

ECHO Class Descriptions

Fall '11

Aesop's Fables: Grades K-3. In this class we will read one of the Aesop's fables and then do several activities that relate to the story. **No supply fee. Darlene Magnusson**

Apologia Chemistry Lab: Grades 8 and up. This will be primarily a laboratory class. We will be focusing on the experiments in the Apologia Chemistry curriculum. Students will be expected to do the chapter reading at home. Students also need to have had Algebra I. This is a full year of chemistry studies. **Supply fee: \$8. Darlene Magnusson**

Art Explorations: Grades 4-6. This class will focus on creating different styles of art using a variety of different art mediums, from clay sculpting and block printing to gytaku and oil pastels. We will create art from around the world and art from history. We will also learn about famous artists and some art history. The focus will be on creating art and having fun while doing it! Little or no outside prep/homework. **Supply fee: \$4. Carol Zandamela**

Hands-On Chemistry II: Grades 3-5. This class is a continuation of the first year. Using the God's Design for Chemistry book, Properties of Matter, your children will learn about the properties of matter and the periodic table and famous scientists and their discoveries. Prepare to have fun! **Supply fee:\$7 Lori Marrugg**

High School Level Great Books Discussion: Greek Cycle: Grades 9 and up. First off, what is the great Books movement, and why is it a valuable opportunity for our children? This would take a long time to explain, so if you are not already familiar with it, please visit <http://www.greatbooksacademy.org/great-books-program/great-books-movement/> to read more. In a nutshell, the class involves reading classic source literature, beginning with the ancient Greeks, and then discussing the ideas presented in the readings during class. The class will be examining these works critically, thus people from all backgrounds/belief systems will be supported in offering their opinions. We would be beginning at the first cycle, which is Ancient Greek Literature. The readings include such works as Prometheus Bound, the Illiad and the Odyssey, Oedipus Rex, The Histories by Herodotus, Plato's The Republic and Symposium, The Elements by Euclid, among many others. We will also discuss how to read classic texts of differing types, i.e., mathematical, scientific, etc. The students will have the option to submit two essays each semester, which will be evaluated and returned to them. The preparation time for class will vary based on the student, but the more time they spend reading and examining the weeks materials, the better the class discussion will go. Students can use this to count as literature, history, logic/philosophy credits (among others) depending on the amount of time spent. The minimum out of class commitment is probably 3 hours a week. **There is no class fee, but students will be expected to obtain the books on their own in order to be ready for class discussion. Wendi Billington**

IEW (4th-6th): Grades 4-6. Humorous characters, cunning creatures, and meritorious men of history. 4th-6th graders will enjoy writing with this new book. Moving through Units 1-7, students will take notes, summarize narrative stories, write from pictures, put together a mini-research report, and compose creative essays, all while keeping the lessons fun & fascinating! *Please note: Parents must keep in close contact with me throughout the semester/year to ensure that you are able to assist your children at home. This is especially important if you do not own the program or are just getting started using IEW methods. I welcome parent participation in the class if you aren't busy teaching. :-) Most papers will take two weeks to complete, with outlines, drafts, and the final composition. **Class fee: \$12 for the IEW Student Resource Notebook (SRN) and other copies. If you already own the SRN, class fee is \$2.** Materials required: 2" binder for the SRN as well as a second binder with (5) dividers, loose-leaf paper, and pencils. **Carli Erickson**

IEW (6th-9th): Grades 6-9. This class will use Institute for Excellence in Writing U.S. History Based Writing Lessons Volume 1: Explorers to the Gold Rush. Students will integrate writing, grammar, and vocabulary into Early US History studies. Each student will need their own copy of the student book which I can order. There will be homework which will vary from week to week. This class will be a full year. **Fee: \$29 for book. I will purchase the books so if you already have a copy please let us know and you will not need to pay the fee. Laura Crang**

Mapping the World by Heart: Grades 6 through high school. This will be a year-long course in which students will participate in hands-on activities in order to gain a better understanding of world geography. Maps and mapping skills will be the primary focus at the beginning of the year and students will progress into learning the location and features of the countries around the world as they map each continent. By the end of the second semester, students will "map the world by heart". Homework will include research of countries and features, a report on one country per semester (optional), and map drawings. Your student can put as little or as much effort into their work, depending on how much they need to get out of the class. Please have your student bring a current Atlas with them to each class session. They will also need a set of

colored pencils. **Fee: \$10 for maps and grids that I will provide. Laura Crang**

Middle School Socratic Discussion Group: Grades 5-8. This book is based on the Touchstones Discussion Project materials for their middle school level B program. To read more about the program follow this link: <http://www.touchstones.org/Articles.asp?ID=143>. Basically, we will be meeting each week to read an excerpt from a piece of classic literature, then we will discuss using both small group and large group activities. It would be helpful for each child to have their own copy of the Touchstones Student Book B. These can generally be found on Amazon for around \$12. If you can not obtain a book, students will have the option of sharing with others. There is no preparation needed outside of class time; all pieces are read together during class. **No supply fee. Wendi Billington**

Orchestral Strings: All grades. This class is for beginning to intermediate study levels. Materials needed- Instrument and music – Suggested music: for solo study – Suzuki Violin, Viola or Cello (book and CD), for ensemble study – Essential Elements (2000) Other materials may be suggested. (Instruments available for rental through THEE MUSIC STORE (\$16.50-35.00 plus tax), KENNEDY VIOLINS (\$8.50-43.50), or call Monica at 360-258-0509 or 503-313-8335 to discuss other options. **This class can be offered at a different time depending on the need. Fee: \$10/week/student to be paid at the first of each month (family rates available, parents participate for free) Monica Powers**

Science Olympiad: Science Olympiad is a fun National hands-on team science competition. ExCEL has 2-3 middle school teams and 1 high school team. The middle school teams meet each week to practice for the competitions. Each team can have up to 15 student who compete in 23 different events from all areas of science. There are knowledge events like Meteorology, Anatomy, and Ecology and building events like Towers and Bottle Rockets. There are also laboratory events. Each student picks about 3 different events and competes in them. Each event has at least 2 team members in it. All area homeschoolers in Clark and Skamania counties are welcome to join our team! The team fundraises to help offset equipment and registration costs. **(No class fee, separate from ECHO)**

Shurley Grammar: Grades 4 – 6. Using a Classical systematic approach to grammar, students will learn the eight parts of speech, five of the seven sentence patterns and appropriate punctuation. As time allows, we will also work on journal writing and other related skills. We will use fun and engaging jingles which will be repeated each week to cement the knowledge as well as interactive discussion and games. The student will need a practice booklet to use during class time. **Supply fee: \$10 for SG Practice Booklet and other copies. Materials: loose-leaf paper and pencils. Carli Erickson**

Story Of the World: Grades K-4. Description: History is a blast! Using Susan Wise Bauer's excellent text, we will study ancient history, beginning with hunters and gatherers and progressing on towards the Rise and Fall of Rome. Each week we will explore a new period of history, and will do a craft project that emphasizes some element of our learning. Very minimal homework. **Supply Fee: \$10. Tanis Morris**

Sword of Freedom: Must be at least 12 years old. This class is an in-depth look at the Civil War era. We will be using the Civil War as our basis to help students better understand the Constitution and its progression, to understand the people and their choices from the Civil War era, to help students solidify their core beliefs, and to continue developing their scholarship skills and abilities. This course includes simulations, battle re-enactments, opinion papers, public speaking, source document studies, biographies, memorization, debate, and the opportunity to earn a replica Civil War sword. We will be having 3 "Movie Parties" on the following Friday evenings: Sept. 16th, Oct. 21st, and Nov. 18th. (One of the class requirements is to watch 3 movies about the civil war. Students can work on this requirement on their own or come to the class movie nights.) We will also have a Gettysburg battle re-enactment, with air-soft guns, sometime between October 17th and 29th. Please contact me for more information or any questions: Lisa Blanchard 360-713-2800 or dlnbakt@comcast.net. Also, in addition to submitting the co-op enrollment forms, please contact me if you are planning to enroll a student in this class. I will need to get you important pre-class information. **Supply fee: \$115. Lisa Blanchard**

The Way Things Work: Grades 1-6. Description: Loosely based on the book, The Way Things Work by David Macaulay, we will explore different aspects science that help us understand the way both man made and natural forces can be used to "work" to our benefit. There will be plenty of time to imagine and explore our own ideas for making things work, as well as juxtaposing them with both ancient and modern methods used to solve problems. This science class will have an emphasis on creativity, ingenuity and a lot of fun! **Supply Fee: \$10. Tanis Morris**