cooking and teaching others about food and nutrition. Besides my formal education, I have had twenty plus years of experience in homeschooling my children, gardening and preserving God's bounty to be enjoyed. I look forward to passing down these life skills and wisdom to the students of Journey. When I'm not cooking, gardening or sewing, I enjoy learning from God's word, planning vacations and visiting with family and friends.*

### **Becky Knefelkamp ~ Senior High Writing**

deut3019and20@hotmail.com

*Becky Knefelkamp has been teaching writing for over 25 years. She graduated from Bethel College with an elementary degree, taught fifth grade for St. Paul schools for four years, and then stayed home with her children. A friend challenged her to teach the writing class at their co-op and that started an adventure of digging for quality resources and checking out a variety of writing curriculums. She has written her own writing lessons using aspects of a variety of curriculums: The Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW), the Six Traits of Writing, Rhea Holtan's research process, an excellent teaching book--Before the End, and others. Keith and Becky Knefelkamp have enjoyed over 40 years of marriage, raised four children, homeschooled them K-12 grade, and now are loving the era of the empty nest and grandchildren! She loves the Lord, loves kids, and loves to write, and is especially happy when the three can come*

together! “My philosophy of writing is to be more of the encourager. Writing is so personal. It’s hard to trust another to read our work, so I want them to feel safe. When I grade assignments, I mainly look to see if they have included what I asked for. I believe the aspects of writing that I ask them to include WILL make their writing stronger. I believe that writing is a progressive skill, most of the time taking a few years to master, just like in math and science. Each year they build on their previous year’s skills until they come to a place where they can write in a strong way, finding their unique voice. But I do always see improvement in each student’s work from the beginning of the year to the end. I love that!”

### **Alyssa Kruschke ~ Elementary Writing**

alyssakruschke@gmail.com

*For the last seven 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. It’s a gift that I will treasure in my heart forever. I can’t wait to have a new group of students and families this year! For the past year I have been visiting schools and churches, sharing a book I published, and I felt a draw to go back into a classroom setting. The Journey is giving me the opportunity to honor that desire while allowing me to be home raising our boys. I’m so grateful!*

*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 activities that go along with them.*

### **Zach McCabe ~ High School Science**

drzach@mccabechiropractic.com

*I’m excited to be teaching high school science again this year! When I’m not teaching at The Journey, you will find me caring for others at my chiropractic center, spending time with my wife, Nikki, and our three children, Emma, Owen, and Addie, or being outdoors exploring creation in a variety of ways. Our Lord has placed in me a true passion for health and the natural world according to His design as well as a desire to share it with you and your children. My class goals each year are to 1) create in your child an understanding, respect, and awe for God’s created order, 2) prepare them for the next step in their education, be it high school, college, or a vocation, and 3) do it all for the glory of God.*

### **Eva Opseth ~ Choir and Private Vocal Lessons**

eva.opseth@gmail.com

612-232-3886

*I’m excited to be teaching MS/HS choir and voice lessons this year! When I’m not teaching at The Journey, you will find me working in the Modern Languages department at UWRF, spending time with my husband, Zachary, or finding new parks and coffee shops to explore with my friends and family. Music has been my passion ever since I was old enough to sing and I am so excited to make a “joyful noise” with students! My class goals are to 1) foster a love for singing that will grow your child in confidence, 2) instill musical knowledge and technical skills, 3) give your child a tool to use to glorify God, to draw close to God, and to bless others.*

## **Tim Porter ~ High School Worldview**

worldviewteacher@gmail.com

*Tim Porter is Senior Pastor for Faith Community Church in Hudson. Tim has earned a BA in Biblical and Theological Studies from Bethel University, a Masters of Divinity from Bethel Seminary, and has taught as an adjunct professor at Bethel Seminary, Northwestern College, and Bethlehem College and Seminary. Married to DJ Porter and father of 3 boys, his passion in shepherding is always focused on the heart. "Fun and silly, yet serious about Truth" best defines his teaching style with children!*

## **Daniel Radke ~ Overview of the Bible/ How to Study the Bible**

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, and I am completing this summer a MA in Biblical and Theological Studies from Knox 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 be teaching junior and senior high students Bible courses this year at The Journey as we endeavor together to grow in understanding and treasuring Christ and His Word!*

## **Dan Schneider ~ Government/Economics, World History, Apologetics**

danschneider007@hotmail.com

*Dan has been involved in education ministry for over 40 years as a teacher, Christian school administrator, home school consultant, and curriculum designer. For several years he served as a speaker on Christian education for Nehemiah Institute. He is a former family pastor and author of Education from the Biblical Worldview (2004, Nehemiah Institute). For the past decade he has served as a tutor for several Twin Cities area homeschool co-ops.*

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

cara.skarsten@gmail.com

*I'm excited to be back in the classroom exploring general middle school 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 (12), Jubilee (10) and Peter (7). 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 Music**

me@karislominski.com

*Hello families! This is my second 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 11 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. Most recently, 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 for nearly 7 years, since before we were married in 2017. We have a son named Jonathan who will be 2 in September 2023. Some of my favorite hobbies are hiking, reading, doing calligraphy, 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 fall!*

## **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's 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!*

## **Bernie Wollenberg ~ Private Piano and Guitar Lessons**

bw6971@gmail.com

715-531-5072

*I love to teach students! My whole adult vocational life has been focused either on youth or music ministry. With that aim, my family and I moved to the area in 2000 where I was on staff at Faith Community Church in New Richmond. I served as youth pastor for 3 years and then transitioned to music pastor for another 13 years. My ministry was focused on the Ephesians 4 model where pastors train the church to serve rather than doing things themselves. One of my deepest life joys is to see those who I've invested in leading worship ministries with passion and joy. That's what*

*I'd like to bring to The Journey. I'd like to train future musical worship leaders to be skilled musicians who lead their churches with a deep heart for God and effective musical leadership. To accomplish that goal I will be offering piano(classical, jazz and contemporary), and guitar(acoustic and electric) lessons.*

# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Private Lessons

Please note: Private Lessons are available throughout the co-op day, and are designated for registered Journey families only. Scheduling and payment are to be coordinated directly with the instructor and are not included in the registration payment materials. See individual class descriptions for more information.

### Private Music Lessons: Piano

**Grades:** 2-12

**Tuition:** Semester 1: 30 minutes, \$336 (12 weeks - \$168 due week 1, \$168 due week 7)  
Semester 2: 30 minutes, \$336 (12 weeks - \$168 due week 1, \$168 due week 7)

**Teacher:** Bernie Wollenberg

**Email:** bw6971@gmail.com

Students will develop a healthy musical foundation on the piano by focusing on ear development (playing what they hear), sight-reading (playing what they see), and theory (understanding what they play). The repertoire will include contemporary, classical and jazz literature.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Faber piano series books for beginning students
2. Classical and/or Jazz book for intermediate and advanced students
3. A metronome
4. A tablet or cell phone for older students to record parts of the lesson

### Private Music Lessons: Guitar

**Grades:** 5-12

**Tuition:** Semester 1: 30 minute lessons, \$336 (12 weeks - \$168 due week 1, \$168 due week 7)  
Semester 2: 30 minute lessons, \$336 (12 weeks - \$168 due week 1, \$168 due week 7)

**Teacher:** Bernie Wollenberg

**Email:** bw6971@gmail.com

Students will develop a thorough understanding of the guitar by learning how to play by ear, read music, play chords, and understand how to play specific styles of music. Students can choose to learn specific styles of guitar including worship (electric and acoustic), rock, classical, and or jazz.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. A playable guitar either acoustic or electric
2. Books as determined after the first lesson
3. A metronome
4. A tablet or cell phone for older students to record parts of the lesson



## Private Voice Lessons and Studio Class

**Grades:** 7-12  
**Tuition:** \$25/ 30 minutes or \$30/ 45 minutes  
**Teacher:** Eva Opseth  
**Email:** eva.opseth@gmail.com

In voice lessons, students will get to explore their voices through learning new pieces of music in various genres. Students will work individually with their instructor to create personal goals for their vocal journey and then work towards those goals in every lesson. Students will learn about vocal technique and health, how to read music, ear training, and how to sing expressively. Homework will be practice time at home and research of their pieces. At the end of the semester, students will get to perform in a voice recital for their parents and peers.

The Vocal Performance Studio Class is included with registered Journey student's voice lessons and is no extra fee. Students will work up a couple of pieces throughout the semester in their private lessons and then perform them in class. During class, students will receive constructional feedback from their instructor and, if they so wish, from their colleagues. Through this, students will grow in confidence in their performance abilities, and learn how to give and receive constructive feedback with encouragement and positivity; all while being in a comfortable space. They will also learn more about vocal technique by observing their colleagues, performing their pieces, and thinking critically about how to become the best performer they can be!

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Black binder with loose leaf paper
2. Pencil and pencil sharpener
3. Water bottle

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

### PreK/Kindergarten

#### **3-HOUR PRE-K/K CLASS**

**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:** \$450  
**Teacher:** Jill Burgess  
**Email:** 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 Science: Investigate and Explore!**

**Grade:** 1/2  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Ingrid Barlow  
**Email:** [ingridbarlow@gmail.com](mailto:ingridbarlow@gmail.com)

Our youngest Journey scientists are best served with less pressure, loads of fun, and a whole lot of experiments! The principles for this “Investigate and Explore” adventure will be to expose students to a diversity of topics and vocabulary, without information overkill. The goal will be to investigate the natural world and to develop an inquiring mind and sense of wonder for our amazing Creator God. This year topics will include things like outdoor education, inventors, physics, weather, animals—it will be fun! No text is necessary. Following class, a few review questions and their answers will be emailed weekly for parents to complete with their children and return to class the next time we meet. (These “homework” sheets are optional.) So come to class, play, investigate, explore, and have fun learning about science! (2-year rotation course)

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Pencil
2. Crayons or colored pencils
3. Scissor
4. Glue stick
5. Folder

## **Elementary Science: Botany**

**Grade:** 3/4  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Ingrid Barlow  
**Email:** [ingridbarlow@gmail.com](mailto:ingridbarlow@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. We will be going outside as much as we can in the fall and spring months to learn our local flora and do hands-on activities. 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 notebooking. Class will be quick-paced with a wide variety of activities including growing many things all through the year! Students will be asked to read certain portions of the text and complete specific notebooking 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.
2. Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Botany, Notebooking 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

## **Elementary Science: Apologia Chemistry and Physics**

**Grade:** 5/6  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Ingrid Barlow  
**Email:** ingridbarlow@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. Some of our projects include things like making bouncy balls, penny flashlights, and heat sensing slime. Lots of fun experiments in this course! 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 notebooking. Students will be asked to read certain portions of the text and complete specific notebooking 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.
2. Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics, Notebooking Journal* (Not the "Junior" version)
3. Pencil
4. Colored pencils
5. Scissor
6. 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 students will be encouraged to keep their best work in a "portfolio," to be evaluated at the end of the year and from which they'll choose their best pieces to be submitted to the Showcase art show. We will build on basic skills and strive towards each student doing their personal very best, according to their gifts! There will be a variety of fun projects, often with connections to art history or Biblical principles, with God getting the credit for our creations! This approach gives students the time necessary to do their best work and helps students gain an understanding of the process behind art-making.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. paint shirt to be kept in backpack, especially during painting and sculpture units!

## **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 classes, with one major difference: this course strives to be 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 shirt to be kept in backpack, especially during painting and sculpture units!

### **Elementary Geography: Galloping the Globe**

**Grade:** 1/2  
**Tuition:** \$140  
**Teacher:** Lisa Buckle  
**Email:** danandlisagb@hotmail.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:** \$140  
**Teacher:** Lisa Buckle  
**Email:** danandlisagb@hotmail.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:** \$140  
**Teacher:** Lisa Buckle  
**Email:** danandlisagb@hotmail.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 aid 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 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 favorite literature as inspiration, students will investigate what authors do well. We will then practice and develop those literary skills into students' own 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.

### 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)

## Elementary Writing: Words Matter

**Grade:** 3/4  
**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 favorite literature as inspiration, students will investigate what authors do well. We will then practice and develop those literary skills into students' own 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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Notebook
2. Sharpened Pencils
3. Large Eraser
4. Folder
5. Colored Pencils
6. Highlighters

## **Elementary Writing: Words Matter**

**Grade:** 5/6

**Tuition:** \$150

**Teacher:** Alyssa Kruschke

**Email:** alyssakruschke@gmail.com

*Focus* – Inspiring young writers to pursue excellence in life and writing

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 favorite literature as inspiration, students will investigate what authors do well. We will then practice and develop those literary skills into students' own 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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Wordsmith *Apprentice*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (available at Christianbook.com)
2. Three-ring binder
3. Loose-leaf paper
4. Black ink pen + pencil
5. Highlighter

## **Elementary Discovering and Observing Weather**

**Grade:** 3/4

**Tuition:** \$150

**Teacher:** Alex Davenport

**Email:** alexcorwindavenport@yahoo.com

“The heavens are singing about how great God is; and the skies are shouting it out, ‘See what God has made?’ Day after day... Night after night... they are speaking to us (Psalm 19, Jesus Storybook Bible)

Our weather is amazing! In this class we will learn how the weather is powerful, graceful, beautiful, diverse, awe-inspiring, and it all points to the character of our amazing God. Students will learn both introductory weather theory and observation skills, along with relevant scripture to cultivate a sense of awe for our Creator.

The theory portion of class will start with the basics of the atmosphere and what generates the weather. Then we will learn about the different parts and types of our weather, like snow, wind, and the kinds of clouds. We will also be sure to study severe weather events like hurricanes and tornadoes.

In addition to learning theory and doing some experiments, we will regularly practice the lifelong skills of making thoughtful observations and recording/journaling what we observe. We will practice things like measuring temperature, estimating wind speed, identifying hazardous conditions, and looking for power and beauty in weather phenomena that displays God's glory.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Pencil
2. Notebook
3. Colored pencils
4. Folder

## Elementary Learning Navigation

**Grade:** 5/6  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Alex Davenport  
**Email:** alexcorwindavenport@yahoo.com

“In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:6

God is faithful and true! No better qualities to navigate by. In practicing navigation we can recognize and appreciate the character of God. We can also grow in our appreciation for how well He leads us in life. How do you find your location with a paper map and compass? Is there an easy way to figure out my arrival time without a phone, just using my head? What is GPS and how does it work? And what did we use before there was GPS to cross things like oceans? Can I really learn navigation as a kid?

Learning Navigation is a class that explores these questions and more, with an eye on the Creator and Sustainer of our world. Students will learn about the basics of navigation, such as working with a compass, bearings, coordinates, and map skills. We will practice estimating time, distance, and speed using simple trigonometry and mental math. Don't be intimidated by the math. With practice this is stuff a middle schooler can do confidently! These skills will be put to use in a range of fun role-playing exercises where we will practice navigating in cars, boats, airplanes, and other scenarios. Throughout the class we will also take time to notice the fingerprints of wisdom in the math concepts, and faithfulness and reliability in the navigation methods, which point to an amazing God!

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Notebook
2. Pencil
3. Colored pencils
4. Folder
5. Basic calculator

## Elementary Music

**Grade:** 1/2  
**Tuition:** \$140  
**Teacher:** Kari Slominski  
**Email:** me@karislominski.com

Get ready for a great adventure as we explore the Big Ideas of music: pitch (melody and harmony), rhythm and tempo, dynamics, and instrumentation. As we learn about the amazing gift of music that God has given us, we will **create** music by singing, playing instruments, notating and composing. There will be opportunities during class for students to lead a song or **perform** for the group. Through active listening, moving, dancing and lots of fun games, students will have a variety of ways to **respond** to music. Music **connects** with our faith, history, foreign languages, and science (especially physics and inventions)-- and we will get to know about several composers and hymn writers who played a big role in Western music. Families are encouraged to listen to great recordings of music to expose young (and mature!) ears to the beauty and order of God being reflected in music. A list of suggested recordings and music composers will be shared. Very little homework (ungraded) will be required for this class. However, attendance and preparation for our spring showcase piece is required.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Folder
2. Notebook
3. Pencil

## Elementary Music- Violin Group Class

**Grade:** 3/4  
**Tuition:** \$140  
**Teacher:** Kari Slominski  
**Email:** me@karislominski.com

This group violin class is a one-year course that is designed to develop a greater understanding of music through a deeper study of Music Theory, music style, and great hymns and composers. Another main focus will be the confidence-building opportunity to sing in a group, learn a new instrument (violin) and perform together as a violin ensemble. No previous violin experience necessary. Plan for weekly practice on violin: at least 3-4 days a week for 15 minutes each day. **\*\*\*It is recommended to get a rental or purchase of a violin lined up in August or earlier to be sure to have the violin in hand by September.**

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 1-inch 3-ring binder
2. Pencil
3. *String Basics Violin* Book 1
4. Violin your size (violin, bow, case, rosin, cleaning cloth)- available to rent or purchase through All Strings Attached in Stillwater or Brickhouse Music in River Falls
5. Shoulder rest or sponge
6. Music stand

## Elementary Music- Violin Group Class

**Grade:** 5/6  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Kari Slominski  
**Email:** me@karislominski.com

This class will include the same objectives from the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class as well as provide more advanced instruction on rhythm-reading and note-reading. These advancing skills are valuable for any current or future instrumental or vocal endeavors. No previous violin experience necessary. Plan for weekly practice on violin: at least 3-4 days a week for 15 minutes each day. **\*\*\*It is recommended to get a rental or purchase of a violin lined up in August or earlier to be sure to have the violin in hand by September.**

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 1-inch 3-ring binder
2. Pencil
3. *Essential Elements Book 1 for Violin*
4. Violin your size (violin, bow, case, rosin, cleaning cloth)- available to rent or purchase through All Strings Attached in Stillwater or Brickhouse Music in River Falls
5. Shoulder rest or sponge
6. Music stand

## Critical Thinking with Confidence

**Grade:** 1/2  
**Tuition:** \$150  
**Teacher:** Fred Gahl  
**Email:** Fredg126126@gmail.com

This class is designed to develop minds that can think about a task or problem in new ways and to use their imaginations to generate new ideas. Students will learn to think critically, creatively, and to use strategies to solve problems.

Using fun activities from the curriculum *Daily High-order Thinking*, students will work together to complete logical and visual puzzles, brain-teasers, and answer riddles. Students will start with relatively simple problems to solve, which will build in difficulty as their skills grow. This class is designed to be fun and engaging in and effort to help foster a love for learning. Students will do interactive exercises, short readings (by teacher), puzzles, and games during class that teach the components and tools for creative and critical thinking across all academic areas.



The goal of this course is to begin to develop discerning minds that reason, search for truth, are mindful of circumstances and details, seek solutions, solve problems, communicate thoughtfully and intelligently, and can make sound decisions. We will work to integrate learning with real world situations. Some of the concepts we will cover are: observing, describing, similarities and differences, classifying, sequencing, reading comprehension, problem solving, language and much more.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Pencil and pencil sharpener.
2. Colored pencils and or crayons.
3. Scissor
4. Folder with loose-leaf paper

## Introduction to French

**Grades:** 3-6  
**Tuition:** \$160  
**Teacher:** Brooke Ahlert  
**Email:** brookeahlert@gmail.com

Bonjour! In this introductory level class, students will learn the French alphabet, numbers, and colors, as well as simple words and phrases. This year's theme is *Tour de France*. Students will travel to different French cities, exploring France's history, customs, and famous sites. In class, students will experience French culture through songs, group work, games, and dialogues. Our faith will be incorporated by learning hymns, simple memory verses, and discussing Christianity in France. At home, students will work on daily assignments, songs, and an end of year project. There are no prerequisites for this class. This class will be on a four-year theme rotation.

Skills Executed in Class:

- Reciting the alphabet in French
- Pronounce French language well enough to be intelligible
- Speak simple French phrases
- Read and understand French words
- Describe some aspects of French cities, history, and customs
- Recite at least one memory verse in French

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Three ring binder
2. Pencil

## Culinary Arts: Farm to Table

**Grades:** 3-6  
**Tuition:** \$175  
**Teacher:** Jenny Johnson  
**Email:** lynn2sadaf@protonmail.com

What do we do three times a day? Eat! As families, we gather around the table for nourishment, both physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This class will give your child a jumpstart into something they will do for the rest of their life. The range of foods God has created is immense. Come learn culinary skills and the art of hospitality.

Topics:

1. Nutrition
2. How to read labels on purchased foods
3. Reading and interpreting a recipe
4. How to shop for ingredients
5. Preparation skills
6. Eating on a budget
7. Gardening
8. Preserving the harvest
9. The joy of hospitality
10. Etiquette (formal and informal)
11. Table setting and serving
12. Outdoor cooking

All will be done through simple hands on learning, demonstrations, and other interactive means.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Pencil / Pen
2. Notebook
3. Recipe cards
4. There may be a small fee to cover needed ingredients (TBD)

## Middle School Classes: Grade 7/8

### General Science: Science in The Atomic Age

**Grade:** 7/8  
**Tuition:** \$250  
**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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. *Science in The Atomic Age* by Dr. Jay L. Wile, publisher: Berean Builders  
This course is designed to be the middle school student's first systematic introduction to the sciences. The text covers such topics as chemistry, botany, microbiology, earth science and human anatomy & physiology. Its scope, therefore, is quite broad and includes many great hands-on experiments.  
**\*\*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.
2. One three-ring binder, 1 inch
3. One notebook, wide or college ruled, or one packet of loose leaf paper, three-hole-punched

**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 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.

## **Allegro Choir**

**Grade:** 7/8  
**Tuition:** \$250  
**Teacher:** Eva Opseth  
**Email:** eva.opseth@gmail.com

Students will focus on singing as an ensemble as we prepare music for concerts. We will focus on learning to read music, singing expressively, and utilizing good vocal techniques. Students will have the chance to learn 2-3 part harmonies and pieces of various genres and styles. Homework will be practice time (preferably 20-30 minutes a day, 4 to 5 times a week) and practice tracks will be provided. We will be working towards a concert at the end of each semester. No prior experience is needed.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Black binder with loose leaf paper
2. Pencil and pencil sharpener
3. Water bottle

## **United States History & Geography**

**Grade:** 7/8  
**Tuition:** \$225  
**Teacher:** Ingrid Cook  
**Email:** ingccook@gmail.com

In this class, we will read about and discuss American History from early exploration and the founding of colonies through the Trump presidency and current events. Since there is so much to cover, we will have to focus in on key dates, documents and people who shaped our country's history, including its presidents, notable leaders, inventors & scientists. We will also cover the geography of the Western Hemisphere, which will serve to review and reinforce what students have learned in their elementary years, including the fifty US states, their capitals and major cities, along with the most prominent geographical features that shape America's landscape. We will also review Canada, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean Islands. In addition, we read two Junior High level books that are about a specific person or time period (typically one about the Revolutionary period and one about the Civil War).

The homework for this class will include weekly reading assignments, review & discussion questions, and geography worksheets & maps. This will require about 20-30 minutes of effort at home, 3-4 days each week. There will be occasional short quizzes in class and a take home test after each Unit. The students will also be asked to share several short reports in class over the course of the school year (including a poster and a PowerPoint).

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbook: *TBD*
2. *Geography Studies & Projects of the Western Hemisphere*, by Abeka Book, Revised 4th Edition (2022).
3. [*\$15.45 on Christianbook.com*]
4. A small binder (1" should be fine) with pockets on the inside for handouts and 5 tabs for organization
5. Loose-leaf paper
6. Pen or pencil
7. Colored pencils for maps.

## **Overview of the Bible**

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

This two-semester course integrates a fast-moving Bible survey specifically designed for junior high students with personal application and an emphasis on God's sovereign power and activity. During their journey, students will visit all 66 books of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, from creation to the consummation of time. 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, and

then into the New. 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 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.

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

### **Middle School/ Senior High Art: Focused Drawing and Painting**

**Grades:** 7-12  
**Tuition:** \$270  
**Teacher:** Liz Wertz  
**Email:** eliz.wertz@gmail.com

This course is for the artist who wants to take their time on projects, to focus their attention on specific media and build skills in drawing and painting, both realism and abstract. Rather than the way my courses have been structured over the last several years, where we experience as many different media as we can, this year we're scaling back and spending time on traditional drawing and painting media and spending focused time over several projects practicing and gaining proficiency. We'll be using drawing media such as charcoal, graphite, and pastels, as well as painting media such as watercolor, gouache, and acrylic. Researching artists and movements in art history will be a component of our class, as well as keeping a sketchbook for ideas, plans, "thumbnail" drawings and more. Time to dive deep into 2D Art and level up our skills!

**Homework:** The bulk of our projects will be completed in class, but on occasion students may be asked to research an artist, 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

### **French 1**

**Grades:** 7-12  
**Tuition:** \$250  
**Teacher:** Brooke Ahlert  
**Email:** brookeahlert@gmail.com

Bienvenue au cours de français! Welcome to French 1! In this class, students will explore the language, geography, and cultures of French speaking countries. They will learn to communicate by speaking, reading, and writing in French. Students will also learn to communicate in everyday situations through songs, dialogues, group activities, games, and projects. They will glorify our Lord by learning short memory verses and hymns in French. There are no prerequisites for this class other than grade level. Completion of this class counts as one year of foreign language.

Skills Executed in Class

- Asking and answering simple questions in French
- Maintain a simple conversation in French
- Pronounce French language well enough to be intelligible to a native French speaker
- Understand simple questions and statements
- Read and understand information in simple paragraphs
- Describe some aspects of French culture
- Recite some memory verses in French

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. One subject notebook
2. Three ring binder
3. Pencil or pen

## Senior High Classes: Grades 9-12

### **Bel Canto Choir**

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Tuition:** \$250  
**Teacher:** Eva Opseth  
**Email:** eva.opseth@gmail.com

Students will learn to sing as an ensemble and work collaboratively to bring a piece of music to life. In this class, we will cultivate singing skills such as reading and interpreting music, singing expressively and knowledgeably, and using more advanced vocal techniques. Students will learn 4 part harmonies and pieces of various genres and styles, including pieces in other languages. Homework will be practice time (preferably 20-30 minutes a day, 4 to 5 times a week) and practice tracks will be provided. We will be working towards a concert at the end of each semester. No prior experience is needed.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Black binder with loose leaf paper
2. Pencil and pencil sharpener
3. Water bottle

### **Sharing and Defending a Christian Worldview**

**Grade:** 11/12  
**Tuition:** \$240  
**Teacher:** Tim Porter  
**Email:** worldviewteacher@gmail.com

The Apostle Peter instructs us in 1 Peter 3:15, “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” In this course we will bring the worldview curriculum to fulfillment, by learning to have respectful and persuasive conversations with others about matters of truth, worldview, and the gospel of Jesus. This course will be a blend of knowledge (an accurate understanding of the Christian worldview), wisdom (a skillful and fair way of talking about controversial topics), and character (a warm, attractive, and inviting manner). Through class lectures, personal study, practice videos, role playing, quizzes, memory tools, and various books and articles, the student will be equipped to internalize the Christian worldview, winsomely defend it to others, and competently discuss difficult topics.

Students can expect 2-4 hours of homework per week.

Completion of the course will be one high school credit.

It is best for the student to have completed the course Building a Christian Worldview, but it is not required.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Gregory Koukl, *Tactics in Defending the Faith: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*.
2. Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*.
3. Timothy Keller, *Making Sense of God*
4. Rebecca McLaughlin, *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity*.
5. Sam Chan, *How to Talk about Jesus (Without being ‘That Guy’)*

### **How to Study the Bible**

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Tuition:** \$240  
**Teacher:** Daniel Radke  
**Email:** dradke@ambassadorcollege@education

Bible study is often hard work, and learning to interpret and apply the Bible well takes effort and continued practice. This two-semester class equips students to utilize a toolkit of sixteen interpretive tools useful for studying and applying the Bible. Each week’s class will include biblical instruction, opportunities to practice new Bible study skills, receive feedback, and participate in discussion. The Fall semester focuses on learning and practicing the sixteen Bible study

tools, while the Spring semester will be pulling all of the tools together to study the book of Ephesians chapter by chapter. The goal of this course is that students might understand God's Word as the biblical authors intended, 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. 3-ring binder, loose leaf paper, pencil, pens (2+ different colors)
2. Bible (preferred translation: ESV, NASB, or NIV)
3. Beynon, Nigel, and Andrew Sach. *Dig Deeper: Tools for Understanding God's Word*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. \$17.99.
4. *ESV Illuminated Scripture Journal: Ephesians*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018. \$6.99.

## **Intro to Public Speaking**

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Tuition:** \$250  
**Teacher:** Esther Deuth  
**Email:** estherdeuth@gmail.com

Public speaking can be so intimidating! Standing in front of even the smallest group and sharing anything can freeze up even the most courageous of adults. My goal in this class is to bring practical tips, plenty of practice, and lots of fun to help my students leave this year with the next level of confidence to face the #1 fear in America today, Public Speaking! We will take each quarter this year to focus on four different types of public speaking.

Quarter 1: Platform – Originally written and performed speeches.

Quarter 2: Limited Prep – Limited time to sort through material and organize a short speech.

Quarter 3: Recitation & Interpretation – Poems, speeches, and dramas, written by others.

Quarter 4: Debate – Opposing opinions, presented in an organized, clear, and respectful manner.

We will be using resources from NCFCA (National Christian Forensics & Communication Association) for the majority of our curriculum.

**CLASSROOM GOALS:**

In class, we will be focusing on learning general writing and speaking concepts and participating in fun practices and drills. We will also take the time to analyze speeches from other speakers and pull ideas out of what they have already done!

**HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:**

Most of the homework will consist of writing and practicing speeches and analyzing other speeches.

There will also be two or three projects that will require teamwork between groups of two to three students. They will not need to meet with each other in person, but they will need to be willing to communicate via text, email, or phone call with each other during these projects.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. TBD

## **High School Writing II**

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Tuition:** \$290  
**Teacher:** Becky Knefelkamp  
**Email:** lynn2sadaf@protonmail.com

This class will cover the foundations of good writing—both in essays and creative writing. They are graded for each assignment. I expect that they will have 2-3 hours of homework each week. This will count for one full credit of English. Each assignment will have a checklist of what I expect them to include in their work. This starts out slowly and grows through the year. I will return their work every week. They will receive a grade sheet that tells them how they did and will inform them if anything is missing. This is my communication to you.

I want them to think. I want them to come up with clear explanations to their points. I want them to read a variety of writings, form their opinion, come up with a thesis for it, and be able to write a logical response to it.

In the first semester, we will lay the foundations for our longer projects in second semester. We will cover aspects of the Institute of Excellence in Writing (IEW)---dress-ups, openers, triples, decorations, and also other aspects of writing.

We write in a journal every day. We cover writing a strong paragraph with topic sentences and finalizing statements which lead into the Five Paragraph Essay, a foundation to speeches and formal writing.

On almost every one of their assignments during the year I will give them comments, and then they will rewrite. This gives them an invaluable opportunity to receive feedback and then to improve what they have written. They will have four chances to practice writing an SAT/ACT essay. They will be given a prompt. Then in 25 minutes they will write an essay that responds. We end the first semester with reading a classic book. This year we will be reading *The Light in the Forest*. **They will need their own copy.** This is a lighter book as far as reading it goes, but I have found that it is an excellent book with a tough subject. It has some excellent writing opportunities to go with it. For classes where we discuss the literature, it is impossible if students have not done the reading. In January, we start right in with the research paper. This is a sequential process that many students tell me is their favorite assignment of the year. Our book project ends the year where they are able to write their own story.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** I will do not do much with grammar. I just don't have the time. I strongly encourage parents to have students do a grammar book alongside this class. If your child struggles with grammar, I strongly encourage the Easy Grammar series. And honestly, if your child struggles, have them do the Easy Grammar 56. This covers all the main grammar rules that they will encounter in everyday life. If they master this, they will be ok!!

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Journal
2. Folder
3. Pencils/pens
4. Three ring binder with several divider tabs
5. Access to computer so work can be typed
6. *The Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter

## Apologia Biology

**Grades: 9-12**

**Tuition: \$288**

**Teacher: Zach McCabe**

**Email: drzach@mccabechiropractic.com**

Biology is the study of life. This class provides students a broad overview of the many disciplines involved in the study of life and thoroughly examines and explores each of the five biological kingdoms. There are many content-rich labs to support the theories introduced in this study. These labs include animal dissections, microscopic life studies, and many chemical process labs simulating the complex intricacies involved in sustaining a living system (dissection tools, microscopes, and prepared slides are supplied by Journey).

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. *Exploring Creation with Biology*, Textbook, **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** by Wile and Durnell, published by Apologia Educational Ministries, Inc. (Apologia.com). This high-quality hardcover book contains all student material, study questions, laboratory exercises, and module study guides with color photos and illustrations.
2. *Exploring Creation with Biology, Solutions and Test Manual*, **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**
3. (Optional Textbook Alternative) *Exploring Creation with Biology*, **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**, EBook, MP3 or Audio CD

#### OPTIONAL MATERIALS (select one):

1. *Exploring Creation with Biology, Student Notebook*, **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** This companion notebook designed to be used with the textbook will deepen your child's understanding as they explore what God's Word has to say about the workings of His creation. **Note: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition is out of print and difficult to find.**
2. *Dr. Zach McCabe's Companion Notebook for Biology*. This notebook will include all of Dr. McCabe's PowerPoint slides, room for note taking, the chapter study guides, and a laboratory section. Contact Dr. McCabe for more information.
3. 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, spent in a laboratory setting. We will focus on 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.

#### 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. 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.

## Apologia Physics

**Grade:** 11/12  
**Tuition:** \$288  
**Teacher:** Zach McCabe  
**Email:** drzach@mccabechiropractic.com

Apologia Physics is a college-prep physics class designed for the student who has completed Algebra 1 and Geometry (or at minimum is familiar with sine, cosine, and tangent). 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.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. *Exploring Creation with Physics, Textbook*, 2nd Edition by Jay Wile. Published by Apologia Educational Ministries, Inc. (Apologia.com)  
This high-quality hardcover book contains all student material, study questions, laboratory exercises, and module study guides with color photos and illustrations.  
(Optional Textbook Alternative): *Exploring Creation with Physics* 2nd Edition, EBook, MP3 or Audio CD
2. *Exploring Creation with Physics, Solutions and Test Manual* 2nd Edition

#### OPTIONAL MATERIALS: (select one):

1. Dr. Zach McCabe's Companion Notebook for Physics. This notebook will include all of Dr. McCabe's PowerPoint slides, room for note taking, the chapter study guides, and a laboratory section. Contact Dr. McCabe for more information.
2. 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.



## Government

**Grades:** 9-12, First Semester only  
**Tuition:** \$115  
**Teacher:** Dan Schneider  
**Email:** danschneider007@hotmail.com

This class fulfills high school graduation requirements for a class in government. For scope and sequence please see the textbook table of contents. We will follow closely the contents of the Notgrass curriculum, *Exploring Government* (2016 hard cover edition), which includes the textbook and a book of readings entitled, *We Hold These Truths*. Our goal is to cover the material in the textbook through weekly assignments of reading with study questions while focusing on selected topics in more detail at our class meetings. There will be a few essays and/or written report assignments in addition to the regular textbook assignments. A major goal of the class will be give students a good understanding of the Biblical principles that are the foundation of good government.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbooks: *Notgrass Exploring Government* (2016 edition) which includes the volumes of readings entitled *We Hold These Truths*. (Parents will not need test booklets)

## Economics

**Grades:** 9-12, Second Semester only  
**Tuition:** \$115  
**Teacher:** Dan Schneider  
**Email:** danschneider007@hotmail.com

This class fulfills high school graduation requirements for a class in economics. For scope and sequence please see the textbook table of contents. We will follow closely the contents of the Notgrass curriculum, *Exploring Economics*, which includes the textbook and a book of readings entitled, *Making Choices*. Our goal is to cover the material in the textbook through weekly assignments of reading with study questions while focusing on selected topics in more detail at our class meetings. There will be a few essays and/or written report assignments in addition to the regular textbook assignments. A major goal of the class will be give students a good understanding of the Biblical principles that are the foundation of good economics.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbooks: *Exploring Economics* by Ray Notgrass (2016 edition) which includes the volume of readings entitled *Making Choices*. (Parents will not need test booklets)

## American History

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Tuition:** \$225  
**Teacher:** Dan Schneider  
**Email:** danschneider007@hotmail.com

This is a high school level survey of American History. For scope and sequence please see the textbook table of contents. We will follow closely the contents of the Notgrass curriculum, *Exploring America*, which includes the two-volume textbook and a book of primary source readings entitled, *American Voices*. Our goal is to cover the material in the textbooks through weekly assignments of reading with study questions while focusing on selected topics in more detail at our class meetings. There will be a few essay and/or written report assignments in addition to the regular textbook assignments. A major goal of the class will be to correct some of the misinformation of current, politically-correct, revised versions of American history and to impart an appreciation of the positive influence of Christianity on the history of America.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbooks: *Exploring America* by Ray Notgrass (2014 edition) which includes two textbook volumes and a volume of primary source readings entitled *American Voices*. Parents will not need test booklets.

Estimated cost of curriculum: Currently \$110.00 if purchased new online at [www.notgrass.com](http://www.notgrass.com).

## Apologetics

**Grades:** 10-12  
**Tuition:** \$225  
**Teacher:** Dan Schneider  
**Email:** danschneider007@hotmail.com

1 Peter 3:15 says “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”. Apologetics is the study of the truth of Christianity in order to understand it better and be able to explain it to non-believers. In the first semester we will be using *Understanding the Faith* as our main text to study the fundamental truth claims of Christianity and how to present this truth to unbelievers. We will use *Understanding the Times* in the second semester to study and compare non-Christian worldviews in order to understand them better and be able to present the Christian worldview as the best option. Besides the two main textbooks we will read articles from sources of Christian apologetics like Answers in Genesis and discuss them in class. There will be weekly reading assignments with study questions and a few written essay assignments.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Textbooks: *Understanding the Faith* by Jeff Meyers (copyright 2016) and *Understanding the Times* by Jeff Meyers and David A. Noebel (copyright 2016).

NOTE: There are several editions of this book that are all different. You will need the latest (2016) edition of this book. These books are currently available for \$29.95 each if purchased new at [www.summit.org](http://www.summit.org).