



EPIC Homeschool Academy

Elementary Course Descriptions

Scope and Sequence

OVERVIEW

EPIC Homeschool Academy offers a variety of academic and enrichment-style classes for the elementary levels. Elementary is considered 2nd-5th grade. Academic classes include, but are not limited to; language arts, foreign language, and science. Enrichment-style classes include, but are not limited to; art, gym, and music. Prerequisites are suggested skills mastered or classes taken before enrollment. Loop schedule refers to the number of suggested years of a class when it is taken on a rotating basis. Descriptions are as accurate as possible given current staffing and curriculum choices but are subject to change. Classes have a capacity of 18 students unless otherwise noted. Class supply fees may apply and will be listed in August with other book and supply lists.

OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

1. An academic class (science, foreign language, language arts) averages **30 minutes per day of homework** plus projects.
2. An enrichment class (art, gym, K/1) typically has little to no homework.
3. **Parent involvement is expected** and often required, especially for students who need assistance with reading and writing.
4. All families are expected to have **access to the internet**, a printer, and Google items (docs, sheets, slides, classroom, etc). If remote learning occurs, zoom may be needed.
5. Grading is teacher preference but is typically done on an **ESN scale** (Excellent, Satisfactory, Needs improvement).

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KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE ENRICHMENT

In our K/1 Enrichment Class (Block time 10:30-3:30), students will participate in several unit studies throughout the year that will engage them in learning both important skills and content. Each unit will have a unique theme verse, art projects, and several interactive learning experiences. Learning activities will be differentiated to challenge students of differing academic ability levels. Class parties are also a highlight for this age group. K/1 Students also spend 1 hour each Monday in a unique gym class designed to develop gross motor skills and introduce them to basic games and sports. This class is meant to complement what is being done at home. Curriculum for phonics/reading, math, and handwriting are recommended to round out grade-level learning. Capacity is 20 students.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to follow three-step directions, be independent in self-care activities such as using the restroom and eating lunch, have an attention span of 10 minutes, be able to write their own name, and have exposure to phonics instruction. **Students should be kindergarten-ready and turn 5 by September 1st.**

Loop Schedule: Content units run on a two-year loop

Year A (2022/2023, 2024/2025): Habitats, States of Matter, Spring Sensations, Types of Energy, Dinosaurs, Extreme Earth, Elements of Art

Year B (2023/2024, 2025/2026): Astronomy, Laws of Motion, Continents and Oceans, Landforms, Human Anatomy, Missionary Studies, Community Helpers

2nd-5th GRADE ELEMENTARY COURSES

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

A fun and engaging introduction to American Sign Language and d/Deaf culture. Students use a variety of activities to learn the language in class and at home. Daily practice helps build vocabulary and conversational skills. A mixed-aged class for 2nd-5th grade.

Prerequisites: None

Expectations: Daily vocabulary practice, class participation, and weekly homework including responding to articles and videos, and submitting vocabulary work on Flipgrid.

Loop Schedule: Appropriate for 2-5th grade years, vocabulary changes each year for 3 years

- Loop Year 3 (22/23)
- Loop Year 1 (23/24)
- Loop Year 2 (24/25)

Curriculum: The elementary class will be on a 3-year loop using vocabulary from The Gallaudet Children's Dictionary of American Sign Language throughout the 3 years, supplemented by additional material.

ART

Creating various projects using multiple art forms and periods. Paint, sculpture, print, drawing, watercolor, oils, and more highlight this creative enrichment experience. Three sections offered (2/3rd grade, 4/5th grade, and a 2nd-5th grade combined class). 24 student capacity.

Prerequisites: None

Loop Schedule: Art themes and projects run on a 3-year cycle.

BIBLE

This class works through the Bible canonically (studying the books in the order they appear in the Bible), showing students how everything is connected into One Big Story - a story centered on Jesus Christ and his invitation to each one of us to be part of God's kingdom. As with all of our EPIC classes, we utilize lots of hands-on and project-based activities as we learn about the principles and stories in Scripture. Along the way, we also have many opportunities to learn about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and to develop skills and ideas that help us grow in our faith— including Scripture memorization and Bible study basics. Two identical class options are available.

Prerequisites: None

Loop Schedule: Appropriate for 2-5th grade years. Content runs on a 3-year cycle.

2022/2023: Where It All Begins - Genesis-Joshua

2023/2024: Judges, Prophets, Priests, and Kings - Judges-Malachi

2024/2025: Christ has Come! - New Testament

GYM

An introduction to a wide variety of sports and an opportunity to practice them in a group environment. Students learn teamwork and are encouraged in personal physical fitness. The class focuses on the virtues of perseverance, encouragement, cooperation, and humility. Max enrollment of 20 students. Three separate class hours are offered. (2/3rd, 4/5th, and a combined 2nd-5th class).

Prerequisites: None

Loop Schedule: New sports and games offered each year.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Elementary Language Arts focuses on providing a gentle and engaging introduction to the basics of writing and grammar. Literature-inspired projects, creative writing, poetry, basic building blocks of sentences, and reassuring prompts will capture the imagination of even the most reluctant writer. Inspired by Brave Writer philosophy combined with the structure of WriteShop and other teacher-created materials, this class is designed to carry elementary students all the way through 2nd-5th grades. Three class options are offered for 2nd/3rd Grade, 3rd/4th Grade, and 4th/5th Grade levels. To assist families with multiple students at the elementary level, efforts

will be made to have students at all three levels working on similar genres and activities at the same time. **Projects in each level will loop approximately every other year.** Due to the extensive learning in this content area in the primary levels of education and time restraints in our program, students will most likely need a spelling, handwriting, and phonics & reading skills program to round out their entire course of learning in this area.

1. Lower Elementary (2nd/3rd)

This class is geared toward emerging writers and will include in-class and weekly at-home activities and projects to build the basics of solid writing skills. The projects and curriculum will loop over the course of two years, incorporating the skills and genres listed below. Students will:

- Learn basic grammar, sentence structure, and mechanics.
- Practice organizational and editing skills through the writing process.
- Be exposed to a variety of writing and story genres and learn their components.
- Practice dictating ideas and sentences to parents and writing in multiple genres.

Lower Elementary Prerequisites: Students should be reading at a 1st-grade level, be able to sound out words, use phonemic awareness to create invented spelling, and put spaces between words. Students should also be able to summarize what's been read to them and have the stamina to write at least 5 minutes independently.

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

2. Mid-Elementary (3rd/4th)

This class will serve as a bridge class for students between levels. It will offer in-class and at-home activities and projects to challenge third graders who have mastered the lower elementary basics, and give additional support and encouragement to fourth graders not quite ready for the skill set offered in the upper elementary class. The projects and curriculum will loop over the course of two years, incorporating the skills and genres listed below. Students will:

- Review all of the basics listed under the Lower Elementary class.
- Continue to build their knowledge and use of grammar, sentence structure, and mechanics as they work towards composing a solid paragraph.
- Practice using figurative language and replace weak words with strong ones.
- Be exposed to examples of multiple writing genres and learn to write their own.
- Building independence in writing with the help of a parent

Mid-Elementary Prerequisites: Students should be reading at a 2nd-grade level, have basic spelling patterns and sight words mastered, and continue using phonemic awareness to spell words they are unsure of. Students should be able to summarize what they've read on their own and have the stamina to write for at least 10 minutes independently.

Curriculum: Teacher-created based on Brave Writer philosophy and structure of WriteShop Primary/Junior

3. Upper Elementary (4th/5th)

This class will give our upper elementary students the foundation they need to launch into middle school writing with excellence. It will offer in-class and at-home projects that engage and equip students to master writing 3-5 paragraphs based on different genres.

The projects and curriculum will loop over the course of two years, incorporating the skills and genres listed below. Students will:

- Review all of the basics listed under Lower and Mid-Elementary classes.
- Continue to build their knowledge of good sentence structure, solid grammar knowledge, editing skills, and organization of ideas as they work to multi-paragraph writing.
- Learn basic research etiquette and techniques.
- Be exposed to examples of good writing and create their own versions in multiple writing genres.
- Practice writing, editing, and publishing both with and independent of parents.

Upper Elementary Prerequisites: Students should be reading at a 3rd-grade level, have a good grasp on spelling and sentence structure, be able to summarize informational text they've read on their own, and have the stamina to write for at least 15 minutes independently. It is strongly recommended that these students take either the Lower or Mid-Elementary class prior to this one.

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

MUSIC

Students learn the basics of music theory, history, instruments, and more! Hands-on experience with boomwhackers and other small classroom instruments along with singing bring practical application to the class. Minimal homework for practice and retention. Offered at two different grade levels (1st-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade).

1. **1st-2nd Grade Music:** Students will explore the elements of music as we sing, move, and play instruments. They will learn about the instrument families of the orchestra and explore ways to become better musicians through games and songs! This is an active class with an experience-based approach to learning.

Prerequisites: None

Loop Schedule: Reviewed material every year but with refreshed lessons so students can take it twice.

2. **3rd-5th Grade Music:** This class will bring understanding to the elements of music through singing, instrument playing, and movement. Students will identify the instruments of the orchestra as we learn about composers through the ages. Students will also learn how to read music notation as they also learn to play the recorder. This is an active class with an experience-based approach to learning.

Prerequisites: Ability to read at basic level

Loop Schedule: Reviewed material every year but with refreshed lessons so students can take it twice.

Supply Fee: Recorder and book purchased by EPIC, est. \$20

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. A minimum of 5 students must be enrolled per team. Class is limited to students in 3rd-5th grade. **Tuition is due in the FULL yearly amount on August 15.**

Participation Requirements: Students must be in 3rd-5th grade. Must attend local and state competitions in February and March (1 Saturday each). Students must attend at least 1 outside practice, typically held in January, in preparation for competition.

Homework Expectations: This class is student and problem-driven and will likely require work that needs to be done outside of class time at EPIC. Students may be required to complete additional problem-solving work, or simple machine or prop-building at home, especially in the second and third quarters as the team prepares for competitions.

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.

Loop Schedule: New teams and problems each year

SCIENCE

Project-based and hands-on learning experiences both in the classroom and at home. Cooperative creative discovery with God’s amazing world is the goal of these elementary science classes. Engaging activities for home enhance the content being discovered during class time. Curriculum is based on Apologia Elementary textbooks and other teacher-created materials. Class is split into 2/3rd grade and 4/5th grade classes.

Lower Elementary (2/3rd) Prerequisites: None

Upper Elementary (4/5th) Prerequisites: It is recommended that students can read and write independently on grade level

Expectations: Parent involvement is required to ensure proper comprehension and response to the content and project completion.

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

1. Astronomy and Earth Science (2022/2023)
2. Ecology (Animal and Plant Studies) (2023/2024)
3. Chemistry and Physics (2024/2025)
4. Human Anatomy (2025/2026)

Curriculum: Textbook- 1 per family. In addition- 2/3rd grade: Junior notebooking journal, 4/5th Grade: Regular notebooking journal

SPANISH

A fun and engaging introduction to the Spanish language and cultural diversity of Spanish-speaking countries. Students learn through song, story, and play both in class and at home. Two main cultural projects are presented to the students, one per semester. Daily practice helps build vocabulary and conversational skills in the language. A mixed-aged class for 2nd-5th grade.

Prerequisites: None

Expectations: Daily vocabulary practice, class participation

Loop Schedule: Appropriate for 2-5th grade years, units repeat every two years.

Year A: 2021-2022, 2023-2024

Year B: 2022-2023, 2024-2025

STEM WORKSHOP

A true project-based workshop class inviting students to explore the areas of science, technology, and engineering. Units may include proper scientific methods, hands-on experiments, applied technology to solve a problem, basic engineering, and more. A broad overview and exposure to different STEM projects and experiences is the goal of this class. Two identical sections of this mixed-aged class for 2nd-5th grade are offered. New concepts are taught every other year.

Prerequisites: Reading on level, ability to be self-directed in learning

Loop Schedule: New concepts offered every other year

Year B: 2022-2023, 2024-2025

Year A: 2021-2022, 2023-2024