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## 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 are 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 labs, 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 teachers/coaches, and hold final authority in issuing transcript grades.
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!

**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)

### CREDIT/SPECIALIZED ART

This art class designed for ambitious 8th-12th graders will provide a credit-based opportunity to dive deep into specific art genres, study history through the lens of artists and time periods, and have some homework and projects outside of class.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Grade Target:** 8-12

**Loop Schedule:** Offered every year with projects looping every 2 years

**Credits:** 1 fine arts

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

### SPANISH

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRO TO SPANISH

This class will include bi-weekly vocabulary and cultural studies as well the introduction of Spanish grammar and sentence structure. The students have fun learning the language with engaging activities and games to solidify the lessons. Building confidence in speaking the language will be a primary objective. This class will have two projects, one each semester.

**Prerequisites:** None, 1-2 years elementary helpful

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

**Loop Schedule:** New vocabulary is offered every other year and can be taken in any order.

**Year A:** 2021/2022, 2023/2024

**Year B:** 2022/2023, 2024/2025



## **HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH**

This class is an introduction to new students at the High School level building off content learned in Middle school. The students are presented with the sentence and grammar structure in order to have conversations with the vocabulary learned. The students are required to work at home at least 20 minutes of Spanish with their assignments and a workbook. Each unit will present a cultural aspect to highlight diversity among Spanish-speaking countries and a reader to help the student build confidence. With each week, the desired outcome is building off of the reading, writing, and conversational skills to become a Spanish speaker.

**Prerequisites:** None, **Intro to Spanish** highly recommended

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

**Credits:** .5 Foreign Language

**Curriculum:** [Basic Spanish Workbook](#) by Dorothy Richmond, 3rd Edition

**Loop Schedule:** New vocabulary is offered every other year and can be taken in any order.

**Year A-** 2021/2022, 2023/2024

**Year 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.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ASL**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Grade Target:** 6-8

**Loop Schedule:** Offered every year. Vocabulary and topics rotate on a two-year loop.

Year A (2022-23, 2024-25)

Year B (2023-24, 2025-26)

**Curriculum:** We will be using the curriculum available through the website ASLDeafined.com. 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.



## **HIGH SCHOOL ASL**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Grade Target:** 9-12

**Loop Schedule:** Offered Every Year - New topics and vocabulary for each loop year, repeating after 2 years.

- Year A (2022/2023, 2024/2025)
- Year B (2023/2024, 2025/2026)

**Credits:** 1 Foreign Language

**Curriculum:** We will be using the curriculum available through the website ASLDeafined. Each student in the high 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 the following August

## **SCIENCE COURSES**

### **6th/7th GRADE SCIENCE**

Alternating years of Life and Earth Science are offered to these grade levels with two identical sections to choose from. Hands-on experiences in the classroom serve as a springboard for coursework and projects that are done at home. These classes are 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:** 6/7

**Loop Schedule:** Offered every year, alternating content

1. Earth Science (2022/2023, 2024/2025)
2. Life Science (2023/2024, 2025/2026)

**Curriculum:** Christian School International Textbooks

### **8th GRADE PHYSICAL 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. This Physical Science is a preparatory high school class and can earn a student high school credit with extra work at home. The pace and content of this class are at or above grade level.

**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:** 8th (some 9th graders find this a better fit if not previously taken)

**Curriculum:** Christian School International Textbooks

**Loop Schedule:** Offered every year



## 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. In addition, students will complete a handful of projects throughout the year.

**Prerequisites:** Student should be reading on grade level and ability 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*

## 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:** Apologia High School Chemistry

## HIGH SCHOOL HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY- Private Tutor Only

This course covers both the anatomy and physiology of each of the human body's organ systems. This study will introduce the organizational levels of the human body from a single cell to the 11 major organ systems: skeletal, nervous, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, muscular, integumentary, lymphatic, urinary, endocrine, and reproductive. We will also perform laboratory exercises including some dissections. **This class is offered as a private tutor class. The instructor will use EPIC resources such as praxi but will set their own pricing and requirements. Students may register for this class along with other EPIC classes but will pay the instructor directly. Tuition will be \$300 with an additional \$20 for supplies paid directly to the instructor. Contact Laura Marsman at [lmarsman.epicacademy@gmail.com](mailto:lmarsman.epicacademy@gmail.com) with questions**

**Prerequisites:** Biology and Chemistry

**Grade Target:** 11-12

**Credits:** 1 Science with Lab

**Curriculum:** Apologia Advanced Biology 2nd Edition and the Princeton Review Anatomy Coloring Workbook



## LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES

### 6th/7th GRADE WRITING

Building on the basic skills learned at the upper elementary level, this class will help students review grammar and literary devices, perfect solid sentence and paragraph writing, and practice important independent brainstorming, organizing, summarizing, and editing skills. Students will be exposed to good literary examples of writing including journal, fictional, narrative, informational, persuasive, and biographical writing, and will be given the opportunity to practice writing using multiple genres. Through these genres, students will develop a writing “voice” and descriptive, vivid language. Students will also be introduced to very basic research skills, citing resources, and avoiding plagiarism. This class is designed to help students prepare for the rigors of academic writing across content areas in middle school.

**Prerequisites:** Students should be reading on grade level, and have the stamina to write independently for at least 20 minutes a time. It is highly recommended that students acquire all the skills represented by our Upper Elementary Language Arts class before taking this one.

**Grade Target:** 6-7

**Loop Schedule:** Every Year

**Curriculum:** Teacher-created based on Brave Writer philosophy and structure of WriteShop I

### 7th/8th GRADE WRITING

This class will prepare students for the rigors of academic writing and create a foundation upon which solid high school level writing can be built. Students will be exposed to good literary examples and be encouraged to practice writing “mature” sentences using figures of speech, vivid language, and strong grammatical structures. Students will work to perfect the five-paragraph essay and learn the nuances and skills necessary to build good sentences and paragraphs, organize, summarize, outline, research, cite sources and quotations, avoid plagiarism, and clearly communicate through fictional, biographical, informational, and persuasive genres.

**Prerequisites:** Students should be reading on grade level and have the stamina to write for 20-30 minutes at a time. It is highly recommended that students take the 6th/7th Grade Writing class prior to this one.

**Grade Target:** 7-8

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

**Curriculum:** Teacher-created based on Brave Writer philosophy and structure of WriteShop II



## MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERATURE AND SPEECH

This unique class is discussion-based and encourages critical thinking by:

1. Reading amazing literature - both novels and picture books - steeped in critical cultural themes (such as identity, racism, bullying, etc.).
2. Participating in class and family 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, biblical, 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.

**Prerequisites:** Students should be reading on grade level and have the ability to communicate clearly through writing a classic 5 paragraph essay.

**Grade Target:** 6-8

**Loop Schedule:** 3-year loop based on literature selections and themes

**Curriculum:** Novels TBD and the Bible.

## HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH AND COMPOSITION WRITING

Research is not just a “school skill,” but a set of mental habits and practices that help us collect, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems and make wise decisions. In this course, students will spend the first semester learning the craft of research, which will prepare them to engage in a self-guided, long-term project in the second semester. In class, students will study great models, learn about different tools and techniques for research, and participate together as a community of learners every week. Outside the classroom, students will dive into interesting sources and develop their own thinking and conclusions through informal writing assignments. We will celebrate our work with a formal presentation of research at the end of the year. 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:** Teacher created



## HIGH SCHOOL INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE AND SPEECH

This year-long class is designed for underclassmen or older students who may not be experienced in reading and analysis for upperclassmen-level literature. The desired outcomes of the course are for students to:

1. Recognize, comprehend, interpret, and analyze various conventions and genres of literature-- fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry.
2. Formulate, critically edit, practice, and confidently present 4 types of speeches.

**Prerequisites:** Composition and Research Writing or equivalent

**Grade Target:** 10-11

**Loop Schedule:** Every year

**Credits:** 1 English Language Arts

**Curriculum:** Novels TBD

## HIGH SCHOOL UPPERCLASSMEN LITERATURE

This class alternates between American and British literature sources for the advanced and experienced high schooler. For 2022-2023, students will enjoy a sampler of some of American literature's finest works, observing how language and literary tradition evolved into its current form. We'll study each text through a steady rhythm of reading, annotating, and discussing, sharing our reactions, questions, and analysis of the stories as we go. Students will learn and practice the skill of literary analysis by writing responses to interesting prompts, eventually composing their own formal literary analysis essay. Our final adaptation project will challenge students to produce an artistic interpretation of their favorite text (such as a comic strip, a short film, or a board game) and present it to the class. 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 (2023/2024, 2025/2026)

**Credits:** 1 English Language Arts

**Curriculum:** Inspired by IEW Literature Courses



## 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

### HIGH SCHOOL AMERICAN HISTORY

This class presents history from the perspective of faith in God and respect for His Word. Each unit includes a Bible study highlighting spiritual issues related to history. It is comprehensive, giving students a survey of events and issues from European exploration to the war on terror, with extensive coverage of the twentieth century. The *Exploring America* Curriculum Package includes three books:

- *Part 1: Columbus through Reconstruction* (first semester)
- *Part 2: Late 1800s through the Present* (second semester)
- *American Voices: A Collection of Documents, Speeches, Essays, Hymns, Poems, and Short Stories from American History* (assigned readings)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Grade Target:** 9-12

**Loop Schedule:** Every Year

**Credits:** 1 Social Science

**Curriculum:** Exploring America by Ray Notgrass



## HS 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

**NOT OFFERED 2022-2023**

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 (2023/2024, 2025/2026)

**Credits:** 1 Social Science

**Curriculum:** Exploring World History by Ray Notgrass

## MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE SURVEY

In this class students will take a journey through the entirety of Scripture, gaining an understanding of its big themes and overall organization. Using Route 66 curriculum by Positive Action Bible, students will build the essential skills and knowledge to study God's Word and grow in their relationship with the Lord. In addition to an overview of each book of the Bible, students will also learn about biblical genres, literary and historical context, and Bible study methods.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Grade Target:** 6-8

**Loop Schedule:** Every Year

**Curriculum:** Route 66 by Positive Action



## 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, Bible study skills, Christian disciplines, worship, and evangelism. 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

**Prerequisites:** None

**Grade Target:** 8-10

**Loop Schedule:** Every Year

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

## HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE- Year 1: Christian Worldview & Theology

This class will offer an in-depth study of and discussion about basic faith truths of the Christian Worldview and Reformed Biblical beliefs. Students will do at-home projects and papers to discover how these truths impact culture. Students will also learn to have tactical conversations with those of other belief systems. This class serves as a prerequisite for an upper-level Apologetics class.

**Prerequisites:** It is recommended (but not required) that students take the Intermediate Bible first.

**Grade Target:** 10-12

**Loop Schedule:** Every Year

**Credit:** 1 Social Science Credit

**Curriculum:** TBD

## HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE - Year 2: Apologetics & Evangelism

This class will build on the foundation of the Christian worldview and beliefs learned in Year 1 of High School Bible and create a scaffolding for how to both defend and share that faith with the world around us. Students at the college level are inundated with questions and accusations regarding their faith, and we want our EPIC students buttressed up to give an answer for what and why they believe what they do! Students will read amazing literature on defending and sharing their faith, partake in meaningful conversations, and create projects and papers that help them process all they will learn.

**Prerequisites:** High School Bible - Year 1: Christian Worldview & Theology

**Grade Target:** 10-12

**Loop Schedule:** Every Year

**Credit:** 1 Social Science Credit

**Curriculum:** TBD

## **TECHNOLOGY 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. There will also be green screen and basic coding lessons as students work on video technology. 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 years of age” accounts, personal laptop or tablet for use in class. Limited EPIC-owned devices available to those who do not have their own.

**Grade Target:** 6-9

**Loop Schedule:** Every Year, repeat students will receive “next step” challenges within the same content.

### **ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving competition that engages students in their learning by allowing their knowledge and ideas to come to life in an exciting, productive environment. During class time at EPIC, 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. One team of middle school students and one team of high school students are planned.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Tuition is due in the FULL yearly amount on August 15. **Middle & High School Students MUST COMMIT to the competition and any rules that apply for participation.**

**Participation Requirements:** Students must attend at least 2 outside practices, typically held in January, in preparation for competition. Must attend local and state competitions in February and March (One Saturday each).

**Homework Expectations:** Students may be required to complete team problem work at home, especially in the second and third quarters to help the team prepare for competitions. This is student and problem driven and is focused on items that cannot be done in the class time at EPIC.

**Parental Expectations:** There is a requirement for parent/family involvement in the form of material preparation, volunteering at competitions, and helping procure judges for the competition.

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

**Loop Schedule:** New teams and problems each year