

The Center for Home Education

Spring 2010 Class Descriptions

Monday

Super Math 6: Ages 13 & up

For many homeschool parents math is the thorn in their side. If memories of your mathematical learning experience fails to bring a smile to your face, this may be the class for you! Super Math is a concept ahead of its time. Using the techniques of Dr. Jones' famous Accelerated Learning Super-Math program, students and parents will work together to master the fundamentals of math. Students from ages 2 through High School can learn math on the same day using the same unique teaching style found only in Super-Math. **PRE-REQUISITE!!** Must have complete Super Math 5!! Parents are **REQUIRED** to sit in on all of the classes of at least one level to learn the techniques of Accelerated Learning to be able to help your students master the curriculum.

Intro to Theatre (Acting/Singing/Dancing): Grades K-3

Learn the basics of theatre including stage acting, theatrical movement (dance) and singing, theatre etiquette and teamwork. Acting and improvisation games and exercises will help students prepare skits, monologues, and dances for recital. Requirements: dress to move, bring shoes that will stay on your feet; water bottle, pencil. Students will perform in a recital at the end of the semester to show off their skills.

Acting Up: Grades 4 & Up

This class will improve acting skills, give you confidence for your next audition and keep you in theatrical shape for future productions! Includes character development and analysis; exercises in projection, posture and focus. Some of the skills learned include; keeping character, proper stage movement, blocking, timing, etc. Monologues, duets & scenes will be prepared for recital.

Common Sense Economics: Grades 10-12

Class will be instructional and discussion oriented. Includes a complete week by week syllabus, reading comprehension questions for the Common Sense Economics text, Eight Economic Principles DVD and the Seven Principles of Sound Public Policy; Video Preview and Worksheet Questions used in conjunction with The Ultimate Resource DVD as well as Supplemental Readings, a collection of articles that help further the students understanding of economic principles. Weeks 2-5 of this course take the students through Whatever Happened to Penny Candy by Richard Maybury and its corresponding workbook, A Bluestocking Guide to ECONOMICS. We have found these books to be invaluable in presenting a very understandable introduction for students who are new to economics.

Exploring Writing: Grades 4 - 6

Rosie's writing classes are lively and interactive and provide the direction and inspiration critical for any student. The program focuses on two major themes: First; building the desire and confidence to write, and second; giving children the tools with which to accomplish the task. These classes provide a non-threatening environment that will stimulate and nurture creative expression. Through the use of lively, interactive games and activities students will explore the beauty and riches of the written word, reaching beyond the mechanics of writing, and delighting in the art of invention.

Musical Theatre: Grades 4-12

Students will learn excerpts of scenes and musical numbers from popular musical productions and movies. All levels of experience welcome, class is structured to showcase individuals as well as group abilities. Acting and improvisation games and exercises will also help students prepare these numbers for recital. Students will perform in a recital at the end of the semester to show off their skills.

Stage Management & Design: Grades 7-12

Those wonderful actors on stage never could do a show without backstage and technical support! In this class you'll discover why. Students will learn the basics of becoming a good stage manager and set & properties designer. Class work will include student designed sets and scenery, construction of properties and set pieces and familiarization with technical equipment. Students will also have the first opportunity to work as technical and stage crew for current productions. This class is a prerequisite to becoming a stage manager.

Exploring Writing: Grades 7 - 9

Rosie's writing classes are lively and interactive and provide the direction and inspiration critical for any student. The program focuses on two major themes: First; building the desire and confidence to write, and second; giving children the tools with which to accomplish the task. These classes provide a non-threatening environment that will stimulate and nurture creative expression. Through the use of lively, interactive games and activities students will explore the beauty and riches of the written word, reaching beyond the mechanics of writing, and delighting in the art of invention.

Theatre Production: You're a Good Man Charlie Brown – Mon & Wed

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown is a musical comedy by Clark Gesner based on the characters created by Charles M. Schulz in his comic strip Peanuts. The action is set in an average day in the life of Charlie Brown. But it is actually a day made up of little moments from all the days of Charlie Brown, from Valentine's Day to baseball season, from wild optimism to utter despair, all mixed in with the lives of his friends (both human and non-human) and strung together on the string of a single day, from bright uncertain morning to hopeful starlit evening. Funny and sentimental, this show will warm the heart.

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Readers Theatre: Grades 4-6

Readers Theater is an enjoyable activity that allows students to experience stories in a supportive, non-threatening environment that nurtures creativity and imagination. Communication skills are enhanced as children become cognizant of voice projection, appropriate inflection, and accurate pronunciation of words. Children are lured into language that is rich with imagery and extend their vocabulary without effort. This unique mode of student involvement in literature provides a venue to increase comprehension, improve writing skills, challenge creativity, build oral presentation abilities, and finally, increase the student's enjoyment and understanding of literature. The higher levels of thinking skills required to create and share readers theater effectively make the process a valuable learning experience.

SAT Math Prep:

This SAT math review course will familiarize students with the format of the SAT, and teach testing techniques and strategies. A diagnostic test will first be given. Then each class will consist of a timed practice test, followed by a discussion of any questions the students have about problems they could not successfully work. There will be a comprehensive review of basic mathematics, algebra and geometry concepts each class, with appropriate homework assigned. Homework questions will also be addressed. Prerequisites: Algebra 1; Geometry and Algebra 2 are desired, but not required. This is a 9 week prep class beginning January 15th - March 12th, 2009

Critical Thinking/Current Events: Grades 6-8

It is never too early to develop the skill of thinking critically and analytically. Using thinking games, mysteries, riddles, memorization, and word puzzles, among other activities, students will have so much fun they won't know they are learning and stretching their minds. Current events will train students to read, analyze and present news stories in a discussion setting designed to also build the students' confidence.

All work except memorization of poems or portions of famous documents or speeches will be done in class.

Speech: Grades 8 & up

This class focuses on the components of a successful presentation, introducing a variety of speaking styles including recitations, expository speaking, persuasive speaking, and impromptu. Students will build confidence as they work on developing physical and vocal expression. This class will provide students with the opportunity to overcome the fear of public speaking in an encouraging atmosphere. This class provides the avenue for students to develop critical, lifelong communication skills. The class will culminate with a Speech Showcase.

Government/Current Events: Grades 10-12

This course goes beyond basic graduation requirements by applying the study of Government to current events - both national and international. (1/2 credit each) Knowledge of our Constitutional Rights help us protect our freedoms. Using current events, The Constitution and the Notgrass Government curriculum, we will explore the Christian foundations of our nation and learn about the role and process of government. This rigorous, college preparatory class is offered for grades 9-12. Political theories and philosophies makes this a class requiring a high-level of thinking. This class provides a strong foundation for anyone wishing to study for and take the AP Government and Politics exam for college credit.

Signing Choir: Grades 4-12

Center For Home Education is excited to announce the beginning of a Signing Choir for grades 4th grade and up. In this class, students will learn basic American Sign Language while exploring many styles of music (including patriotic, folk, pop and Christian). They will also strengthen their sense of rhythm and conceptual language while practicing and learning good vocal and performance skills. The class will perform at the Cottage Theatre Recital and will pursue other opportunities to perform around the community.

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Fairy Tales Theatre: Grades K-3

This class is sure to capture a child's God given imagination and sense of adventure while sending them on a learning journey that is fun and exciting. Components of the class include reading fairy tales, comparing characters, dramatizing characters, and writing/or dictating to the teacher their own fairy tale. Students will perform in a recital at the end of the semester to show off their skills.

Play Writing & Directing: Grades 7-12

If you've ever written a play or dreamed of writing a play, this is the class that may help you figure out how to bring it to life. Students will be taught the logistics of writing for the stage as well as how to direct already-written material. They will be required to participate in acting out any plays created or edited in class and must be willing to direct each other on stage. Students will perform their work for family and friends during the last class of the semester. This class is a prerequisite for becoming a student director.

Matrix Math & Threshold Reading: Grades K-2

Matrix Math first takes children through counting, naming, quantity and formation of numbers. In a series of easy steps using the dot matrix they will soon be adding and subtracting. Threshold to Reading uses animals in the shape of letters to teach all the sounds and symbols they need to cross the literacy threshold. Following this early systematic phonics they learn to blend letters together and sound out words. They will soon be reading and doing math, just add patience and regularity.

Gospel Choir: Grades 4-12

Nothing is more moving than a well performed piece of religious music! In this class students will learn, rehearse and move to several Christian Gospel songs in various forms such as Country, Pop, Negro Spiritual and Traditional Hymns. Music Theory will be introduced as well as proper vocal training and professional theatre etiquette. Students will perform in a recital at the end of the semester to show off their skills.

Intro To Psychology:

This class is designed to prepare home schooled high school students for the worldview assumptions made in Psychology courses in colleges and universities across the country. It will provide an overview of introductory psychology through a Christian world view. Students will be trained to better recognize the humanist, evolutionist, and naturalist assumptions in the theories presented in college level Introductory Psychology classes.

The curriculum we will use was written by a home schooling father of four children with 13 years of experience working in the public mental health field. Assignments will include vocabulary, internet research, essays, biblical comparison, and more. Plenty of opportunity to gain additional knowledge and understanding through research is provided.

This class is best suited for older high school students preparing for college.

Theatrical Dance: Grades 7-12

Like to dance? Join this fun and fast paced class! Students will learn basic movements and routines to musical theatre and gospel numbers in various dance styles that include traditional, lyrical and pop. Dance Theory and Interpretation will be introduced as well as proper stretching/warm up routines and professional theatre etiquette. All levels of experience welcome! Students will perform in a recital at the end of the semester to show off their skills.

Theatrical Hair & Makeup: Grades 7-12

Oooh...learn the secrets to that monstrous hair-do, or how to make someone look older, or younger, or uglier or prettier! Students will learn the basics of general make up application and in depth theatrical application as well as how to get a particular type of "hair style." They must be willing to experiment on each other as well as provide their own make up kits (contact instructor for complete list.) Students will have the first opportunity to be on Hair & Make Up crew for current productions.

Science is FUN: Grades 3-5

We will study scientists and perform experiments to explore some of their ideas. We will take difficult theories and try to apply them to the real world. This will be a fun class to get children exposed to complicated scientific principles through hands on observations. There will be 30 minutes to 1 hour of outside homework each week.

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Exploring Art: Grades 1-5

“Exploring Art” introduces students to the Elements of Art: Shape, Line, Mass, Color, Texture, and Value and we explore many different art mediums. Children will see how these elements work together to create a beautiful piece of art. These projects will enable your children to “see” like an artist and develop their creativity and imagination.

Photography: Grades 5-12

This class is an 8 week workshop on the basics of creative photography. Students will learn what makes an interesting composition and how to have fun with perspective, subject matter and color. This would be a great class for anyone who enjoys taking pictures and wants to learn how to take it a step further and show their creativity. Students will make a small scrapbook of their best shots to keep as a portfolio. Students must provide their own camera, but film development is covered by the materials fee.

Elementary Music : Grades 1-6

Elementary Music Classes (1st-3rd) and (4th-6th) This class will teach the basics of music including, playing with a beat, singing on pitch, note and rhythmic reading, theory, and music appreciation of a variety of styles and eras of music. Students will learn about famous composers and hear their music. Students will have an opportunity to practice both vocal and instrumental participation in class. Students will also explore compositions of their own and improvisational music. Homework will consist of research and writing of a short paper on a composer, writing out rhythms and notes, and memorization of musical terms and theory and exploring the use of sound and imagination to write a short composition in several easy forms.

Friday

Exploring Spanish: Grades 1 – 2

Learn basic Spanish conversation through the use of games, songs, books, and hands-on activities. There will be an emphasis on conversation. The class will concentrate on introductions, greetings, numbers 0 – 100, colors, shapes, food, animals, and family. Requirements: Knowledge of alphabet, recognition of numbers to 20, ability to read some words, and a three ring binder, and a pencil.

Around the World in 840 Minutes: Grades 4-6

Send your child around the world without ever leaving Texas! In this 14-week trip, your child will visit countries on every continent, and learn about each country's people, art, music, food and geography. Using the book Visualize Geography, your child will be able to locate on a map many, if not all, of the countries of the world. Your child will also give a report about one of the countries that we visit. Guest tour guides, who will give us an insider's view of select countries, will assist us in our travels. This class will culminate with an invitation for you to capture the highlights of our travels. Equipped with maps, passport and travel brochures you too can experience the journey, meet the people, taste the food, and enjoy the music as you feel the heartbeat of God's people across His world. Hurry, or you'll miss the plane!

Studio Art 3: Grades 4-6

Sculpture In this class, students will be introduced to the different types of sculpture and see examples of sculptures by well-known artists, which will inspire their own creations. They will learn how the elements of art apply to sculpture and will use various art materials to create several sculptures of their own, including clay, wire, fibers, recycled materials and styrofoam.