

# Venture Homeschool Enrichment Middle School Course Descriptions

## 2022 – 2023

*All courses are listed alphabetically. We advise that you not purchase curriculum until we finalize the lists in May, as some publishers will not update their versions until then.*

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## Middle School Courses

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Grammar

#### Course Description

This course is designed to smooth the transition from 5th grade to Middle School Literature. We will focus on grammar.

#### Expectations

Students need to plan to do 30 minutes of work at home each day for this course.

#### Prerequisites

None

#### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>Item Number</b>
Abeka Language C – Student Work Text	3 <sup>rd</sup>	157244
Abeka Language C – Quiz and Test Book	3 <sup>rd</sup>	157279
Abeka Language C – Answer Key	3 <sup>rd</sup>	164178
2 books of Mad Libs		

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

#### Course Description

Science 6 reveals the incredible intricacies of cells and organisms, matter and energy, astronomy, heredity, the nervous system, and the immune system. This science curriculum includes exciting science experiments and projects.

#### Expectations

We will be preparing the students for more advanced learning as they enter the middle school grades. There will be labs, homework, and tests.

#### Prerequisites

None

#### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
Bob Jones Grade 6 Science Student Textbook	4 <sup>th</sup>	9781628568745
Bob Jones Grade 6 Science Activity Manual	4 <sup>th</sup>	9781606822173
Bob Jones Grade 6 Science Test Booklet	4 <sup>th</sup>	9781606822197

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible

### Course Description

This class will spend time going through basic doctrines of the Bible.

### Expectations

Students need to plan to do 1 hour of work at home each week for this course.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

Material Requirements
Bible

## 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Grammar

### Course Description

Practice with active and passive verbs, perfect paragraph unity and coherence, and improve choppy and stringy sentence writing with Grammar and Composition III. This work-text includes daily exercises for your child to practice punctuation, capitalization, recognize and properly use parts of speech, and apply those concepts to write clear and concise compositions. Further work with clauses and diagramming will help your child correctly construct sentences. With ample examples and practice exercises plus a handbook of grammar rules, this work-text provides the perfect tools for enhancing your child's language abilities.

### Expectations

This work-text includes daily exercises for your child to practice punctuation, capitalization, recognition, and proper use of parts of speech, and application of those concepts to write clear and concise compositions.

Parents will be expected to grade their student's daily work for this class.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

Textbook Description	Edition	Item Number
Abeka Grammar & Composition III Student Workbook	6 <sup>th</sup>	341894
Abeka Grammar & Composition III Teacher Key	6 <sup>th</sup>	341908
Abeka Grammar & Composition III Quiz and Test Booklet	6 <sup>th</sup>	341916

## Algebra 1

### Course Description

The content of Algebra I is organized around families of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. As students learn about each family of functions, they will learn to represent them in multiple ways as verbal descriptions, equations, tables and graphs. They will also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations.

### Expectations

Students will be required to work on this course a minimum of one hour per day.

Parents will be required to grade daily work each and every school day.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

Textbook Description	Notes
McDougal Littell Algebra 1	Provided by Venture – Included in tuition

## American Sign Language (Beginning)

### Course Description

This is an overview of American Sign Language (ASL), its basic vocabulary, structure, syntax and grammar. Students will focus on mastering the basics of fingerspelling, numbers, colors, facial grammar and sentence structure. Students will also learn conversational/cultural behaviors necessary to hold a beginning-level conversation with ASL users.

### Expectations

Students should review content taught on Tuesdays throughout the week for about 15 minutes each day.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

Textbook Description	Edition	ISBN Number
A Basic Course in ASL by Tom Humphries	2 <sup>nd</sup>	978-0932666420

## Computer

### Course Description

The overall objective is for students to develop their typing skills to a minimum of 50 wpm with daily practice, develop 10-key skills, and to develop a working knowledge of Word 2016, Excel 2016, PowerPoint 2016, and Publisher.

### Expectations

Students will be expected to complete the following each week:

- Complete an assignment to be printed, emailed, or saved to flash drive
- Practice 15 minutes in an online computer typing program in order to reach a minimum of 50 words per minutes (wpm) by the end of the school year

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Material Requirements</b>
Daily access to a newer home computer or laptop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum System requirements for PC: (4 GB RAM, 4GB hard drive space, 1280 x 768 screen, 1.6 Ghz processor 2-core, Windows 10, latest version of Edge, Explorer, or Chrome, .NET version 3.5 or 4.6)</li> <li>• Minimum system requirements for MacOS: (4 GB RAM, 10 GB hard drive space, 1280x800 screen, any of 3 most recent versions of macOS, current version of browser (Safari or Chrome)</li> </ul>
Access to the internet and email address
Word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software
USB flash drive
Access to printer for printing completed assignments



## Conversational Spanish

### Course Description

Each year, there is a different theme for the class. The theme is stated in the class syllabus.

The goal is for all students to feel welcome and comfortable speaking the language.

### Expectations

Vocabulary lists will be provided for each week. In class we will have conversation practice with preassigned partners. Students will create a journal to use during each class, take home, and bring back each week. Students will complete one major project each semester, to be partially completed at home. There will be no weekly homework, but extension activities will be assigned for students to continue learning at home. *These are optional but strongly encouraged.* There will be a brief video posted online for each week, to demonstrate proper pronunciation of the week's words. Vowels are crucial to proper pronunciation, so we focus heavily on that in the beginning.

Our emphasis will be on vocabulary, with verbs learned in context of conversation only. No grades/assessment will be taken on content, but participation grades will be taken. I can provide that for parents of 8th grade students wanting to prepare their student for further language study in high school.

### Prerequisites

No previous Spanish required. I can provide resources for extra study.

### Textbook & Materials

No textbook required.

## Health & Physical Education

### Course Description

In this course, students will focus on the development of movement, skill and knowledge. Students will be encouraged to participate in assessment, Presidential Fitness, and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health and performance. Students will be taught physical fitness concepts, principles and strategies, and the application of psycho-logical and sociological concepts, including self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics, in the learning and performance of physical activity.

### Expectations

Come to class with a good attitude, in appropriate attire, and participate in the activities.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

None

## Journalism 1

### Course Description

Who? What? When? Where? Journalism provides us with the answers to these questions for the events that affect our lives. In this course, students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit their stories for publication. The course will also examine the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

### Expectations

Research approximately 15-20 min a day

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Journalism Basics: An Introduction to Print Journalism	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Provided by Venture – Included in tuition

<b>Other Material Requirements</b>
Access to internet

## Journalism 2/Design & Photojournalism

**Class offered for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up.**

### Course Description

This class will focus on the creative design elements that go into various forms of media publications, both digital and print. Students will learn effective layout, image editing, and photography skills. These skills will be put to use in developing the Venture Voice school newspaper and also personal projects/assignments.

### Expectations

30 minutes a week practicing computer work and design skills

### Prerequisites

Journalism 1 or instructor approval

### Textbook & Materials

No book required for this course.

<b>Other Material Requirements</b>
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Computer access
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## MS Geography & World Missions

### Course Description

This class will study missions, with a desire to:

- Look at what the Bible says about missions
- Study the Biblical missionaries
- Study great missionaries through the ages
- Learn about the geography of missions, the different cultures and how this affects mission efforts
- Learn about mission organizations in the East Texas area
- Be a part of local mission opportunities

### Expectations

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

None

## Life Science

### Course Description

Life Science is a survey course that provides a foundation for high school studies in biology. The course introduces students to God's organic creations, focusing on the classification of living things, the animal kingdoms, basic cell structure, and activities of living cells and organisms. Students examine the theories of creation and biological evolutions in relationship to the Word of God. Students develop a Biblical understanding of man's stewardship of the earth by studying ecosystems, interrelationships among organisms, and natural resources. Students also study the human body and its basic structure and function. The course includes hands-on activities.

### Expectations

Students will complete a chapter every week and be tested every other week. There are section reviews, chapter reviews, student activity pages, and laboratory assignments due weekly. The time spent on this class is a minimum of an hour per weekday. There will also be one larger project each semester that will require additional time outside of the daily assignments.

Parents will be responsible for grading chapter reviews.

### Prerequisites

Completion and passing 6th grade science

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
BJU Life Science – Student Textbook	5 <sup>th</sup>	9781628564013
BJU Life Science – Tests	5 <sup>th</sup>	9781628564037
BJU Life Science – Activities Manual	5 <sup>th</sup>	9781628564020

## MS Literature II

### Course Description

This course will introduce students to a variety of literature books and teach them to evaluate that literature using a Christian worldview. Students will read missionary, classic, and Lamplighter books.

### Expectations

Students will be expected to read and thoughtfully journal through assigned books. Students will learn literary terms and worldview concepts and will apply that knowledge to each book via worksheets and class discussions. Students will be tested over each book.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

Book Description	Author	ISBN Number
<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>		
<i>David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer</i>	Janet & Geoff Benge	9781576581537
<i>C.S. Lewis: Master Storyteller</i>	Janet & Geoff Benge	9781576583852
<i>Elizabeth Elliot: Joyful Surrender</i>	Janet & Geoff Benge	9781576585139
<i>Corrie ten Boom: Keeper of the Angels' Den</i>	Janet & Geoff Benge	9781576581360
<i>Number the Stars</i>	Lois Lowry	9780547577098
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Charles Dickens	**
<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>		
<i>Amos Fortune Free Man</i>	Elizabeth Yates	**
<i>Treasure Island</i>	Robert Louis Stevenson	**
<i>Little House on the Prairie</i>	Laura Ingalls Wilder	**
<i>The Bronze Bow</i>	Elizabeth George Speare	9780395137192
<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	Scott O'Dell	**
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	L.M. Montgomery	**
<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	Mark Twain	**

\*\* No specific ISBN number required

## MS U.S. History

### Course Description

This class gives students an appreciation of our nation's heritage so they can see God's providential hand in the events of American History.

### Expectations

Students will be expected to do 20 minutes a day of work for this class. This class will be discussion oriented with other smaller projects and class participation throughout the year.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>Item Number</b>
<i>Abeka America: Land I Love</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	201472
<i>Abeka America: Land I Love</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	201758

<b>Other Material Requirements</b>
Spiral Notebook
Pronged Folder

## Omnibus III

### Course Description

A logic stage classical Christian approach to the literature, history, and philosophy of the Reformation to the present including American history with essay writing requirements. Omnibus III follows Omnibus II, a study of the medieval period. The Omnibus textbook leads the student through reading and discussing whole books (not anthologies) of the medieval era.

### Expectations

Students must pass a four page timeline test for entrance into Omnibus III, take the timeline test each class day throughout the year (20% of the grade), answer required reading questions in a discussion notebook (20%), actively participate in class through discussion, presentations, and activities (20%), and take 30 minute in-class essay tests over reading material, revising these for the purpose of MLA usage and improvement in essay writing (40%).

**Omnibus III students will be reading at least 11 whole books**, taking weekly history timeline quizzes, and filling out a discussion notebook in addition to preparing class presentations. The class is worth three honors-level credits (medieval history, philosophy, and literature) and takes a great deal of reading time.

Estimated time required each week: 6-9 hours of reading, date & event memorization, notebook work, presentation preparation, and formal writing.

Parents grade discussion notebooks weekly.

### Prerequisites

- Parent must contact Mrs. Bertino through Mrs. Hall, [becca@venturetyler.com](mailto:becca@venturetyler.com), prior to enrolling.
- Pre-class mastery of timeline

### Prerequisite or Co-requisite

Enrollment in Venture's 8th and 9th Grade Grammar class (or completion of the equivalent at home with the same Abeka curriculum or, if preferred, Rod and Staff 8th Grade English Grammar.)

**(Omnibus III Continued)****Textbook & Materials**

Textbooks include but are not limited to the list below. Recommended to purchase at [Veritas Press](#) to get the best translations of books not originally written in English.

<b>Book Description</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
<i>Omnibus III Student Edition</i>		
<i>MLA Handbook, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (must buy used)</i>		
<i>Foxe's Book of Martyrs</i>	John Foxe	
<i>The Westminster Confession of Faith</i>		
<i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i>	William Bradford	
<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	Jonathan Swift	
<i>The Social Contract</i>	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	
<i>The Federalist Papers</i>		
<i>The Anti-Federalist Papers</i>		
<i>The Constitution of the United States of America</i>		
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Mary Shelly	
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen	
<i>On the Revolution in France</i>	Edmund Burke	
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Charles Dickens	
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	Harriet Beecher Stowe	
<i>Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings</i>	Abraham Lincoln	
<i>Macbeth</i>	William Shakespeare	
<i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	Friedrich Engels Karl Marx	
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	
<i>Mein Kampf</i>	Adolf Hitler	
<i>Christianity and Liberalism</i>	J. Gresham Machen	

**Other Material Requirements**

Large College Ruled Notebook
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## Physical Science

### Course Description

The text discusses such topics as the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, weather, the structure of the earth, environmentalism, the physics of motion, Newton's Laws, and gravity.

### Expectations

Students will complete half a module every week and be tested every other week. There are reading, study guide and laboratory assignments weekly. The time spent on this class is a minimum of an hour every school day. The class time will be divided into experiments and lecture.

### Prerequisites

Completion and passing 6th grade science

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
Apologia Physical Science – Student Textbook	3 <sup>rd</sup>	978-1-946506-51-1
Apologia Physical Science – Student Notebook	3 <sup>rd</sup>	978-1-946506-54-2

<b>Other Material Requirements</b>
Scientific Calculator

## Texas History

### Course Description

Students will learn about the history of our great state from a Christian perspective by reading historical literature books, and creating a personal notebook with maps, drawings, and research information.

### Expectations

Students will create and maintain an organized binder. Students can expect to spend 20 minutes per day on this class.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>
<i>Texas from a Christian Perspective</i> by Joy Dean (Texas State History Student Booklet Only)

<b>Literature Book Description</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
<i>The Story of Texas</i>	John Edward Weems	0940672359
<i>Boy in the Alamo</i>	Margaret Cousins	0931722268
<i>All for Texas</i>	G. Clifton Wisler	0613361695
<i>Galveston's Summer of the Storm</i>	Julie Lake	0875652727

## Word Roots

### Course Description

The Word Roots class teaches Latin and Greek roots so that students can improve their skills in reading, writing, and test taking. Students will memorize the meanings of 100 Latin and Greek roots and practice identifying them in their derivatives. They will also learn over 100 vocabulary words using those roots. Word Roots B can be taken after Word Roots A or as a standalone class.

### Expectations

In a typical week, students in Word Roots B would have 3 review exercises, 1 activity page, and around 12 vocabulary words to define. They are also expected to study their word roots weekly. Throughout the year, students will have around 20 quizzes, two projects, eight tests, one midterm and one final.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
Vocabulary from Classical Roots B	978-0838822524

## Write Shop Junior

### Course Description

Write Shop Junior’s creative activities spark joy in both eager and struggling writers. When fun replaces fear, a child’s confidence as a writer begins to blossom. Sprinkled with games, hands-on projects, and parent guidance, Write Shop Junior encourages success! Each lesson uses games to introduce skills such as replacing weak words with strong ones, forming sentences of different lengths, and using emotion words in writing. Children learn to use these new tools in their writing projects. Additionally, Write Shop Junior helps them use details and colorful description to write longer, more interesting stories and reports.

### Expectations

Students will be expected to complete 3 or 4 weekly assignments between each class meeting. Each day’s assignment should take between 15 and 30 minutes. Parents will need to monitor, supervise, or direct students as they work at home using supplemental instruction sheets.

### Prerequisites

None

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>	<b>Note</b>
Write Shop Junior Book F Student Activity Pack	9781935027386	Often sold together in single pack.
Write Shop Junior Book F Time Saver Pack	9781935027409	

## Write Shop I

### Course Description

Write Shop I teaches students the basics of descriptive, informative, and narrative writing. Not only do students learn to narrow their topics and choose vivid, descriptive wording, they learn to add interest to their writing by varying their sentence structure. Each lesson's Skill Builder introduces new tools and provides practice. Once a new sentence variation is introduced, students will apply it in future writing lessons. This "Learn-Practice-Do" approach helps ensure mastery.

### Expectations

One lesson will be covered every 2-3 weeks and a completed paper will be due at the end of that time. Our class time will set the groundwork for the writing that will take place at home during the week. You can expect to spend approximately 30-45 minutes per day on this class.

### Prerequisites

None

### Co-Requisites

Show proof of co-enrollment of a grammar curriculum at home or at Venture. This curriculum needs to be comparable to 6th grade grammar or higher. Some curriculum suggestions include Abeka, Rod and Staff, and Shurley English. The parent will be required to show proof of grammar progress via graded worksheets, quizzes, and tests. Solid grammar progress is necessary for growth in writing skills. If you have any questions, please contact Becca Hall.

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
Write Shop I Student Workbook	5 <sup>th</sup>	9781935027492

## Write Shop II

### Course Description

In addition to teaching descriptive narration, narrative voice, and point of view, Write Shop II offers comprehensive lessons in essay writing. Students learn to write and edit opinion essays, compare/contrast essays, and essays that describe or define. Special focus is placed on writing timed essays.

### Expectations

One lesson will be covered every 2-3 weeks and a completed paper will be due at the end of that time. Our class time will set the groundwork for the writing that will take place at home during the week. You can expect to spend approximately 30-45 minutes per day on this class.

### Prerequisites

Write Shop 1 or its equivalent

### Co-Requisites

Show proof of co-enrollment of a grammar curriculum at home or at Venture. This curriculum needs to be comparable to 7th grade grammar or higher. Some curriculum suggestions include Abeka, Rod and Staff, and Shurley English. The parent will be required to show proof of grammar progress via graded worksheets, quizzes, and tests. Solid grammar progress is necessary for growth in writing skills. If you have any questions, please contact the Cindy Sharp or Becca Hall.

### Textbook & Materials

<b>Textbook Description</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>ISBN Number</b>
Write Shop II Student Workbook	5 <sup>th</sup>	9781935027515

## Elective Courses

### **Art**

Hands-on art instruction. Students will do three-dimensional art, including ceramics and sculpture. They will also do two-dimensional art including drawing, mixed media, and oil pastels. This class will focus on the elements of art and design. We will talk about classical artists and techniques.

### **Girls' Club**

Open to middle school and high school female students who want to develop a deeper community with the girls of Venture. Girls' Club will meet every Tuesday after school for a fun time of Bible Study, bullet journaling, crafts, games, food, and fun! \$100 supply fee per student covers materials and snacks.

### **Journalism Club**

Open to students who have either completed the Journalism class or are concurrently enrolled in either Journalism 1 or 2. This club will build on the skills learned in the classroom, creating the Venture Voice among other projects.