

FRIDAY COURSE OFFERINGS

WRITING 1: An Introduction to Writing: (6th – 9th grade) This course focuses on the Institute for Excellence in Writing's (IEW) foundational approach on learning how to write. Student will be given assignments tailored to refine their writing skills using IEW's stylistic and structural models. Assignments are design to expand their understanding of grammar and punctuation, improve note taking and organizational skills, also increase their vocabulary. Student will compose paragraphs, stories, simple reports, inventive (creative) writing pieces, essays, and critiques. In class, we will practice writing techniques, review grammar and punctuation skills, and complete in-class activities. There will be special projects assigned throughout the academic year, including at least one in-class presentation. Gradually the weekly assignments will promote greater independence toward mastery of the writing process. Most importantly the student will learn how to become an effective communicator. Plan on about an hour of homework each day outside of class. The necessary access to an online Canvas account will be provided to parents and students. Prior to the beginning of the course, parents and students are expected to attend a mandatory orientation. Materials fee includes: Student Binder with IEW paperwork, Fix-It Grammar Workbook, and copies. Materials: 60.00. *Taught by Rachel Young.*

A question about the writing classes: How do you decide in which class to enroll your students if they've taken one of them already? Writing is a process, and we never come to the place where we have learned it all. All the way through school we're going back to writing words and sentences, paragraphs and papers. If your students completed a level well, and were able to be nearly independent and do the assignments fairly easily, they probably are ready to move to the next level. They will receive much more benefit from taking a class they've already taken and becoming more competent than by taking one for which they are not ready. Even though they are enrolled in the same class, they will definitely be working at a higher level. Students will often remain in the same level to more fully practice the concepts, achieving greater mastery. Think of it...students in school are taking composition courses every year or almost every year. At GCT they are taking the classes at different levels also, even though they may technically be in the same class two years in a row. Tutors are happy to help you decide on the correct level. What are the options if my student isn't really ready to move up a level? You should not see this as a failure to learn, but as the need to benefit from cycling through the skills again. They could repeat the same level – many of our students have done that, with great success. But you could also practice with them the things they've learned in order to become more comfortable, perhaps using one of the theme-based books sold by Excellence in Writing. For more information about our writing courses and other options for completing at home, check out www.excellenceinwriting.com.

WRITING 2: This class reviews all the basic Excellence in Writing techniques learned in Writing I and adds more advanced stylistic devices, while also putting more emphasis on the cohesiveness, clarity, and content of the student's writing. While those who think clearly are also strong writers, it is also true that learning to write clearly leads to stronger thinking skills. Conducting research is a major emphasis of Writing II, so students write a 12-paragraph research paper step by step, learning the skills of choosing and limiting topics and sources, organizing outlines, integrating quotations, and citing properly. Also adding to the style toolbox, students spend time analyzing and imitating famous authors, writing descriptively from pictures using imagery and figurative language, and learning the structural forms and language of poetry. For creative writing and practice in figurative language, students work all year on an anthology of their own original poetry. **Prerequisite:** Students must have successful completed Writing I or its equivalent. Feel free to speak with tutor to determine level. It is very acceptable for students to repeat a level of writing. Because they cycle through sentences, paragraphs, and papers in composition classes, they will be taking it at a higher level for more mastery (thus counting as a second year on a transcript

also). Grammar is taught contextually, which means it is more likely to be learned well; if students need extra support in this area, parents should plan to provide that at home. Students should have a sturdy 2-3 inch binder with tabs. Copies: \$15.00. *Taught by Julie Shorey.*

INTRODUCTORY COLLEGE WRITING (AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION) This is an introductory college-level writing course to prepare high school juniors and seniors for the AP English Language and Composition examination in May. Students will read and analyze a wide variety of primarily non-fiction works with an emphasis on the study of rhetoric, the art of effective or persuasive speaking and writing. We will focus on how language works and why writers use language as they do. Weekly reading assignments will be from a range of letters, articles, essays, speeches, product advertisements, and political cartoons and ads. Assignments will feature personal, analytical, expository and argumentative texts. Students will use skills learned to improve their own writing. Writing assignments will include expository, narrative, persuasive and descriptive writing in the form of journal entries, formal and timed essays, and several major creative projects with presentations to the class. Learning to write well is the primary objective of this class, so students should expect to write frequently! The class will be a lot of work, but the writing instruction will be invaluable, the reading fascinating, and the discussions lively and entertaining! Also, students passing the AP exam receive college credit. What a great way to get dual enrollment. Students will receive a list of books and materials to purchase. Copies: \$10. *Taught by Tammy Bankston.*

AMERICAN LITERATURE: The purpose of this high school course is to familiarize students with American literature and its authors and worldviews. The literature selections for this class include such works as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, *Alas Babylon*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. In addition, we will analyze classic short stories and poetry and will end the year with a fun analysis of political agendas in Dr. Seuss' stories. Students will receive a complete list of books and materials to purchase; and should expect 50-75 pages of reading per week, as well as study guides, dialectical journals, creative projects, and literary analysis essays. They should also be prepared to participate in lively class discussions! Prerequisite: It is assumed that students who take this course have successfully completed an introductory or fundamentals literature course. Copies: \$7.00. *Taught by Tammy Bankston.*

US GEOGRAPHY (for 6th-8th grade) Middle Schoolers will survey the United States using *Trail Guide to U.S. Geography* curriculum! Students will create a US Geography Notebook, which includes detailed information on all 50 U.S. States. Each week, we will cover two states from a specific region. Students will strengthen their research skills, learn how to use an atlas, and take notes to complete weekly homework assignments (much of it online). Also, they will gain greater understanding of the nation's history, by learning how each state became part of the United States. Assignments will include: geographical landforms and features; famous landmarks; statehood facts; agriculture; industry; state capitals and important cities. In class, they will enjoy hands-on activities, class discussions, and educational games. Students can plan on 30 to 60 minutes per day to complete their daily assignments and projects. Necessary access to an online Canvas Account will be provided to parents and students. **Required Text:** *Desk Atlas of the United States*, Publisher: Geography Matters (ISBN: 9781931397728, <https://www.christianbook.com/desk-atlas-of-the-united-states/9781931397728/pd/397728?event=CPOF>).

Required supplies: 2-inch wide, 3-ring binder with clear plastic cover. Materials/Copies: \$20.00. *Taught by Rachel Young*

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES: (1½ hour tutorial) Don't let your high school student graduate without this course by Summit Ministries which focuses on comparing six fundamental worldviews dominant in Western Civilization: Marxist Leninism (communism), Secular Humanism, Cosmic Humanism (New Age movement), Islam, Post-Modernism, and Biblical Christianity, all easily discovered in the current culture. Students quickly learn to do that, as well as being grounded in answers for them; and learn to understand how worldview affects all other disciplines and how to defend their own faith. Some take the course because they are questioning what they've been taught, and that has been a good thing too. Students have reported feeling confident in their faith and able to defend it to others because they understand the various worldviews better. (And what matters more than that?) Try taking this excellent (and free) worldview test yourself and then have your high schooler do it, to perhaps obtain some real insight into the need: <http://www.secretbattlebook.com/checkup.html> While 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? The number is much higher now, but instruction in the biblical worldview dramatically changes the statistic. 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. Check out the college credit option at <http://understandingthetimes.com/college-credit/>. The material was written for juniors and seniors in high school; but, although challenging, it need not be limited to that age. This class meets for 1½ hours per week. Materials fee includes hard cover textbook, student manual, access to online video lectures, and copies. Materials: \$75.00. *Taught by Julie Shorey.*

ENGINEERING: Ideal for students in grades 5-7. This is a hands-on science class that will lead students through the engineering design process. Working in teams to problem solve and think creatively, students will be presented with a new engineering challenge each week that will build on concepts over several classes to culminate into a final design challenge! Each unit will focus on a different area of Engineering (automotive, mechanical, pneumatic, environmental etc) Using a variety of curriculum including Teachengineering.org, Design It!, online videos and Middle School Engineering projects and online videos, students will be introduced to the concepts, principles and processes used by engineers. Students will learn new vocabulary, about engineering history, research famous engineers and complete one age appropriate report each month. Students will have weekly reading assignments and will be asked to complete design challenges at home as well as in class. Supplies will be provided and recycled materials will be used as much as possible. Please note that projects are rotated between two years, so students may take Engineering for two years without repeating the same ones. Materials/Copies: \$40. *Taught by Denise Mudge.*

GENERAL SCIENCE: This Apologia junior high school level course is the foundation for all the upper level Apologia high school science courses due to its introduction to areas of biology, chemistry, physics and anatomy and physiology in a simple and approachable manner. Labs and fun projects will be done in class

while bi-weekly tests will be proctored at home. Apologia science courses follow a routine and rhythm that helps the students, and that routine is established effectively in this foundational course. Required Materials: Apologia *Exploring Creation with General Science*, 2nd edition, by Jay Wile; 3 ring binder with section divider and a single subject notebook or notebook paper. All homework will be assigned through Google Classroom. Materials/lab fee: \$20.00. *Taught by Denise Mudge.*

BIOLOGY (1½ hour tutorial): This well-narrated Apologia high school biology course covers numerous topics including the science of life, the chemistry of life, ecology, cell structure and function, cellular energy, DNA, proteins, genetics, prokaryotes, viruses, fungi, plants, and animals. The students observe both microscopic and macroscopic specimens and learn how to write lab reports. Dissections include the earthworm, crayfish, fish, frog, and flower (pending availability). The classroom experience covers lectures, games, discussion, and laboratory work. Homework includes reviewing vocabulary and a quiz and test for each unit. **Required Materials:** (1) Apologia - *Exploring Creation with Biology*, 3rd edition, Dincher (hardcover or now softcover). (2) Apologia - *Exploring Creation with Biology*, 3rd edition Student Notebook (softcover). Please note: This is a change in the edition from last year and has great updates! Christian Book Distributors offers competitive pricing. **Required Communication:** Each student (or parent) must have an email account for weekly updates and submit work and view assignments on Google Classroom. This process will be explained in the class. Materials/Lab fee: \$25.00 *Taught by Renee McInnis.*

CHEMISTRY (1½ hour tutorial): This Apologia high school chemistry class provides each student with an introduction to measurement, matter, atomic structure, chemical equations, acid and base chemistry, thermodynamics, kinetics and reduction/oxidation reactions. A basic knowledge of Algebra is needed to master the mathematical equations. The experiments include building models, measurement, and observing changes in matter. Classes include lectures, experiments, and games. Homework includes a written study guide and test for each unit. **Required Materials:** (1) Apologia - *Exploring Creation with Chemistry*, 3rd edition. (hardcover or now also available in softcover), (2) Apologia - *Exploring Creation with Chemistry Student Notebook*, 3rd edition. (softcover), and (3) Calculator (Christian Book Distributors offers competitive pricing for books.) **Required Communication:** Each student (or parent) must have an email account for weekly updates and submit work and view assignments on Google Classroom. This process will be explained in the class. Materials/Lab fee: \$25.00. *Taught by Renee McInnis.*

COMPUTER SCIENCE – INTRODUCTION TO SCRATCH CODING: (1st semester) Ideal for 5th – 7th graders. Calling all inspiring innovators! Want to create your own animations, games and interactive stories? In this introduction to Scratch Coding, a block based computer coding language, students create computer projects for students in 5th – 7th grade. Curriculum produced by MIT and Lero challenges students to think creatively, problem solve, and work collaboratively. Students are required to have access to a laptop with internet capabilities for each class. Required: 3 Ring Binder with Pocket Holders for papers. Grading is done through Rubrics. This is an experiential and design based class. Copies: \$25. *Taught by Denise Mudge.*

COMPUTER SCIENCE – DIGITAL LITERACY: (2nd semester) This class designed for 6th – 9th graders introduces students to the world of computers for application. The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Designed specifically for student use, it mimics real world experiences and encourages creativity. This project based course uses Google's Digital Literacy Curriculum to teach basic computer skills, such as file management, internet safety, using documents, spreadsheets, and slideshows. Additional skills such as creating hyperlinks, sharing documents, digital collaboration, internet searching and keyboarding skills (through the Typing Club interactive program- a

must for anyone who uses a computer) are also taught. Required: access to a laptop with internet capability for each class. Copies: \$25.00. *Taught by Denise Mudge.*

READERS' THEATER FOR SENIOR HIGH (1st semester) Readers' theater is proven by research to help improve oral reading fluency by repeatedly reading the same text each week. With repetition, students can better comprehend what they are reading which then helps them execute appropriate expression, intonation, and pacing. This class connects both reading and drama skills while introducing students to a wide variety of classic literature. We'll explore genres such as fables, fairy tales, folk tales, and myths along with classic American and British novels, plays, and poetry. An added benefit is the fun and creativity of drama without the pressure of memorization. The class will culminate with a class presentation for students' families. Copies: \$10.00. *Taught by Tammy Bankston.*

READERS' THEATER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL (2nd semester): Readers' theater is proven by research to help improve oral reading fluency by repeatedly reading the same text each week. With repetition, students can better comprehend what they are reading which then helps them execute appropriate expression, intonation, and pacing. This class connects both reading and drama skills while introducing students to a wide variety of classic literature. We'll explore genres such as fables, fairy tales, folk tales, and myths along with Newbery classics, American and British novels, plays, and poetry. An added benefit is the fun and creativity of drama without the pressure of memorization. The class will culminate with a class presentation for students' families. Copy fee: \$10.00. *Taught by Tammy Bankston.*