

Southwest Hills Homeschool Co-op Tuition Classes

2025 - 2026 School Year

Students must agree and sign the [Tuition Student Agreement](#)

- Co-op start date: September 4, 2025
- Thanksgiving Break: November 27, 2025
- Christmas Break: December 18 & 25, 2025 and January 1, 2026
- Classes Resume: January 8, 2026
- Spring break: March 26, 2026
- Last Day of Academic Classes: May 14, 2026

Art

Teacher: Laura Blackman

Grade Level: 9-12	Class Fee: \$200
Time: 9:00 - 10:25 am	

Description: Using a variety of Media we will develop our artistic perceptual skill and how to articulate these observations onto paper. Students will learn Brush Drawing with watercolors, drawing with short media such as chalk, pastels, and charcoal. Color theory using watercolor and clay will also be explored. We will cover some foundational visual concepts which can be applied to all drawing.

Homework: Students will be encouraged to practice brush strokes at home for 10 minutes two or more times per week.

Materials Required:

- Student art book with mixed media paper similar to [this](#) -8.25 by 11.4 is a good size
- Set of soft chalk pastels
- Empty watercolor travel palette such as [this metal one](#), [this plastic one](#) or [this metal and ceramic one](#)

British Literature

Teacher: Julie Theophones

Grade Level: 9-12	Class Fee: \$100
Time: 9:00 - 10:25 am	Note: Maximum 8 Students

Description: In this British Literature course, we will be reading some of the best known – and best loved – British authors. We will interact with these great works through reading them, collecting our favorite quotes, and participating in discussions and activities. Activities will help the students demonstrate and reinforce their reading comprehension. Activities will vary, and are likely to include charades, improv games, competitions, jeopardy, and more. Discussions will help students learn about the craft of writing and think deeply about the themes brought up in these works. We will have at least two writing projects during the school year. At least one of our assignments will be writing a short story. I will offer detailed editing feedback on writing assignments.

Homework: Typical homework expectations are to read about 80 pages a week (about 20 pages of reading 4 days per week)

Materials Required: Each student will need to acquire their own copies of the books. (Find unabridged versions of these classics.)

- Jane Austen – Emma (1816)
- Charles Dickens – Oliver Twist (1837-1839)
- Lewis Carroll – Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (1865)
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – A Study in Scarlet (First Sherlock Holmes novel) (1887)
- Robert Louis Stevenson – Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde (1886)
- George Orwell – Animal Farm (1945)
- George Orwell – 1984 (1949)
- C.S. Lewis – Screwtape Letters (1942)

Biology

Teacher: Hannah Mauck, DVM

Assistant: Larry Elzinga

Grade Level: 9-12	Class Fee: \$350
Time: 10:30 - 11:55 am	Credits: 1 lab science

Description: This college-preparatory, laboratory-based biology course offers school students a rigorous introduction to the general study of biology. It begins with a discussion of the general characteristics of living things, the way the living world is organized, the way we scientifically study organisms, how we classify them, how energy flows throughout creation, and the way natural selection works.

Students then learn the basic chemical principles they need to understand the properties of carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids (including DNA). Once students have this basic chemical knowledge, they are ready to learn about prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. The cell cycle is then discussed, including a detailed description of mitosis, which is then followed with an equally detailed discussion of meiosis. Various mutation mechanisms and their effects are also covered. Modern biotechnology and genetic engineering tools are then covered, culminating in a discussion of bioethics.

With the molecular, cellular, and genetic issues covered, students are then given a survey of the known organisms. They begin with the archaea, followed by bacteria, then protists and fungi, then invertebrate animals, then vertebrate animals, and humans. Plants are then covered, followed by environmental science and a survey of the world's biomes. Throughout all these discussions, the scientific difficulties with the idea of evolution as a creation myth are discussed.

There are a total of 38 experiments that require roughly 40 hours. We will also do a leaf collection, cell model, and insect collection.

Homework: Reading and studying 4 hours/ week, work on labs or projects outside of class 1 hour/ week.

Materials:

- Required: Discovering Design With Biology Text ISBN 979-8-9852529-4-1 (student text)
- Optional: 979-8-9852529-5-8 (answer key)

US History

Teacher: Julie Theophones

Grade Level: 9-12	Class Fee: \$100
Time: 10:30 - 11:55 am	

Description: This class is about reading and discussing U.S. History. Students will collect quotes and thoughts in a journal and participate in activities and discussions to demonstrate completion and comprehension of the reading.

Primary sources we'll read to supplement the text:

- The Declaration of Independence
- The U.S. Constitution
- Thomas Paine's Common Sense
- Ulysses S. Grant's Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant (selections)
- The Gospel of Wealth by Andrew Carnegie
- Up from Slavery by Booker T. Washington

We may supplement with some selections from movies, including:

- The Civil War (Ken Burns documentary) selections
- Gettysburg
- Lincoln
- They Shall Not Grow Old (WW1 documentary)
- The Longest Day (WW2 movie)

Homework: Typical homework expectations are to read about 40 pages per week (about 10 pages of reading 4 days per week)

Materials Required:

- [America: The Last Best Hope by William J. Bennett](#) (One Volume Edition)
 - This is a U.S. history book that aims to read more like a novel and less like a dry textbook. This author edited the Book of Virtues and writes from a conservative perspective. I loved this book and am excited to re-read it with the students!

Readers Theater

Teacher: Monica Robertson

Grade Level: 9-12	Class Fee: \$150
Time: 12:45 - 2:10 pm	

Description: Reader's Theater is a form of dramatic presentation where a story is read aloud from scripts by a group of performers, emphasizing vocal interpretation and expression rather than elaborate staging or memorization. It is an excellent way to build confidence in public speaking while getting to know some of Shakespeare's (and others) most famous works. This class may be taken either for 0.5 high school credits or not for credit.

Homework:

Not for credit: Students will be asked to read a prose version of the play or watch a high quality video production to familiarize themselves with any play before it is acted out in class. Each play will be covered twice with a total of 16 different plays performed over the course of the school year.

For credit: Students will perform the duties outlined above in "not for credit." Additionally, every other week they will also progressively read through the entire original of these three works and complete two free online courses from Hillsdale College:

- [Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"](#)
- [Shakespeare's "Hamlet"](#)
- ["Tempest"](#)

We will be working mostly out of [Simply Shakespeare by Jennifer L Kroll](#), but it is not necessary to purchase an individual copy. A classroom license has been obtained and copies of the materials will be distributed in class. The other plays we will be doing are [A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens](#) and a selection of epics [The Iliad, The Odyssey, and The Aeneid \(Homer, Virgil\)](#).

Materials Required:

- All required texts are available as free resources online. Links will be given with the syllabus at the start of term.

Bible: OT Survey and Biblical Foundations

Teacher: Don Heberling

Grade Level: 8-12	Class Fee: None
Time: 2:15-3:15 pm	

Description: This course will equip Middle and High School students to learn how to study the Bible for themselves by reading selections from the OT, and memorizing key verses of Scripture.

Homework required: 2-3 hours per week (less for middle school, more for high school)

Materials required:

- A Bible to write notes in (any version preferred by family; ESV, NASB, KJV, NIV, or TLV recommended)
- Knowable Word by Peter Kroll;
- The Case for Christ, Student Edition by Lee Strobel with Jane Vogel