



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Jr. High School On-Campus
2023-2024

JOC

Courses are designed to provide junior high school students instruction in both core and elective subjects while also preparing them to succeed in their upcoming high school courses. Classes will stress attendance, time management, organization, following instructions, test-taking, oral presentation, and general classroom skills.

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COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ROTATIONS

Science Course Recommendation

Academically prepared Jr. High students are encouraged to take General Science in the 7th grade followed by Physical Science in the 8th grade. This path allows students to complete their high school science requirements in the 11th grade, freeing them to take an additional science course or pursue other academic interests in the 12th grade.

English Course Rotation

Each English course consists of three components: grammar, writing, and literature. To accommodate different levels of writing ability, two grammar/writing courses are offered: Level 1 (WriteShop I) and Level 2 (WriteShop II). Both courses are on the same literature rotation (Unit A or Unit B) and therefore, use the same reading list.

Note: Each student will only be enrolled in one JOC English course per academic year regardless of Level or Unit. Grammar, writing, and literature are all part of the same course.

The following grammar/writing components are offered each year, subject to availability, and must be taken in order unless approved by the JOC Coordinator and Course Instructor.

- Intro to Literature and Composition: Level 1 (WriteShop I)
- Intro to Literature and Composition: Level 2 (WriteShop II)

The following literature components are offered yearly on a rotating basis and may be taken in any order.

- Intro to Literature and Composition: Unit A (2023-2024)
- Intro to Literature and Composition: Unit B (2024-2025)

Social Science Course Rotation

The following courses are offered on a rotating basis, subject to availability, and may be taken in any order.

- World Geography (2023-2024)
- Civics w/Alabama History Unit (2024-2025)

Note: Jr. High (JOC) World Geography is not a substitute for High School (HOC) Geography. Eligible students may take both courses but not during the same academic year.

SCIENCE

General Science

Grades: 7-8

Cost: \$380

Lab Fee: \$40

Placement Test: No

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Marie Tennant

Semester: Fall and Spring

Schedule: Tuesday, 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM

This course is designed to introduce Jr. High students to post-elementary science studies while giving them an excellent opportunity to learn the organization and process of this series before reaching the high school-level courses. Introducing scientific concepts in the context of history, students will follow the work of the scientists who lived during the mid-1900s period known as "The Atomic Age." Students will be "introduced" to a variety of topics, including the scientific method, experimentation, atoms, the periodic table, compounds, and DNA. These topics are all discussed in the context of history, explaining how specific scientific advances led to today's scientific explanations. This allows students to learn not only the current scientific understanding of these topics, but also how scientists reached that understanding. In addition, they will discuss systems of the human body, as well as the living world, including ecosystems and biomes. Throughout the course, God's design in nature is highlighted, and topics in the creation/evolution debate are discussed.

The course will consist of in-class lectures and discussions plus out-of-class reading and assignments. Students will participate in weekly experiments, most of which will be done during class.

Required Resources:

- *Science in the Atomic Age*
Author: Dr. Jay Wile, 2020 (ISBN: 9780996278409)

Optional Resources:

- *Answer Key & Tests for Science in the Atomic Age*
Author: Dr. Jay Wile, 2020 (ISBN: 9780996278416)
- Note: The Solutions and Tests Manual should be kept by the parent until the instructor gives permission to use it.

ENGLISH

Intro to Literature and Composition: Unit A Level 1 (WriteShop I)

Grades: 7-8

Cost: \$380

Lab Fee: \$0

Placement Test: No

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Nikki Adams

Semester: Fall and Spring

Schedule: Monday, 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

This course is designed for first year students. Students will learn the steps of the writing process through lessons in descriptive, informative, and narrative writing using the WriteShop I curriculum. They also read and explore quality literature through in-class discussion, including answering comprehension questions and examining literary techniques.

Important: Level 1 (WriteShop I) and Level 2 (WriteShop II) have different writing class times but a shared literature class time. Please note the overlap in schedule for these courses.

Required Resources:

- *WriteShop I Student Workbook, 5th Edition*
Authors: Kim Kautzer and Deborah Older, 2020 (ISBN: 9781935027492 – 5th Edition)
- *The Phantom Tollbooth*
Author: Norton Juster
- *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*
Author: Avi
- *A Gathering of Days*
Author: Joan W. Blos
- *Amos Fortune, Free Man*
Author: Elizabeth Yates
- *Number the Stars*
Author: Lois Lowry
- *The Bronze Bow*
Author: Elizabeth George Speare

Notes:

- Any edition of the literature selections is acceptable.
- Students who use audio books must also have a print version of the text.

ENGLISH

Intro to Literature and Composition: Unit A Level 2 (WriteShop II)

Grades: 7-8

Cost: \$380

Lab Fee: \$0

Placement Test: No

Prerequisite: WriteShop I or Equivalent

Instructor: Nikki Adams

Semester: Fall and Spring

Schedule: Monday, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

This course is designed for second year students. Students expand their writing abilities as compositions shift focus to descriptive narration, narrative voice, point of view, use of tense, persuasive writing, and the basic 5-paragraph essay model. Students write multiple kinds of essays, learning to express an opinion and develop and support it with facts, details, and examples. They also read and explore quality literature through in-class discussion, including answering comprehension questions and examining literary techniques.

Important: Introduction to Literature and Composition Level 1 (WriteShop I) and Level 2 (WriteShop II) have different writing class times but a shared literature class time. Please note the overlap in schedule for these courses.

Required Resources:

- *WriteShop II Student Workbook, 5th Edition*
Authors: Kim Kautzer and Deborah Older, 2020 (ISBN: 9781935027515 – 5th Edition)
- *The Phantom Tollbooth*
Author: Norton Juster
- *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*
Author: Avi
- *A Gathering of Days*
Author: Joan W. Blos
- *Amos Fortune, Free Man*
Author: Elizabeth Yates
- *Number the Stars*
Author: Lois Lowry
- *The Bronze Bow*
Author: Elizabeth George Speare

Notes:

- Any edition of the literature selections is acceptable.
- Students who use audio books must also have a print version of the text.

MATH

Pre-Algebra

Grades: 7-8

Cost: \$570

Lab Fee: \$0

Placement Test: No

Prerequisite: None

Instructor: Chara Grace Marcio

Semester: Fall and Spring

Schedule: Thursday, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

This course is designed to prepare the student for Algebra 1. Topics being covered include variables and expressions, absolute value, operations with integers, graphing in a coordinate plane, translations and reflections, operations with rational numbers, solving 2-step equations, solving and graphing multi-step equations and inequalities, perimeter, area, ratios, proportions, scale drawings and models, converting rates and measurements, percent, functions, linear functions, slope-intercept, scientific notation, formulas, monomials, surface area, and volume. Students should be proficient in their math facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division before enrolling.

Required Resources:

- *TBD*

SOCIAL SCIENCE

World Geography

Grades: 7-8

Cost: \$300

Lab Fee: \$0

Instructor: Becky Robertson

Semester: Fall and Spring

Schedule: Tuesday, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

World Geography explores the countries of the Middle East, Europe, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas. Each region is explored in its historical context as well as in the present. Students learn countries and capitals of today and relate them to the ancient lands of the Greeks and Romans, deepening their understanding of past and present as they study ancient and modern countries. While focusing primarily on physical features, this course also briefly covers each country's history and culture, making it a useful lead-in to HOC Cultural Geography.

Required Resources:

- *Geography I: The Middle East, North Africa, & Europe, Student Text*
Author: Brett Vaden/Publisher: Memoria Press, 2011 (ISBN: 9781615381241)
- *Geography I: The Middle East, North Africa, & Europe, Student Workbook*
Author: Laura Bateman/Publisher: Memoria Press, 2011 (ISBN: 9781615381265)
- *Geography II: Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Oceania, & the Americas, Student Text*
Authors: D. Grant & M. Simpson/Publisher: Memoria Press, 2012 (ISBN: 9781615382156)
- *Geography II: Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Oceania, & the Americas, Student Workbook*
Laura Bateman Publisher: Memoria Press, 2012 (ISBN: 9781615381159)
- Note: This course is not a substitute for High School (HOC) Cultural Geography. Eligible students may take both courses but not during the same academic year.