

FRIDAY COURSE OFFERINGS

WRITING I (1st semester): This course uses the *Excellence in Writing*, Level B curriculum, targeting students in middle school. *The Schoolhouse Review Crew 2015 Blue Ribbon Awards* calls IEW curriculum *the* “#1 pick for English composition.” Along with structure, students will be taught stylistic techniques. Divided into 9 units, structure includes: note taking, summarizing from notes, narrative stories, references, writing from pictures, research reports, inventive writing, formal essays, and critiques. Stylistic techniques encompass a combination of a variety of writing enhancements, taught one by one. Style checklist rubrics guide students, providing frameworks for writing, and promoting editing skills. Because this class meets for just one semester, students will cover at least six units, but not all nine. Plan on two hours of homework per week. Materials fees: \$19.00 per family for required IEW binder, and \$8.00 for copies. Taught by Julie Shorey.

WRITING I (2nd semester): This course uses the *Excellence in Writing*, Level C curriculum, targeting students in high school. *The Schoolhouse Review Crew 2015 Blue Ribbon Awards* calls IEW curriculum *the* “#1 pick for English composition.” Along with structure, students will be taught stylistic techniques. Divided into 9 units, structure includes: note taking, summarizing from notes, narrative stories, references, writing from pictures, research reports, inventive writing, formal essays, and critiques. Stylistic techniques encompass a combination of a variety of writing enhancements, taught one by one. Style checklist rubrics guide students, providing frameworks for writing, and promoting editing skills. Because this class meets for just one semester, students will cover at least seven units, but not all nine. Plan on two hours of homework per week. Materials fees: \$19.00 per family for required IEW binder, and \$8.00 for copies. Taught by Julie Shorey.

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: In this middle school class your students will gain a solid foundation for high school literary analysis, strengthen their reading comprehension skills, and learn how to discuss books in a group setting. Students will practice the Socratic method of questioning what they read, grounding everything they say with evidence from the text, and drawing conclusions from what is implied in the story. Identifying basic plot elements, conventional story patterns, figurative language, and common literary devices are also important aspects of every class. Incremental lessons ensure that writing a variety of different paragraphs and one literary analysis essay are manageable for all students. Students will read books from a variety of genres that are chosen for their text complexities, such as multiple characters and plots, symbolic elements, archaic language, non-linear time sequence or varied points of view. This year the books we will use include: *Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles and Mary Lamb, *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry* by Mildred Taylor, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis, and *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. Each week students will read and complete work in study guides or reading response journals. Additionally, there are many practical, but invaluable skills that are taught in this class, such as: following a class syllabus, preparing test study guides, and learning how to complete a project. One of the most important skills directly taught in this class, however, is learning how to be part of a robust class discussion. Please note: The books for this class are rotated every other year, so that students can take Introduction to Literature for two consecutive years during middle school. *Tales from Shakespeare* is used every year; however, different stories from the book are studied each year. Copy fee: \$20.00. Taught by Allison Desautell.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LITERARY ANALYSIS: This is a foundational high school literature class that will prepare students for higher levels of literary analysis. In addition to learning the basics of literary analysis, a significant amount of time in this class will be spent learning how to interpret an author's worldview from a Biblical perspective. Incremental lessons enable all students to learn to successfully write a literary analysis essay. Texts are specifically chosen for the author's worldview and for a variety of text complexities, such as multiple characters and plots, symbolic elements, archaic language, varied points of view, or nonlinear time shifts. Students will read from a wide variety of authors and genres, including: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, and *Much Ado about Nothing* by William Shakespeare, along with short stories by O. Henry, Edgar Allan Poe, and many other notable authors. Homework will consist of reading, journaling, study guide work, creative projects, and a manageable amount of writing. There are many reasons to take this class, but two of the most important skills your student will develop aside from literary analysis will be discerning an author's worldview and mastering the art of discussion--this means learning to listen when someone else is speaking, politely agreeing or disagreeing with a peer, or adding on to what someone else has said. Copy fee: \$20.00. Taught by Allison Desautell

STUDY SKILLS AND READING STRATEGIES. (1st semester) Appropriate for students in grades 8 – 12
Please Note: This class has been revised and no longer includes SAT/ACT prep! SAT/ACT prep is now offered in a separate class 2nd semester. Success in high school and college depends heavily on a student's ability to comprehend challenging non-fiction reading passages, manage time well, and study effectively. Students in this class will learn basic speed reading skills, along with summarizing and recall strategies, which will improve both their reading rate (words per minute) and their reading comprehension. There has been, for 80% of the students taking this class, an increase in their reading rate of at least 100%. That means that if they started with a reading rate of 150 wpm (words per minute), then they increased their reading rate to 300 wpm. This is NOT a class where we are trying to attain extreme speed reading rates; instead students work on steadily increasing their reading pace and improving their comprehension so that they are able to complete assignments more efficiently. Even for homeschoolers who are avid readers, I have found in my literature and SAT prep classes that their reading speed and comprehension are not what they should be. The reality for most students is that they need to be explicitly taught reading strategies and study skills. Any student planning to go to college (regardless of how high functioning you think they are academically) should consider taking this class to improve their reading abilities, as well as to learn specific strategies for studying, note taking, task analysis, and time management. This class is geared for students who are 8th grade and above. Copy fee \$20.00. Taught by Allison Desautell.

ENGINEER IT! Ideal for students in grades 5-7. This is a hands-on science class that leads students through the engineering design process. Working in teams to problem solve and think creatively, teams will be presented with a new engineering challenge each week that will build on concepts over 5-6 classes to culminate into a final design challenge! Using the Design It! curriculum, challenges will include: Roller Coaster Design, Cardboard Construction, Rubber Band Powered Cars, Paper Bridges and Blinking Lights! Students will learn new vocabulary, research engineers and engineering history and complete one paragraph report for each challenge. Up-cycling material will be used as much as possible. Materials Fee: \$40. Taught by Denise Mudge.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: CODING WITH SCRATCH: Students enter the world of computer science by learning how to create animations, computer games, and interactive projects. Using Scratch, a graphical programming language developed at MIT, students in this middle school class will learn fundamental programming concepts such as variables, loops, conditional statements, and event handling. As they teach a mischievous cat to dance, explore a maze, or play games, students learn how to use math and computer code to think creatively. The course will show students how to make and import objects, create audio recordings, and use them to develop interactive projects. Computers are needed for this class. "No previous programming skills are required, but students should be comfortable using a computer and browser, and managing files. Students are expected to be familiar with standard computer operations (e.g., login, cut & paste, email attachments, etc.). Students do not need to purchase any software or textbook. Headphones are helpful, but not required. Materials Fee of \$10. Taught by Denise Mudge.

BIOLOGY: (1½ hour tutorial) This high school biology course is an introduction to general biology topics including: classification of organisms, basic cell biology, biochemistry concepts, anatomy and physiology of organisms, genetics, ecology, and a discussion of evolution. Laboratory experiments, including dissections, are performed throughout the year. Students will create Biology Laboratory books so to demonstrate to college admissions the true nature of this Lab Biology course. Homework and bi-weekly examinations help build students' understanding of the material. Required Materials: Apologia - *Exploring Creation with Biology*, 2nd edition, Jay Wile and Marilyn Durnell. Material/Lab fee: \$20.00. Taught by Renee McInnis.

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES: This course by Summit Ministries focuses on six fundamental worldviews of Western Civilization: Marxist Leninism (communism), Secular Humanism, Cosmic Humanism (New Age movement), Islam, Post-Modernism, and Biblical Christianity. Students learn to understand how worldview affects all other disciplines and how to defend their own faith. Try taking this excellent (and free) worldview test yourself and then have your high schooler do it, to perhaps give to give yourself some real insight into the need: <http://www.secretbattlebook.com/checkup.html> Where apologetics is mostly studying the basics of the Christian faith from the Bible, this course involves studying what the other worldviews believe and how they compare to Christianity, also using the Bible as the final authority. You have heard the statistic that 50% of professing Christian students leave the faith in college? Instruction in the biblical worldview dramatically changes those numbers. The lively discussion/application format is very effective in encouraging students to interact about the things that really matter, and it is what the students love most about this class, along with the video lectures by experts in every field we study. Arrangements have been made by Summit with Bryan College to give college credit for this high school course to students meeting the extra requirements and making arrangements with them. More information will be given regarding the college credit option, but you can check out this option at <http://understandingthetimes.com/college-credit/>. The material was written for juniors and seniors in high school, but, though challenging, it need not be limited to that age. This class meets for 1½ hours per week. All the materials for the course are available on line and licensing fee does not include a hard copy of the textbook unless you pay an extra \$20.00. License/Materials fee: \$45.00. (plus \$20.00 if you want the hard copy of the text). Taught by Annie Reynolds.

READER'S THEATER (2nd semester): Studies show that students who struggle with intonation and tone read in a monotone voice or they struggle to answer comprehension questions because they don't fully understand the text. In this middle school Reader's Theater class, students practice reading scripts orally without memorizing them, so they naturally develop reading fluency because of repeated exposure to a familiar text. By repeatedly reading a text, students can better comprehend what they are reading, so they are then able to execute proper voice expression. GCT Reader's Theater is a drama skills class that connects reading skills and drama all in one. Unlike a traditional drama class, Reader's Theater does not require costumes, stage sets, or memorization. Homework consists of repeated reading of a variety of short scripts from different genres. The class will culminate with a staged reading performance that showcases the skills the students have learned all semester. Copy Fee 20.00. Taught by Allison Desautell.