
EPIC Homeschool Academy

Middle School and High School Course Descriptions

Scope and Sequence

OVERVIEW

EPIC Homeschool Academy offers a variety of academic and enrichment style classes for middle and high school levels. All classes taken at the high school levels are designed to be used towards transcript credit, however the final authority and grade is up to the parent. Loop schedule refers to how often EPIC offers the class and when the next year the class is slated to be on the schedule. Curriculum, when known, is listed. Scheduling, curricula, and instructors subject to change.

OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

1. An academic class (most offered at this level) averages **60 minutes per day of homework** plus projects. Science classes with lab- like Chemistry and Biology are a heavier load typically with 1.5 hours of homework per day on average.
2. **Parents are encouraged to hold their child accountable** to course work, partner with teacher/coaches, and hold final authority in issuing transcript grade.
3. All students are expected to have **access to the internet**, a printer, and Google items (docs, sheets, slides, classroom, etc). If remote learning occurs, access to zoom may be required.
4. Grading is teacher preference, but is typically done on a **10+/- point scale** and letter grades. There are no classes with weighted grades (ie: AP bonus).

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ART COURSES

GENERAL ART

In MS/HS Art Class, we will explore different mediums and styles to create a wide variety of pieces, all "wall hanging worthy". Rather than giving step by step "how tos", different techniques will be demonstrated and then space will be given for students to explore, so no two works will be alike! We also will examine various famous artists and art movements, both present and historical, so students also learn some basic art history.

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 6-12

Loop Schedule: Offered every year with projects looping every 3 years

Credits: None (add some homework or projects on your own for fine arts credit)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

SPANISH

This class will cover vocabulary and cultural studies, as well as a study of Spanish grammar and sentence structure. We will employ the use of songs, games, and other activities to solidify the lessons as well as to make learning fun! Your student will learn how to properly compose Spanish sentences and engage in conversation. This class will include many activities to allow your child to practice speaking the Spanish that they are learning to read and write, and will help them grow in confidence as Spanish-speakers.

INTRO TO SPANISH

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 6-8 (9th graders with no experience may benefit from Intro)

Loop Schedule: Every year with content spanning 2 years. We recommend students take 1-2 years of Intro to Spanish before Spanish 1

HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH

Prerequisites: None, Intro to Spanish highly recommended

Grade Target: 9-12 (Middle Schoolers can request if taken Intro/equivalent)

Credits: .5 Foreign Language

Loop Schedule: Looping schedule for two years. Offered every year. The two year loop of Spanish will constitute 1 credit combined. While those with Spanish experience could do the loop out of order, those who are new to the language would benefit from doing Intro or HS Spanish A first.

HS Spanish A- 2021/2022, 2023/2024 **HS Spanish B-** 2022/2023, 2024/2025

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

ASL is a rich and complex language. Recently declared as an official language and recognized across the United States as a foreign language, more and more high school teachers across the country are teaching ASL as an elective. This class is designed to prepare individuals to successfully interact with ASL users. Lessons are structured around language needed for common-life situations, and examples are presented in the form of dialogue coupled with grammar and vocabulary instruction. Information is also included about the culture and history of the Deaf community in the United States.

INTRO TO ASL

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 6-8

Loop Schedule: Offered every year. New topics and vocabulary every two years:

Year A (2022/2023, 2024/2025): The Basics, Things, People, Foods & Eating, Descriptions, Numbers/Money/Math, Time/Days/Seasons

Year B (2021/2022, 2023/2024): Places, Health & Survival, Recreation, Actions, Being & Feeling, Religion & Communication, Miscellaneous

Curriculum: We will be using the curriculum available through the website ASLDeafined. Each student in the middle school class will be registered to receive an account with ASLDeafined through EPIC Academy. The cost is \$12 per student for the year. Access to the webpage will be available through August of the following year.

ASL 1

Prerequisites: None, Intro to ASL is highly recommended

Grade Target: 9-12

Loop Schedule: Every Year

Credits: 1 Foreign Language

Curriculum: Master ASL! Level 1

ASL 2

Currently, we do not offer ASL 2 as an official EPIC class, but you can register on our site for a small group tutoring class held fourth hour with instructor Sonja Harrison. You can contact her at terpharrison@gmail.com for pricing and details.

SCIENCE COURSES

6th GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

Students will explore the area of life science including water, macroinvertebrates, animal kingdoms, botany, cells, and human anatomy. Hands-on experiences in the classroom serve as a springboard for coursework and projects that are done at home. Field trip experiences (when possible) enhance classroom learning. This class is designed to help students transition from Elementary to Middle School level work.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading on grade level and have the ability to communicate their understanding of learning through written and verbal facets.

Grade Target: 6

Loop Schedule: Offered every year

Curriculum: Christian School International Life Science

7/8th GRADE SCIENCE

Using engaging demonstrations and experiments in the classroom, students are able to use hands-on experiences to enhance their coursework and projects done at home. Alternating years of Physical and Earth Science in 7/8th grade give Middle Schoolers a well-rounded preparation for future high school classes. These courses are nearly high school level, so consideration should be made for students not ready for that course work.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading on grade level and have the ability to communicate their understanding of learning through written and verbal facets.

Grade Target: 7-8

Curriculum: Christian School International Earth Science, 2nd edition

Loop Schedule: Alternating years of Physical and Earth Science

1. Physical Science (2022/2023, 2024/2025)
2. Earth Science (2021/2022, 2023/2024)

HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY

This course provides students with a broad overview of the many disciplines involved in the study of life. It starts with a brief introduction to the definition of life and then discretely examines and explores each of the five biological kingdoms. Students will participate in hands-on labs including animal dissections, microscopic life studies, and many chemical process labs. Students will complete a handful of projects throughout the year as well.

Prerequisites: Student should be reading on grade level and able to communicate learning in verbal and written ways.

Grade Target: 9-10

Loop Schedule: Every Year

Credits: 1 Science with Lab

Curriculum: 3rd Edition of Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Biology*. Students will need the textbook and the solutions/tests manual but NOT the student notebook. Also needed: 3 ring binder with 5 tabs, paper and writing utensils. Colored pencils would be useful for some labs.

HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is one of the most fascinating studies of the orderly design of our perfect Creator! The chemistry course is based on regular laboratory investigations of matter, chemical reactions, and the role of energy in those reactions. Students will learn about the structure and properties of matter and its interactions. Laboratory experiments will be used to reinforce topics studied from the text. This course requires a total of 2 hours of class and lab time and is priced at a different rate due to lab time and materials required.

Prerequisites: Algebra 1

Grade Target: 10-12

Loop Schedule: Every year

Credits: 1 Science with Lab

Curriculum: BJU Chemistry Student Text, 4th edition

HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED BIOLOGY (HUMAN ANATOMY)

This upperclassmen level class provides a college prep study of the human body's 11 major organ systems and their biology and physiology. Lab experiments and dissection direct project based learning and springboard content learning at home. This is an advanced level course with appropriate coinciding course work expectations.

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry

Grade Target: 11-12

Loop Schedule: Every other year (Tentative 2022/2023)

Curriculum: Apologia Advanced Biology, 2nd Edition

Credits: 1 Science with Lab

HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS

A college prep level science class for upperclassmen. Students will learn to appreciate how scientists have observed God's world for the past 3,000 years. Concepts include laws of motion, displacement, magnetism, waves, optics, Newton's Laws, electricity, and science and math integration.

Prerequisites: Algebra 1

Grade Target: 11-12

Loop Schedule: Every other year (2021/2022, 2023/2024)

Credits: 1 Science with Lab

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES

5th/6th GRADE WRITING

A bridge writing/composition class focusing on proper paragraph composition and grammar. This class is designed to help students prepare for the rigours of academic writing across content areas in middle school.

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 5-6

Loop Schedule: Every Year

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING

Students will learn to write beautifully by reading the works of wonderful authors, and learning about literary elements and grammar principles by digging into fantastic books, poems, magazine articles, newspapers, scripture passages and more! Together we will participate in fun exercises and games to play with words, learn basic grammar, and practice getting amazing thoughts from head to paper. We will also work on several interest-led projects and activities. This is truly a unique writing class, intended to build confident writers! Projects will be based on the WriteShop curriculum and BraveWriter philosophy.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading on grade level and have the ability to communicate their understanding of learning through written and verbal facets. 5/6th grade writing encouraged.

Grade Target: 7-8, exceptional 6th graders

*6th grade students who would benefit from a confidence building year on writing paragraphs or who may not be reading on grade level are encouraged to take the 5/6th grade writing class found in the elementary course descriptions

Loop Schedule: Class can be taken every year with new assignments offered on a rotating basis.

1. WriteShop 1 (A)
 - a. Lessons 1-6
2. WriteShop 1 (B)
 - a. Lessons 7-12

Curriculum: WriteShop 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERATURE AND SPEECH

This unique class is a cohesive, integrated class that combines:

1. Reading amazing literature - both novels and picture books - steeped in critical cultural themes (such as racism, freedom, bullying etc.).
2. Participating in class discussions that spark critical thinking and help students see cultural themes from many different perspectives.

3. Creating speeches based on questions sparked by the books, discussions, and suggested movies that are watched outside of class.

The goal of this class is to use the gifts of solid literature, “story”, and discussion to build connections, see different perspectives, and produce educated and compassionate responses to tough cultural issues. As we find the humanity in each story we read, we can come up with new perspectives on how to “Love God, and Love Others” in a culture full of differing opinions. Novels TBD.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading on grade level and have the ability to communicate their understanding of learning through written and verbal facets.

Grade Target: 6-8

Loop Schedule: 2 year loop on literature selections

HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH AND COMPOSITION WRITING

This academic writing class intends to prepare underclassmen for high school writing. Building off of middle school writing, skills in proper formatting, research, citations, general composition, and persuasive writing will equip students for future high school course work. This class is foundational to a student desiring to take creative writing or literature class as well as test prep.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading on grade level and have the ability to communicate their understanding of learning through written and verbal facets.

Grade Target: 9-10, or upperclassmen who have not had an academic writing class

Loop Schedule: Every Year

Credits: 1 English Language Arts

Curriculum: Writing Curriculum TBD plus *The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation* by Straus. Other supplies: paper, writing utensils. On occasion, it would be useful (not required) for the student to bring a laptop or similar device to class.

HIGH SCHOOL INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE AND SPEECH

Students will be introduced to a variety of literature types through reading, discussion, comparison, and analysis. Class participation is critical to this class. Students will also be given tools for preparing and presenting formal speeches within the themes of the literature studies.

Prerequisites: Composition and Research Writing or equivalent

Grade Target: 10-11

Loop Schedule: Every year

Credits: 1 English Language Arts

Curriculum: TBD

HIGH SCHOOL UPPERCLASSMEN LITERATURE

Using IEW’s Excellence in Literature courses, this class alternates between American and British literature sources. Literary analysis skills learned and applied to great works through their history. In-depth study of these works springboard learning at home. This advanced high school course requires research and writing skills and an advanced reading comprehension level.

Prerequisites: Recommended- a high school academic writing class

Grade Target: 11-12

Loop Schedule: Every year with content loop

1. American Literature (2022/2023, 2024/2025)
2. British Literature (2021/2022, 2023/2024)

Credits: 1 English Language Arts

Curriculum: Janice Campbell's Excellence in Literature: British Literature by IEW and the accompanying works of literature.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course objectives are that each student enjoys physical activity, improves their overall strength and conditioning, learns and practices fitness principles and plays and learns lifelong sports and team sports. Geared with focus on 60 minutes of sports and active play with 30 minutes of learning and study of nutrition, wellness, and health. Some homework required.

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 6-12

Loop Schedule: Every Year

Credits: 1 Physical Education

SOCIAL SCIENCES

GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS

Explore the foundations and current events in the United States government from a Biblical worldview. Students will learn about all levels of government from local, state, and federal. Economics will also be a component of this class. Understanding the world of economics and how we can become better stewards of God's resources through the lens of current events will be presented. Projects will help students apply this foundational knowledge to real life scenarios.

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 10-12

Loop Schedule: Every Other Year (2022/2023, 2024/2025)

Credits: 1 Social Science

Curriculum: Exploring Government by Ray Notgrass, Exploring Economics by Ray Notgrass

WORLD HISTORY

Students will explore world history in a project-based environment. Through reading, literature, and scripture connections, students will help see God's Story play out through historical events, people, and places throughout the world.

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 10-12

Loop Schedule: Every Other Year (2021/2022, 2023/2024)

Credits: 1 Social Science

Curriculum: Exploring World History by Ray Notgrass

MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE

Students will explore scripture, become more biblically fluent, and build positive disciplines for building intimacy with Christ. Designed for middle school students. Designed as a two year loop class, year A will focus on Biblical Literacy and Overview most likely using Route 66 Curriculum by Positive Action Bible. It will be foundational for students especially as they move forward into a class such as Intermediate Bible. Year B is planned to focus on the wisdom of the Proverbs for 2022-2023.

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 6-8

Loop Schedule: Year A (2021-2022, 2023-2024), Year B (2022-2023, 2024-2025)

INTERMEDIATE BIBLE

A general overview of the basic skills and doctrines that are an important part of living life as a Christ follower. Topics will include: the character and attributes of God, how to study the Bible, the persons of the Trinity, worship, prayer and fasting, spiritual gifts and service in the body of Christ, discipleship, evangelism, baptism, and the Lord's Supper. The focus of this class will be hands-on learning to equip students to grow and mature in their faith. Discussion and written responses will also be an integral part of our class, especially as we explore the broad range of denominational similarities and differences on several of these topics. (this is the curriculum used for Middle School Bible 2020-2021 and will be a repeat of the class)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Target: 8-10

Loop Schedule: Every Year

Curriculum: Dynamic Christian Living- Student Manual by Positive Action Bible Curriculum

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE

In depth study and discussion on basic faith truths of theology and defense of these truths using apologetics make up the majority of this class. How these truths impact culture, how to have tactical conversations with those of other belief systems, and how the other belief systems are infiltrating society make up in-class and at home projects and papers. Designed to be taken in succession. Year A will focus on theology - the basic elements of faith and the scriptural truths behind these beliefs. Year B will focus on apologetics - defending the faith, sharing it with others, and recognizing the false messages in the world.

Prerequisites: Intermediate Bible is recommended, but not required

Grade Target: 10-12

Loop Schedule: 2021-2022 will offer Year A. We hope to offer both Year A and Year B 2022-2023 onward.

Credits: 1 Elective

TECHNOLOGY, LOGIC, AND PROBLEM SOLVING

MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

Students will learn the basics of computer literacy. Navigating common programs such as Internet safety, google based products (docs, slides, sheets), basic graphic and web design are taught in a project based style. This class will equip students to use technology safely and effectively in future school work. Unique needs of this class include an independent email address with full access and regular use of technology in and outside of the classroom.

Prerequisites: Waiver for under 13 accounts, personal laptop or tablet for use in class

Grade Target: 6-9

Loop Schedule: Every Year

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving program that engages students in their learning by allowing their knowledge and ideas to come to life in an exciting, productive environment. Students use many different STEAM skills (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and creative problem solving to figure out a solution to their assigned problem. Teams can have a maximum of 7 “brains” so space is limited for this class. Two teams of middle school and one team of high school students are planned. Tuition is paid half in September and the remaining at the end of October. Due to the nature of the small class size and the rules bound by the Odyssey of the Mind organization, the October payment is non-refundable.

Prerequisites: Must be able to attend local and state competitions in February and March (usually one Saturday each). Extra practices leading up to competition. Dates TBA

Expectations: There is a requirement for parent/family involvement in the form of volunteering, material prep, or judging on competition weekends.

Grade Target: 6-8 Team, 9-12 Team

Loop Schedule: New teams and problems each year