



EPIC Homeschool Academy

Elementary Course Descriptions

2023-2024 OFFERINGS

OVERVIEW

EPIC Homeschool Academy offers a variety of academic and enrichment-style classes for the elementary levels. Elementary is considered 2nd-5th grade. Academic classes include, but are not limited to; language arts, foreign language, and science. Enrichment-style classes include, but are not limited to; art, gym, and music. Prerequisites are suggested skills mastered or classes taken before enrollment. Loop schedule refers to the number of suggested years of a class when it is taken on a rotating basis. Descriptions are as accurate as possible given current staffing and curriculum choices but are subject to change. Classes have a capacity of 18 students unless otherwise noted. Class supply fees may apply and will be listed in August with other book and supply lists.

OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

1. An academic class (science, foreign language, language arts) averages **30 minutes per day of homework** plus projects.
2. An enrichment class (art, gym, K/1) typically has little to no homework.
3. **Parent involvement is expected** and often required, especially for students who need assistance with reading and writing.
4. All families are expected to have **access to the internet**, a printer, and Google items (docs, sheets, slides, classroom, etc). If remote learning occurs, zoom may be needed.
5. Grading is teacher preference but is typically done on an **ESN scale** (Excellent, Satisfactory, Needs improvement).

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KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE ENRICHMENT

In our K/1 Enrichment Class (Block time 10:30-3:30), students will participate in several unit studies throughout the year that will engage them in learning both important skills and content. Each unit will have a unique theme verse, art projects, science experiments, and several interactive learning experiences. Learning activities will be differentiated to challenge students of differing academic ability levels. Class parties and field trips are also a highlight for this age group. K/1 Students also spend 45 minutes each Monday in a unique gym class designed to develop gross motor skills and introduce them to basic games and sports. This class is meant to complement what is being done at home. Curricula for phonics/reading, math, and handwriting are recommended to round out grade-level learning. Capacity is 20 students.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to follow three-step directions, be independent in self-care activities such as using the restroom and eating lunch, have an attention span of 10 minutes, be able to write their own name, and have exposure to phonics instruction. **Students should be kindergarten-ready and turn 5 by September 1st.**

Loop Schedule: Content units run on a two-year loop

- **Year A (2024/2025, 2026/2027):** Habitats, States of Matter, Spring Sensations, Types of Energy, Dinosaurs, Extreme Earth, Elements of Art
- **Year B (2023/2024, 2025/2026):** Astronomy, Laws of Motion, Continents and Oceans, Landforms, Human Anatomy, Missionary Studies, Community Helpers

Instructors: Kelsie Oeverman and Leila Schmidt

2nd-5th GRADE ELEMENTARY COURSES

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

A fun and engaging introduction to American Sign Language and d/Deaf culture. Students use a variety of activities to learn the language in class and at home. Daily practice helps build vocabulary and conversational skills. This is a mixed-aged class for 2nd-5th grade.

Prerequisites: None

Expectations: Daily vocabulary practice at home, class participation, and weekly homework including responding to articles and videos, and submitting vocabulary work on Flip. An internet connection is required for this class

Loop Schedule: Appropriate for 2-5th grade years, vocabulary changes each year for 3 years

Loop Year 1 (23/24)

Loop Year 2 (24/25)

Loop Year 3 (25/26)

Curriculum: The elementary class will be on a 3-year loop using vocabulary from The Gallaudet Children's Dictionary of American Sign Language throughout the 3 years, supplemented by additional material.

Instructor: Sonja Harrison

ART

Creating various projects using multiple art forms and periods. Paint, sculpture, print, drawing, watercolor, oils, and more highlight this creative enrichment experience. Three sections are offered (2/3rd grade, 4/5th grade, and a 2nd-5th grade combined class). 24-student capacity.

Prerequisites: None

Loop Schedule: Art themes and projects run on a 3-year cycle.

Instructor: Heather Sterenberg

BIBLE

This class works through the Bible canonically (studying the books in the order they appear in the Bible), showing students how everything is connected into One Big Story - a story centered on Jesus Christ and his invitation to each one of us to be part of God's kingdom. As with all of our EPIC classes, we utilize lots of hands-on and project-based activities as we learn about the principles and stories in Scripture. Along the way, we also have many opportunities to learn about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and to develop skills and ideas that help us grow in our faith—including Scripture memorization and Bible study basics. Two identical class options are available.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading independently on or near grade level, have the ability to write or draw their own ideas in age-appropriate ways, and have the ability to memorize and recall 2-3 sentences of scripture.

Loop Schedule: Appropriate for 2-5th grade years. Content runs on a 3-year cycle.

2023/2024: Judges, Prophets, Priests, and Kings - Judges-Malachi

2024/2025: Christ has Come! - New Testament

2025/2026: Where It All Begins - Genesis-Joshua

Instructor: Sarah Ramey

GYM

An introduction to a wide variety of sports and an opportunity to practice them in a group environment. Students learn teamwork and are encouraged in personal physical fitness. The class focuses on the virtues of perseverance, encouragement, cooperation, and humility. Max enrollment of 20 students. Three separate class hours are offered. (2/3rd, 4/5th, and a combined 2nd-5th class).

Prerequisites: None

Loop Schedule: New sports and games offered each year.

Instructor: Karen Miedema

LANGUAGE ARTS- NEW & IMPROVED!

Introducing Language Arts during the elementary years is critical to the success of students in the future. Typically, the content covered in the general Language Arts curriculum in traditional education settings covers phonics, reading skills & comprehension, writing, handwriting, phonics, grammar, and variations of speaking & listening. A complete Language Arts program is NOT POSSIBLE in our one-day-a-week, combined grade-level format. However, it is EPIC's desire to come alongside and EQUIP parents in at least one of the areas of language arts. These classes do NOT offer a comprehensive elementary Language Arts experience but can take the load off of one of the areas and provide a tremendous amount of INSPIRATION to your student.

EPIC is developing a BRAND NEW curriculum custom-tailored to fit the needs of what EPIC can provide. Scope and sequences are available along with a sample lesson of each course to help you see what is in store! Both classes are inspired by God's Word, exemplary literature, and the diverse needs of students. Students will transition from focusing on the elements of literature to being creators of their own compositions through the elementary grades. The course prerequisites are not suggestions. Students who do not display evidence of these skills should not be enrolled.

Instructor for all three classes: Courtney Christians

Literature Workshop- 2/3rd Grade, 3rd/4th Grade

Description: Literature workshop will provide instruction in the areas of reading skills and analysis through an introduction to various types of literary work across genres. Students will learn not how to read but learn to appreciate the art of the story and the power of the written word. Each theme will include skill focus, literary vocabulary, as well as a literary response project. Content and types of literature studied will rotate every other year. Sample lessons and anticipated scope & sequence can be provided upon request.

Additional Courses Needed: To round out your primary student's course of learning in English Language Arts, it is strongly suggested families have separate curriculums or courses to develop skills in handwriting, spelling, phonics, and in most cases writing skills and composition.

Prerequisites:

- Students must be reading independently on at least an end 1st-grade level ([end of year 1st grade sample here](#)).
- Students should be able to express thoughts or ideas in picture or word form (spelling does not count) for at least 5 minutes.
- Students must be able to complete grade-level [copywork](#) (Ideally, 1 sentence for each year they are in school- 2nd graders copy 2 sentences...). Copy work is when someone else has done the initial writing and students then copy it in their own writing.

Other Skills assumed:

- Write own name
- Cut & glue independently
- Uses invented spelling and context clues for unknown words
- Follow 3-step directions

- Attention span for 10-15 minute read-aloud books such as [Charlotte's Web](#) or [Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs](#).
- Participate in corporate learning without need for constant 1 on 1 help (ie: partner and group work, classroom etiquette, self-management during independent activities)

Writer's Workshop- 4th/5th Grade

Description: Writer's Workshop will provide instruction in the areas of writing composition in a variety of genres as well as introductory grammar. Students will be inspired and instructed in key writing elements through projects and literature. Each unit will include instruction on the type of writing, skills needed to excel in that genre, and a project as a way to express progress and learning in the concepts. At this time, students will most likely experience the same writing genres and projects each year. Sample lessons and anticipate scope & sequence can be provided upon request.

Additional Courses Needed: To round out your older elementary student's course of learning in English Language Arts, it is strongly suggested families have separate curriculums or courses to develop skills in handwriting, spelling, and reading comprehension.

Prerequisites:

- Students must be reading independently on at least a third-grade level ([sample of 3rd grade passage here](#)).
- Students must be able to write in complete sentences independently. Students should be able to write multiple sentences independently but may lack proper paragraph elements. ([See second and third sample here](#)).
- Students should use correct or invented spelling to free-write thoughts for at least 5 minutes.
- Students should be able to accurately complete copy work at an independent reading level.
- In most cases, students transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" around 3rd or 4th grade. This indicates fluency and comprehension skills are solid based on grade-level vocabulary. It is expected a child enrolling in this class has made this transition.

Skills assumed:

- Legible handwriting
- Understand and apply the basics of a complete sentence including capitalization and punctuation.
- Recall major points of a story or personal memory
- Have essential literature grammar. Be able to identify and understand the elements of a story including title, author, illustrator, characters, setting, and plot.
- Ability to identify and provide simple rhyming words.
- Communicate connections literature (text to text, text to self, text to world).

MUSIC

Students learn the basics of music theory, history, instruments, and more! Hands-on experience with boomwhackers and other small classroom instruments along with singing brings practical application to the class. Minimal homework for practice and retention. Offered at two different grade levels (1st-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade).

Instructor: Andrea Boyd

1st-2nd Grade Music

Students will explore the elements of music as we sing, move, and play instruments. They will learn about the instrument families of the orchestra and explore ways to become better musicians through games and songs! This is an active class with an experience-based approach to learning.

Prerequisites: None

Loop Schedule: Reviewed material every year but with refreshed lessons so students can take it twice.

3rd-5th Grade Music

This introductory music class will bring understanding to the elements of music through singing, instrument playing, and movement. Students will identify the instruments of the orchestra as we learn about composers through the ages. Students will also learn how to read music notation as they also learn to play the recorder. This is an active class with an experience-based approach to learning. Students who have had previous private lessons or class in recorder may not find this course challenging.

Prerequisites: Ability to read at least 1st-grade level

Loop Schedule: Reviewed material every year but with refreshed lessons so students can take it twice.

Supply Fee: Recorder and book purchased by EPIC, est. \$20

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving competition that engages students in their learning by allowing their knowledge and ideas to come to life in an exciting, productive environment. During class time at EPIC, students use many different STEAM skills (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and creative problem-solving to figure out a solution to their assigned problem.

NEW: Elementary Odyssey will now be a workshop-based class. Students will have the opportunity to learn and explore more facets of what Odyssey of the Mind offers. Students will be put on to teams and choose one of the Odyssey of the Mind problems, but their competitions will only be internal in an EPIC-produced format. This will allow us to invite more students to participate in the class and be more flexible with our teams.

Participation Requirements: Students must be willing to participate in the EPIC Odyssey

competitions and practices outside of class time throughout EPIC's second semester.

Homework Expectations: This class is student and problem-driven and will likely require work that needs to be done outside of class time at EPIC. Students may be required to complete additional problem-solving work, or simple machine or prop-building at home, especially in the second and third quarters as the team prepares for competitions.

Parental Expectations: There is a requirement for parent/family involvement in the form of material preparation, volunteering at competitions, and helping procure judges for the competition.

Loop Schedule: New teams and problems each year

Instructor: Erin Pawloski & Joni Bras

SCIENCE

Project-based and hands-on learning experiences both in the classroom and at home. Cooperative creative discovery with God's amazing world is the goal of these elementary science classes. Engaging activities for home enhance the content being discovered during class time with quarterly projects providing hands-on experiences with the material. Curriculum is based on Apologia Elementary textbooks and other teacher-created materials. Class is split into 2/3rd grade and 4/5th grade classes.

Lower Elementary (2/3rd) Prerequisites: Students must be able to comprehend the content as it is read to them and respond to learning through at-home and in-class discussions, writing basic sentences, drawing and labeling pictures, and creating projects.

Upper Elementary (4/5th) Prerequisites: It is recommended that students can read and write independently on grade level.

Expectations: Parent help will be needed outside of class to ensure comprehension and response to the content and project completion. The textbook is written approximately on a 5th/6th grade reading level.

Loop Schedule: Class can be taken every year with new themes offered on a rotating basis.

2023/2024: Ecology (Animal and Plant Studies)

2024/2025: Chemistry and Physics

2025/2026: Human Anatomy

2026/2027: Astronomy and Earth Science

Curriculum: [Apologia - Exploring Creation with Zoology 3 - Land Animals of the Sixth Day by Jeannie K Fulbright](#)

Instructor: Sarah Boerma

SPANISH

A fun and engaging introduction to the Spanish language and cultural diversity of Spanish-speaking countries. Students learn through song, story, and play both in class and at home. Two main cultural projects are presented to the students, one per semester. Daily practice helps build vocabulary and conversational skills in the language. A mixed-aged class for 2nd-5th grade.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading and writing on grade level.

Expectations: Daily vocabulary practice, class participation

Loop Schedule: Appropriate for 2-5th grade years, units repeat every two years.

Year A: 2023-2024

Year B: 2024-2025**Instructor:** Maria Krawczyk

STEM WORKSHOP

A true project-based workshop class inviting students to explore the areas of science, technology, and engineering. Units may include proper scientific methods, hands-on experiments, applied technology to solve a problem, basic engineering, and more. A broad overview and exposure to different STEM projects and experiences is the goal of this class. Two identical sections of this mixed-aged class for 2nd-5th grade are offered. New concepts are taught every other year.

Prerequisites: Reading on level, ability to be self-directed in learning**Loop Schedule:** New concepts are offered every other year

Year A: 2023-2024

Year B: 2024-2025

Instructor: Heather Rhodes