

Venture Homeschool Enrichment Middle School Course Descriptions

2023 – 2024

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.

Table of Contents

Middle School Courses	1
6 th Grade Grammar.....	1
Course Description	1
Expectations	1
Prerequisites	1
Textbook & Materials.....	1
6 th Grade Science	1
Course Description	1
Expectations	1
Prerequisites	1
Textbook & Materials.....	1
7 th & 8 th Grade Bible	2
Course Description	2
Expectations	2
Prerequisites	2
Textbook & Materials.....	2
8 th & 9 th Grade Grammar.....	2
Course Description	2
Expectations	2
Prerequisites	2
Textbook & Materials.....	2
Algebra 1	3
Course Description	3
Expectations	3
Prerequisites	3
Textbook & Materials.....	3
American Sign Language I (Beginning).....	3
Course Description	3
Expectations	3
Prerequisites	3
Textbook & Materials.....	3

Biology	4
Course Description	4
Expectations	4
Prerequisites	4
Textbook & Materials.....	4
Computer	5
Course Description	5
Expectations	5
Prerequisites	5
Textbook & Materials.....	5
Conversational Spanish	6
Course Description	6
Expectations	6
Prerequisites	6
Textbook & Materials.....	6
Journalism 1	7
Course Description	7
Expectations	7
Prerequisites	7
Textbook & Materials.....	7
Journalism 2/Design & Photojournalism.....	8
Course Description	8
Expectations	8
Prerequisites	8
Textbook & Materials.....	8
MS Geography & World Missions	8
Course Description	8
Expectations	8
Prerequisites	8
Textbook & Materials.....	8
Life Science	9
Course Description	9
Expectations	9
Prerequisites	9
Textbook & Materials.....	9
MS Literature I.....	10
Course Description	10
Expectations	10
Prerequisites	10
Textbook & Materials.....	10

MS World History.....	11
Course Description	11
Expectations	11
Prerequisites	11
Textbook & Materials.....	11
Omnibus I	12
Course Description	12
Expectations	12
Prerequisites	12
Prerequisite or Co-requisite	12
Textbook & Materials.....	13
Physical Science.....	14
Course Description	14
Expectations	14
Prerequisites	14
Textbook & Materials.....	14
Texas History	15
Course Description	15
Expectations	15
Prerequisites	15
Textbook & Materials.....	15
Word Roots	16
Course Description	16
Expectations	16
Prerequisites	16
Textbook & Materials.....	16
Write Shop Junior	17
Course Description	17
Expectations	17
Prerequisites	17
Textbook & Materials.....	17
Write Shop I.....	18
Course Description	18
Expectations	18
Prerequisites	18
Co-Requisites	18
Textbook & Materials.....	18

Write Shop II	19
Course Description	19
Expectations	19
Prerequisites	19
Co-Requisites	19
Textbook & Materials.....	19
Elective Courses.....	20
Art	20
Girls' Club	20
Health & Physical Education.....	20
Journalism Club	20
Robotics Club (To Be Determined)	20

Middle School Courses

6th 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

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

6th 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

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

7th & 8th 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

8th & 9th 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 diagraming 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 th	341894
Abeka Grammar & Composition III Teacher Key	6 th	341908
Abeka Grammar & Composition III Quiz and Test Booklet	6 th	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 I (Beginning)

This class is offered for students in 8th grade or above.

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 nd	978-0932666420

Biology

This class is offered for students in 8th – 12th grade or above.

Course Description

This course is a college-preparatory biology course that provides a detailed introduction to the methods and concepts of general biology. Heavily emphasizing the vocabulary of biology, it provides the student with a strong background in the scientific method, the five-kingdom classification scheme, microscopy, biochemistry, cellular biology, molecular and Mendelian genetics, evolution, dissection, and ecosystems. It also provides a complete survey of the five kingdoms in Creation. Students who take and understand this course will be very well prepared for a university biology course.

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/laboratory and lecture.

Prerequisites

None

Textbook & Materials

Textbook Description	Edition	ISBN Number
Apologia Biology – Student Textbook	3 rd	9781946506450
Apologia Biology – Student Notebook	3 rd	9781946506481

Computer

This class is offered for students in 7th grade and above.

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

Material Requirements
Daily access to a newer home computer or laptop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • 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))
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.

Journalism 1

This class is offered for students in 7th grade and above.

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

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

Other Material Requirements
Access to internet

Journalism 2/Design & Photojournalism

This class is offered for students in 8th grade and above.

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.

Other Material Requirements

Computer access

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

This class is offered for students in 7th and 8th grade only.

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

Textbook Description	Edition	ISBN Number
BJU Life Science – Student Textbook	5 th	9781628564013
BJU Life Science – Tests	5 th	9781628564037
BJU Life Science – Activities Manual	5 th	9781628564020

MS Literature I

This class is offered for students in 7th and 8th grade only.

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

To be updated at a later date

Textbook Description	ISBN Number
FALL SEMESTER	
<i>Shipwrecked, Not Lost</i> by Dundas (Lamplighter book)	978-1584740414
<i>Call It Courage</i> by Armstrong Sperry	978-0689713910
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> by Madeleine L'Engle	978-0312367541
<i>Phantom Tollbooth</i> by Norton Juster	978-0394820378
<i>Peep Behind the Scenes</i> by Walton (Lamplighter book)	
<i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkein	
SPRING SEMESTER	
<i>Bonhoeffer: In the Midst of Wickedness</i> by Bengé (YWAM Christian Hero book)	978-1576587133
<i>Titus: A Comrade of the Cross</i> by Florence Kingsley (Lamplighter book)	978-1881545798
<i>Caddie Woodlawn</i> by Caroline Brink	978-1416940289
American Short Stories Unit: DO NOT PURCHASE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O. Henry – <i>The Gift of the Magi</i> • O. Henry – <i>The Ransom of Red Chief</i> • Washington Irving – <i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i> • Mark Twain – <i>The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County</i> 	
<i>Johnny Tremain</i> by Esther Forbes	978-0547614328
<i>That Printer of Udell's</i> by Wright (Lamplighter book)	
<i>Julie of the Wolves</i> by Jean Craig George	

MS World History

This class is offered for students in 7th and 8th grade only.

Course Description

History of the World leads students on a journey through time from Creation to the early 21st century. The Christian perspective is the thread that connects the past to the present in this fascinating narrative of world history, teaching students to recognize the hand of God in human events. An abundance of full-color paintings, lithographs, and photos enhance the text. Colorful maps provide students with a geographic setting for historical events; timelines help them place events in the chronology of world history.

Expectations

You can expect to spend about an hour a day on this class.

Prerequisites

None

Textbook & Materials

To be updated at a later date

Textbook Description	Edition	Item Number
Abeka <i>History of the World</i> – Student Textbook	5 th	
Abeka <i>History of the World</i> – Quiz Book	5 th	

Omnibus I

This class is offered for students in 7th – 9th grade.

Course Description

A classical Christian approach to logic-stage ancient literature, history, and philosophy. The Omnibus textbook leads the student through reading, discussing, and making presentations on whole books (not an anthology) of the ancient era.

Expectations

Students will take the timeline test each class day (30% of the grade), answer Socratic questions about the required reading in a discussion notebook (40%), and actively participate in class through discussion, and presentations (30%).

Omnibus I students will be reading at least 11 whole books. The class is worth three honors-level credits (one each for history, philosophy, and literature) and requires a large amount of reading time.

Parents grade the discussion notebooks and are encouraged to discuss the questions with their students at home. Students will receive the history timeline to memorize mid-summer and will be required to pass the timeline quiz the first day of class and to bring homework to the first week of class.

Prerequisites

- Parent must contact Mrs. Bertino at mdbertino@protonmail.com prior to enrolling.
- Pre-class mastery of timeline and a passing timeline quiz grade the first day of class.
- Completion of 6th grade grammar

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 I 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.

Book Description	Author	ISBN Number
<i>Omnibus I Student Edition</i>		
<i>The Codes of Hammurabi & Moses</i>		
<i>Gilgamesh</i>		
<i>The Histories</i>		
<i>The Odyssey</i>		
<i>Chronicles of Narnia – complete series</i>		
<i>Plutarch’s Lives Vol. 1</i>		
<i>The Aeneid</i>		
<i>Early History of Rome</i>		
<i>The Last Days of Socrates</i>		
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Shakespeare	
<i>Eagle of the Ninth</i>		

Other Material Requirements
Large College Ruled Notebook

Physical Science

This class is offered for students in 7th and 8th grade only.

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 each weekday. The class time will be divided into experiments/activities and lecture.

Prerequisites

Completion and passing 6th grade science

Textbook & Materials

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

Other Material Requirements
Scientific Calculator

Texas History

This class is offered for students in 6th grade only.

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

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

Literature Book Description	Author	ISBN Number
<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

This class is offered for students in 7th and 8th grade only.

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 A can be taken after Word Roots B or as a standalone class.

Expectations

In a typical week, students in Word Roots A 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

Textbook Description	ISBN Number
Vocabulary from Classical Roots A	978-0838822524

Write Shop Junior

This class is offered for students in 6th grade only.

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

Textbook Description	ISBN Number	Note
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

This class is offered for students in 7th and 8th grade only.

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

Textbook Description	Edition	ISBN Number
Write Shop I Student Workbook	5 th	9781935027492

Write Shop II

This class is offered for students in 7th – 9th grade.

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

Textbook Description	Edition	ISBN Number
Write Shop II Student Workbook	5 th	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!

Health & Physical Education

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.

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.

Robotics Club (To Be Determined)

To be updated at a later date