

Middle School Course Outlines

These are the course descriptions for Middle School A and B. Courses, especially electives, may change slightly from year to year, but this will give you an idea of what has been covered.

In an effort to have better class sizes, middle and high school groupings will be looped together into two grades so that each child will complete A and B for each level (one per year) but may do them in a different order depending on which year they enter the loop.

2023-2024 - Middle School A

2024 - 2025 - Middle School B

Bible Class Outline

Middle School A: Bible Study Methods

Course Goals:

1. To introduce students to a variety of Bible Study methods.
2. To help students learn to consider the context, identify the meaning of the passage, make good observations and draw proper applications to their lives.
3. To increase students' Biblical literacy, provide helpful tools and generate confidence in studying the Bible for themselves.

Course Materials: A good study Bible, *How to Study the Bible* by Kay Arthur, *Jesus in the Spotlight: John 1-10* by Kay Arthur, *Topical Memory System* by the Navigators, and other studies that will be provided.

Homework: Students will be given memory work and 5 days of homework each week in preparation for the class discussion. The homework will involve reading the passages being studied and answering questions.

Basic Outline of Class Days:

- Review Scripture from the TMS
- Go over the homework from the previous week and discuss what we learned and how we can apply it
- Introduce the next study method or skill we will be working on

Bible Study methods we'll cover:

- Inductive Bible Studies
- Book Summary
- Book Survey
- Chapter Study
- Topical Study

- Character Study
- Historical Event Study

Middle School Course Descriptions

Grading:

There will be no grades in this course, but periodic feedback on class participation and student preparedness will be given to parents. Those students who put the most into the class will profit the most.

Middle School B: New Testament

Course Goals:

1. To help students increase their Biblical literacy and familiarity with the entire New Testament.
2. For students to recognize and communicate clearly larger themes and truths of the New Testament.
3. To have extensive practice in Bible Study of a variety of Bible books, learning to observe and learn as well as properly apply the truths to their lives.

Course Materials: A good study Bible, *The Most Important Thing You'll Ever Study, Volumes 3 and 4.*

Homework: Students will be given memory work and 5 days of homework each week in preparation for the class discussion. The homework will involve reading the passages being studied and answering questions.

Basic Outline of Class Days:

- Review Scripture from the TMS
- Go over the homework from the previous week and discuss what we learned and how we can apply it
- Introduce the next lesson

Grading:

There will be either a test or paper due each quarter for grading that may be turned in for a grade.

Literature Class Outline

Middle School A

Booklist

Required Summer Reading: TBD

Class Required Reading

1. Greek and Norse Myths
2. Animal Farm
3. Adam of the Road
4. The Hiding Place
5. Treasure Island
6. Out of the Silent Planet
7. Words Aptly Spoken: Short Stories

Course Goals

The goal of middle school literature will be to

Middle School Course Descriptions

1. Expose students to a wide variety of literary styles
2. Increase their understanding of literary devices, genres, and author intent
3. Expand their ability to discuss literature in a group setting
4. Be able to connect their readings to their own life, other works of literature, other academic subjects, and Scripture

Course Materials: The novels listed for each year.

Homework: Students will be expected to read novels outside of class and complete brief summaries to aid in their discussion. Students may also be asked to prepare discussion questions and complete a culminating project or written responses for some of the novels.

Basic Outline of Class: The class will be primarily discussion-based, using *Teaching the Classics* as a framework for teaching literary elements and using Socratic method to engage with the book. The teacher may provide additional literature selections for students to read and discuss. Periodically, one class (or extra-curricular meeting) will be more of a book club style where students can share what they are reading outside of the required list. The purpose of this exercise is to help instill the idea that reading is a life-long pursuit that should be enjoyable and continued after completing formal academic studies.

Grading: Students will be given a discussion grade based on rubrics discussed in class. Students will focus on improving discussion skills. The teacher may also grade the culminating projects.

Middle School B

Booklist

Required Summer Reading:

The Last Battle

Breaking Stalin's Nose

Class Required Reading

1. The Giver
2. Fever
3. The Bronze Bow
4. Watership Down
5. War of the Worlds
6. Goodbye, Mr. Chips
7. A Single Shard
8. Words Aptly Spoken: Short Stories

History Class Outline

Middle School A: Heritage Studies

Course Goals:

The goal of middle school heritage studies will be to:

1. Learn how to study and research history. Students will learn how to find appropriate sources, understand primary sources, take notes, and create bibliographies.

Middle School Course Descriptions

2. Improve in their ability to discuss historical events in a group setting. Particular emphasis will be placed on the cause and effects of historical events.
3. Work as a group doing hands-on projects. Some of our class time will be devoted to completed projects related to the historical events studies. Students will work together in groups to complete these projects improving their problem solving, communication, leadership skills, and teamwork.
4. Develop presentation skills. Students will have an opportunity each quarter to work on an independent project that they will present in class. The requirements for this project will vary in length and type so that the parent can pick what best fits their family but each student will have the opportunity to present their project to their group.

Course Materials: History spines, several novels and biographies, basic art and school supplies for presentations

Homework: Homework will be two-tiered - traditional and honors. You can choose which is best for your student and family. At each tier students will be required to complete:

- group projects (some work for this will be complete in class)
- individual projects
- history spine reading and notes
- additional reading and notes (articles, novels, biographies, etc.)
- one research paper and additional research activities
- short answer prompts to respond to reading

Basic Outline of Class: Heritage studies will be divided into four quarters with a focus on a specific area of study each quarter. .

- Ancient Greece
- Medieval China
- Vikings
- African Empires

We will follow this basic outline for each unit:

- Overview of time period with group activities (timeline, comparison charts, etc.)
- Group project work
- Instruction in content-related skills (research, note taking, primary source analysis, etc.)
- Discussion questions based on ideas, source documents, etc.
- Individual projects presented to the group

Grading: Students will be graded on projects and class participation using a rubric so that parents can take this feedback into consideration if giving grades in middle school. They can also use the feedback to work on specific skills at home. Teacher may also provide tests to be given at home as parents wish.

Middle School B: Foundations in American History and Government

Course Goals:

The goal of middle school Foundations in American History and Government will be to:

1. Learn how to study and research history. Students will learn how to find appropriate sources, understand primary sources, take notes, and create bibliographies.
2. Improve in their ability to discuss historical events in a group setting. Particular emphasis will be placed on the cause and effects of historical events.

Middle School Course Descriptions

3. Work as a group doing hands-on projects. Some of our class time will be devoted to completed projects related to the historical events studies. Students will work together in groups to complete these projects improving their problem solving, communication, leadership skills, and teamwork.
4. Develop presentation skills. Students will have an opportunity several times during the year to work on a project and present it to the class.. The requirements for this project will vary in length and type so that the parent can pick what best fits their family but each student will have the opportunity to present their project to their group.

Course Materials: *Landmark History of the American People* OR *This Country of Ours*, novels and biographies, notecards, notebook paper or composition book, additional articles/readings provided by the teacher.

Homework: Homework will be two-tiered: required reading or project preparation and suggested reading, writing, and projects to round out a comprehensive study. Families can choose what level of work their student can pick from but there will be multiple project options for each level. Required student work would include:

- group project (most work for this will be complete in class)
- individual project (in two tiers – one tier would require minimal work but still offer students a chance to present to the group. The other tier would require more research and would be appropriate for a student using this class as their primary history study)
- varied amount of outside reading (required and suggested resources)
- varied amount of outside research (required and recommended resources)
- suggested writing prompts for students using this class as their primary history study

Basic Outline of Class: Foundations in American History and Government studies will be divided into four quarters with a focus on a specific area of study each quarter. .

- Pre-Colonial America
- Colonial America and Revolution
- 1784-1820
- 1820-Civil War
- The two middle units will have a particular focus on government

Co-op days will include activities such as:

- Instruction of time period with partner and group activities
- Instruction on content related skills (research, bibliographies, primary source analysis, note taking, etc.)
- Discussion questions based on ideas, source documents, etc.
- Group or Individual projects presented to the group

Grading: Students will be graded on projects and class participation using a rubric so that parents can take this feedback into consideration if giving grades in middle school. They can also use the feedback to work on specific skills at home. Teacher may also provide tests to be given at home as parents wish.

Science Outline

Middle School A: General Science

Course Goals:

Middle School Course Descriptions

1. Give a general overview and introduction to many fields of science and prepare them for the coursework in high school.
2. Prepare them with basic skills for studying science including note-taking, proper procedures for conducting labs and writing reports, how to use the scientific method and how to properly report on and analyze results.
3. To better understand how to learn about God through the study of science and to see His intelligent design throughout creation.

Textbook: *Exploring Creation with General Science, 3rd Edition*
<https://www.apologia.com/homeschool-general-science/>

Homework: There are 4 days of homework each week that would consist of reading, activities in their notebooks and periodic tests.

We will follow this basic outline in class:

- Review the reading and activities from the week and allow students to ask questions on anything they found challenging or confusing.
- Brief Lesson and recap to set up for the Lab.
- Conduct a full lab and begin (and sometimes complete) the lab report
- Introduce the next week's concepts

Units Covered in this Course (general overview of each):

- The History of Science
- Scientific Inquiry and the Scientific Method
- Documenting and Interpreting experimental Results
- Scientific Analysis and History
- Earth Science – Astronomy
- Earth Science – Geology and Paleontology
- Earth Science – Meteorology and Oceanography
- General Chemistry
- General Physics
- Life Science
- General Biology
- The Oceans of the Earth
- Environmental Science
- Science and Creation

Middle School B: TBD - likely Apologia's Anatomy course

Writing Class Outline

Middle School A: Grammar of Poetry and Speech Boot camp

Course Goals:

- i. Learn the grammar of poetry through the classical art of imitation
- ii. Become more skilled at analyzing poetry and language in general
- iii. Introduce basic concepts of how to organize a speech
- iv. Provide opportunity for students to practice speaking in front of a small group

Middle School Course Descriptions

Course Materials: The Grammar of Poetry student workbook, Speech Bootcamp workbook

Homework: Students will complete weekly assignments based on skills covered in class. Students may be expected to read examples of poetry and speeches outside of class to discuss during class time.

Basic Outline of Class Days:

Grammar of Poetry

- Review homework assignments
- Learn new techniques and practice them collaboratively

Speech Bootcamp

- Watch Andrew Pudewa's Speech Bootcamp DVD
- Practice techniques collaboratively
- Deliver speeches written prior to class and complete peer evaluation

Grading: Student assignments will be graded based on a rubric. Rubrics will focus on stylistic techniques taught in class. Parents should evaluate student work for grammar and mechanics. Students will be encouraged to use a proofreading checklist.

Middle School B: IEW: Following Narnia, Vol. II (three quarters) and writing research papers and essays (one quarter)

Course Goals:

1. Refine creative and descriptive writing
2. Master the technique of the small essay
3. Continue working on research techniques
4. Complete a substantial research paper including in-text citations

Course Materials: IEW Following Narnia, Vol. II

Homework: Students will complete weekly assignments based on skills covered in class. In the final segment of the class homework will culminate in a 3-5 page research paper.

Basic Outline of Class Days:

IEW Narnia

- Share stories / homework from previous week
- Create outline in class
- Work on advanced writing techniques together

Research Methods

- Utilize research methods on individual research topics and sources
- Practice techniques collaboratively
- Share research papers with the class

Grading: Student assignments will be graded based on a rubric. Rubrics will focus on stylistic techniques taught in class. Parents should evaluate student work for grammar and mechanics. Students will be encouraged to use a proofreading checklist.

Elective Class Outline

The final middle school course will be an elective, possibly broken up by semester or trimester. Some possibilities include debate, world missions, Spanish, entrepreneurship, debate, and art. This class will vary by year and be determined based on teacher availability. Outside work will be minimal for elective classes.