

Middle School Course Descriptions, 2020-2021

General Science

Teacher: Tammy Hunter

Meets: 2 hours, once weekly, full year (see grid)

Lab fee: \$30, payable directly to Mrs. Hunter

Required text:

- *Exploring Creation with General Science 2nd Edition*, Jay Wile (ISBN: 9781932012866)
- *Solutions and Tests for Exploring Creation with General Science 2nd Edition*, Jay Wile (ISBN: 9781932012873)

Homework time expectation: 2 hours weekly

Teaching format: Lecture, homework, videos, & hands-on activities

Description: This course covers an overview of the history of science, the scientific method, introduction to lab report writing, archaeology, geology, rocks and minerals, paleontology, the fossil record, and simple machines. A syllabus will be provided with clearly laid-out, daily assignments to be done at home. The assignments consist of reading the textbook, answering questions in the textbook, and taking module tests. Students will be introduced to lab report writing, and by the end of the year, they will be able to write a lab report. Lab report writing, however, will be kept to a minimum to keep the joy of science alive and well for middle schoolers.

Middle School History

Teacher: Penny Mears

Meets: 1 hour, once weekly for full year (see grid)

Minimum of 8 students needed to hold class

Required materials: Book TBD before class begins

Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours weekly, depending upon reading speed

Teaching format: Weekly lectures with PowerPoint & video clips, games & in-class activities, weekly homework assignments, tests after each history unit, & project presentation for each unit

Description: This year we will be doing Modern American History (Reconstruction through 1990s). We will complete a unit about every four to six weeks. We will do lots of hands-on activities, games, PowerPoints, and video clips to keep the students interested. For the last week of each unit we have a project day with food, costumes, etc. where the students present their projects. (Past projects have included posters, videos, food, and a variety of other interesting things). There will be a take-home test on each history unit.

Middle School Literature

Teacher: Penny Mears

Meets: 1 hour, once weekly for full year (see grid)

Updated 3/1/20

Minimum of 8 students needed to hold class

Required materials: Books TBD before class begins (see potential list below)

Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours weekly, depending upon reading speed

Teaching format: Weekly lectures with PowerPoint & video clips, games & in-class activities, weekly homework assignments, quizzes after each literature book

Description: This year we will be doing Modern American Literature. We will do lots of hands-on activities, games, PowerPoints, and video clips to keep the students interested. There will be an in-class quiz on each book.

Potential booklist: *The Long Winter*, Laura Ingalls Wilder

The Call of the Wild, Jack London

War Horse, Michael Morpurgo

Blue Willow, Doris Gates

Ashes of Roses, MJ Auch

The Christmas Truce, Aaron Shepard **Or** *The Gift of the Magi*, O. Henry

Snow Treasure, Marie McSwigan

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, E.L. Konigsburg

My Side of the Mountain, Jean Craighead George

The Watson Go to Birmingham, Christopher Paul Curtis

Middle School Science

Teacher: Laurie Napolin

Meets: 2 hours, once weekly for full year (see grid)

Minimum of 5 students needed to hold class

Lab fees: \$20.00 payable directly to Laurie Napolin

Text: TBD

Homework time expectation: 2 hours weekly

Description: We will cover a variety of topics. This includes life science, earth science, physical science, scientific method, and some scientists. A Science Fair Project will be included. Labs will be done in class weekly, and a science journal will be kept.

Middle School Writing and Grammar

Teacher: Laurie Napolin

Meets: 1 hour weekly, full year (see grid) **Minimum of 5 students needed to hold class**

Text: TBD

Description: This class will cover how to write a personal essay, a creative essay, and a research paper. Students will be taught sentence structure and how to write and revise an introduction as well as a conclusion. Poetry will also be covered. We will be using the model method, learning outlining & summarizing, as well as reading from various authors. Basic middle school grammar skills will be included.