

WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD WE FOCUS ON WHEN STARTING OUR HOMESCHOOL JOURNEY?

Homeschooling does not need to look like public school—in fact, that's the beauty of choosing your own path! You have the flexibility to tailor learning to your child's needs, interests, and strengths. However, it's important to stay on a path that ensures they are well-prepared for high school and beyond, especially if college is in their future. Focusing on core subjects like math, reading, writing, science, and social studies while incorporating enrichment courses such as art, music, foreign language, and life skills creates a well-rounded education. Striking this balance allows students to develop essential knowledge while also exploring their passions in a way that traditional schooling often cannot provide.

KINDERGARTEN:

For homeschooling a kindergartener, we suggest a focus on a mix of core subjects, creativity, and hands-on learning. Here are some suggestions:

Core Subjects:

1. **Early Literacy & Phonics** – Letter recognition, sounds, sight words, and beginner reading.
2. **Basic Math** – Counting, number recognition, simple addition/subtraction, patterns, and shapes.
3. **Handwriting & Fine Motor Skills** – Letter formation, tracing, and pre-writing activities.
4. **Science Exploration** – Simple experiments, nature studies, seasons, weather, and animals.
5. **Social Studies & Community** – Family, community helpers, basic geography, and holidays.

Creative & Enrichment:

6. **Art & Craft Time** – Drawing, painting, cutting, gluing, and sensory play.
7. **Music & Movement** – Singing, rhythm activities, dancing, and basic instruments.
8. **Storytime & Narration** – Read-alouds, storytelling, and imaginative play.
9. **Outdoor & Nature Study** – Nature walks, gardening, and simple observations.
10. **Life Skills & Character Building** – Manners, basic chores, emotional intelligence, and kindness activities.

FIRST GRADE:

For first-grade homeschoolers, we suggest a focus on building foundational skills while keeping learning engaging and hands-on. Here are some suggested areas of study:

Core Subjects:

1. **Reading & Phonics** – Strengthen phonics, sight words, reading fluency, and comprehension.
2. **Handwriting & Writing Skills** – Letter formation, sentence writing, and creative storytelling.
3. **Math** – Addition/subtraction, number patterns, measurement, time, money, and word problems.
4. **Science** – Simple experiments, weather, plants, animals, the human body, and space.
5. **Social Studies** – Community, history, geography, famous figures, and basic civics.

Creative & Enrichment:

6. **Art & Craft** – Drawing, painting, clay modeling, and hands-on projects.
7. **Music & Rhythm** – Singing, simple instrument play, rhythm activities, and music appreciation.
8. **Outdoor & Nature Study** – Nature journaling, gardening, seasonal changes, and simple ecology.
9. **Storytelling & Read-Alouds** – Encouraging listening skills, imagination, and narration.
10. **Life Skills & Character Building** – Manners, helping at home, emotional intelligence, and responsibility.

SECOND GRADE:

For second-grade homeschoolers, we suggest to continue the focus on strengthening foundational skills, while fostering curiosity, and encouraging independent learning. Here are some suggested areas of study:

Core Subjects:

1. **Reading & Literature** – Introduce Chapter books, reading comprehension, phonics review, and vocabulary building.
2. **Writing & Handwriting** – Sentence structure, punctuation, creative writing, and cursive introduction.
3. **Math** – Addition/subtraction fluency, introduction to multiplication, money, time, measurement, and word problems.
4. **Science** – Simple experiments, life cycles, weather, energy, habitats, and the scientific method.
5. **Social Studies** – U.S. and world geography, historical figures, basic civics, and cultural studies.

Creative & Enrichment:

6. **Art & Creativity** – Drawing, painting, crafts, and exploring famous artists.

7. **Music & Rhythm** – Singing, introduction to musical instruments, rhythm games, and basic music theory.
8. **Nature & Outdoor Exploration** – Gardening, weather tracking, animal observation, and nature journaling.
9. **Storytelling & Read-Alouds** – Encouraging discussion, summarizing stories, and narration.
10. **Life Skills & Character Building** – Responsibility, kindness, problem-solving, and simple home skills.

Optional Extras:

These can be introduced earlier, but the student is usually more ready for expanded learning by second grade.

11. **Foreign Language** – Spanish, French, ASL, or another language with conversational phrases.
12. **STEM & Coding** – Building projects, logic puzzles, simple coding apps, and hands-on problem-solving.
13. **Faith Studies** – Scripture stories, memory verses, and character lessons.

THIRD GRADE:

For third-grade homeschoolers, the focus moves to building independence, critical thinking, and deeper learning while keeping subjects engaging and hands-on. Here are some suggested studies:

Core Subjects:

1. **Reading & Literature** – Chapter books, reading comprehension, vocabulary expansion, and beginning literary analysis.
2. **Writing & Grammar** – Sentence structure, punctuation, paragraph writing, cursive practice, and creative storytelling.
3. **Math** – Multiplication/division, fractions, word problems, geometry basics, and problem-solving strategies.
4. **Science** – Earth science, simple physics, life cycles, ecosystems, energy, and hands-on experiments.
5. **Social Studies** – U.S. history, world geography, map skills, government basics, and cultures around the world.

Creative & Enrichment:

6. **Art & Creativity** – Drawing, painting, mixed media, and studying famous artists.

7. **Music & Performing Arts** – Singing, basic instrument instruction, rhythm activities, and music appreciation.
8. **Nature Study & Outdoor Exploration** – Gardening, weather observation, simple nature journaling, and basic survival skills.
9. **Storytelling & Read-Alouds** – Classic literature, independent reading, and narration activities.
10. **Life Skills & Character Development** – Cooking, basic money skills, teamwork, kindness, and problem-solving.

Optional Extras:

11. **Foreign Language** – Spanish, French, ASL, or another language with basic conversation practice.
12. **STEM & Coding** – Robotics, simple programming (Scratch, Blockly), logic puzzles, and engineering challenges.
13. **Faith Studies** – Scripture stories, scripture memorization, character development, and ethical discussions.

FOURTH GRADE:

For fourth-grade homeschoolers, the focus is on strengthening independence, problem-solving, and deeper comprehension across subjects. Here are some suggested areas to study:

Core Subjects:

1. **Reading & Literature** – Chapter books, comprehension strategies, literary elements, and vocabulary building.
2. **Writing & Grammar** – Sentence structure, paragraph writing, punctuation, parts of speech, and cursive practice.
3. **Math** – Multi-digit multiplication/division, fractions, decimals, geometry basics, and word problems.
4. **Science** – Earth science, ecosystems, simple physics, electricity, forces and motion, and hands-on experiments.
5. **Social Studies** – U.S. history (early America to westward expansion), world geography, government, and map skills.

Creative & Enrichment:

6. **Art & Creativity** – Drawing, painting, mixed media, crafts, and studying famous artists.
7. **Music & Performing Arts** – Singing, playing an instrument, rhythm games, and music appreciation.

8. **Nature Study & Outdoor Exploration** – Ecosystems, weather patterns, journaling, and simple survival skills.
9. **Public Speaking & Debate** – Developing confidence in speaking, storytelling, and structured discussions.
10. **Life Skills & Character Development** – Responsibility, money management, basic home skills, and decision-making.

Optional Extras:

11. **Foreign Language** – Spanish, French, ASL, or another language with basic conversation and writing.
12. **STEM & Coding** – Engineering challenges, programming (Scratch, Python basics), robotics, and logic puzzles.
13. **Faith Studies** – Scripture stories, scripture memorization, apologetics, and ethical discussions.

FIFTH GRADE:

For fifth-grade homeschoolers, the focus is on developing critical thinking, independent learning, and applying knowledge to real-world scenarios. Here are some suggested areas of study:

Core Subjects:

1. **Reading & Literature** – Classic and contemporary novels, comprehension skills, literary analysis, and discussion.
2. **Writing & Grammar** – Essay writing, research reports, sentence structure, punctuation, and editing skills.
3. **Math** – Fractions, decimals, percentages, multi-step word problems, pre-algebra concepts, and geometry.
4. **Science** – Earth science, chemistry basics, physics (motion & energy), human body systems, and hands-on experiments.
5. **Social Studies** – U.S. history (colonial times to Civil War), world geography, early civilizations, and government structure.

Creative & Enrichment:

6. **Art & Creativity** – Drawing, painting, sculpting, digital art, and studying famous artists.
7. **Music & Performing Arts** – Learning an instrument, choir, drama, rhythm exercises, and music history.

8. **Public Speaking & Debate** – Speech writing, persuasive speaking, structured debates, and storytelling.
9. **Nature Study & Outdoor Exploration** – Ecology, environmental science, survival skills, and journaling.
10. **Life Skills & Leadership** – Time management, budgeting, teamwork, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence.

Optional Extras:

11. **Foreign Language** – Spanish, French, ASL, or another language with grammar and conversation practice.
12. **STEM & Coding** – Programming (Scratch, Python, robotics), engineering challenges, and logic puzzles.
13. **Faith Studies** – Scripture study, ethical discussions, and Christian history

SIXTH GRADE:

For sixth-grade homeschoolers, the focus continues on building critical thinking, independent learning, and applying knowledge in deeper ways. Here are some suggested areas of study:

Core Subjects:

1. **Reading & Literature** – Classic and contemporary novels, literary analysis, comprehension strategies, and vocabulary.
2. **Writing & Grammar** – Essay writing, research papers, creative writing, punctuation, and sentence structure.
3. **Math** – Pre-algebra, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, geometry, and problem-solving.
4. **Science** – Earth science, chemistry basics, physics concepts, biology (cells, ecosystems), and hands-on experiments.
5. **Social Studies** – Ancient civilizations, world geography, early U.S. history, and basic economics/government.

Creative & Enrichment:

6. **Art & Creativity** – Drawing, painting, digital art, sculpture, and studying famous artists.
7. **Music & Performing Arts** – Choir, learning an instrument, drama, and music appreciation/history.
8. **Public Speaking & Debate** – Speech writing, persuasive speaking, structured debates, and storytelling.

9. **Nature Study & Outdoor Exploration** – Ecology, environmental science, hiking, and survival skills.
10. **Life Skills & Leadership** – Time management, organization, money management, teamwork, and emotional intelligence.

Optional Extras:

11. **Foreign Language** – Spanish, French, ASL, or another language with grammar and conversation practice.
12. **STEM & Coding** – Programming (Scratch, Python, JavaScript), robotics, engineering challenges, and logic puzzles.
13. **Faith Studies** – Scripture study, ethical discussions, and Christian history.

SEVENTH & EIGHT GRADE:

For seventh and eighth-grade homeschoolers, the focus should be on deepening critical thinking, independence, and preparing for high school. Below are suggested areas of study for both grades:

Core Subjects (Both Grades)

1. **Literature & Composition** – Classic and modern novels, literary analysis, essay writing, research skills, and creative writing.
2. **Math** –
 - **7th Grade:** Pre-Algebra, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, and probability.
 - **8th Grade:** if ready a student could begin Algebra 1, functions, equations, graphing, and introductory geometry. OR a review of Pre-Algebra might be better to really solidify that foundational subject.
3. **Science** –
 - **7th Grade:** Life science (cells, genetics, ecosystems, human body) and introductory chemistry/physics.
 - **8th Grade:** Physical science (chemistry, physics, energy, motion, electricity) and hands-on labs.
4. **Social Studies** –
 - **7th Grade:** World history (ancient to medieval civilizations), geography, and cultures.
 - **8th Grade:** U.S. history (colonial to modern times), civics, and government.

Creative & Enrichment

5. **Art & Creativity** – Drawing, painting, digital art, mixed media, photography, and studying famous artists.
 6. **Music & Performing Arts** – Choir, learning an instrument, drama, and music appreciation/history.
 7. **Public Speaking & Debate** – Speech writing, persuasive speaking, structured debates, and storytelling.
 8. **Nature Study & Outdoor Exploration** – Ecology, conservation, weather, environmental science, and survival skills.
 9. **Life Skills & Leadership** – Time management, organization, financial literacy, cooking, entrepreneurship, and communication.
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Optional Extras

10. **Foreign Language** – Spanish, French, ASL, Latin, or another language with grammar and conversation practice.
11. **STEM & Coding** – Programming (Python, JavaScript, robotics, engineering challenges, and problem-solving).
12. **Faith Studies** – Theology, scripture memorization, Christian history, and ethical discussions.