

Middle School Descriptions 2019-2020

Middle School Literature

This class will introduce students to various literary genres and help them to recognize the influences literature can have on individuals and on society as a whole. Heavy emphasis will be placed on critical thinking. This will be a very interactive class and students will be encouraged to verbalize their opinions and ideas through group discussions and class projects.

Students will be given reading assignments along with class activities, and written homework. Parents can use take home questions and vocabulary flashcards (developed by the students) to compile tests for the students, if desired, but the instructor will only provide a class participation grade. I strongly encourage parents to read the books and the homework questions with their students, if for no other reason, than because of the wide range of reading levels within the class. Some books may be challenging for your student and they may need your input in understanding what they are reading. I prefer that no one give up on a hard book. Push through the hard parts, and you may discover that the strange dialect becomes easy after a few chapters, or perhaps a hard concept in one chapter doesn't affect the rest of the book. If a book is too easy for your student, then take advantage of the opportunity to focus on researching the author: what was his or her purpose in writing the book? What is the author's world view and how does it impact the story? These are questions I will encourage students to ask about every reading assignment.

Genres that will be covered include mythology, fantasy, science fiction, adventure, historical fiction, biography/autobiography, non-fiction, poetry, journalism and mystery. The book list is not yet finished but will include:

The Magician's Nephew	by C. S. Lewis
The Swiss Family Robinson*	by Johann Wyss
Johnny Tremain	by Esther Forbes
The Epic of Gilgamesh*	Penguin Books (Classics) "An English Version with an introduction by N. K. Sandars" provides an excellent historical background (but at a high school reading level)
God's Smuggler	by Brother Andrew with John & Elizabeth Sherrill
Mindwar (Book One)	by Andrew Klavan
Non Fiction TBD	
A "Nancy Drew" or "Hardy Boys" mystery book of your student's choice	
Various Poetry and Journalism articles – most can be looked up on line or will be provided to students	

*Many different versions are available at different reading levels. Choose one appropriate for your student.

Class Fee: \$10

Apologia Exploring Creation with Astronomy

Explore the vastness of the universe with *Exploring Creation with Astronomy, 2nd Edition* from Apologia. Study the basics of the field of astronomy, the sun, moon, planets, asteroids & meteors, the Kuiper Belt and Dwarf Planets, galaxies, and more through conversational lessons written directly to students. This Charlotte-Mason inspired guide to astronomy will keep kids interested and engaged for each lesson!

This class will be for 5th-6th graders. Students in 4th grade are welcomed to this class as long as they are good readers and are ready to take notes. Upper middle schoolers are also welcomed, just keeping in mind that it will be taught on a 5th-6th grade level.

Required material:

Apologia Exploring Creation with Astronomy Textbook

Apologia Exploring Creation with Astronomy Notebooking Journal (be sure you DO NOT purchase the junior notebook)

Class fee: \$10

Supply List: Pencil box with colored pencils, pencils, scissors and glue stick

Physical Science (8th grade and HS \$45/Lab fee)

Physical Science Course Covers:

- Measurement and Units so that students can convert between units in scientific study
- The Earth, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, and Lithosphere so that students can appreciate the wonder of our blue planet
- Weather so that students can understand the factors that affect the Earth's weather and how weather is predicted
- Introduction to Physics to understand the mechanics of motion, forces, and energy
- Our Newton's Laws and the Forces in Creation to understand friction, static and kinetic energy, gravity, electromagnetic forces, and electrical circuits
- Our Solar System, Stars, and Galaxies to introduce the wonders of our universe
- An Introduction to Chemistry for a basic introduction to atoms and molecules

Class Content:

This class will emphasize the lab procedures and review of each chapter's key concepts. A syllabus will be provided to guide the students through the chapters at home and will include reading, "On Your Own" questions, and Study Guide questions. The class time will include a short overview of the reading assignments, conducting the experiments, and, if time permits, reviewing the "On Your Own" and study guide questions assigned. Tests will be provided to be taken/graded at home.

Grading for this class:

No grades will be given for this class. Parents will be responsible for all tests, homework grades and the final grade.

Text book: Exploring Creation with Physical Science, 2nd Edition by Dr. Jay L. Wile / Published by Apologia Educational Ministries, Inc
Exploring Creation with Physical Science Student Notebook is required.
(2nd Edition)

Fee: A \$45 fee will be required to cover costs associated with the lab experiments