

Time to order curriculum and enjoy these last weeks of summer!



What's New???

Well, if you are reading this, you've found what I've been working on this summer. The website will be up and operational by the beginning of the school year. This is a sneak peak before I have all of the links working and content up.

Content, in various forms, will be going up on the website 3 times per week, come Sept. In August I'll be adding content constantly to get the basics covered. If you want to keep up with what is being added, sign up for the newsletter...there on the right...and I'll be sending out a letter every week or two with a list of new content that has been added.

I would love to get input from you in the comments. The idea of the blog is to cover topics that will help you, as parents, develop confidence as educators. If you have a particular concern about homeschooling, let me know! I want what I publish to be helpful.

Also, in these first months, I'm sure to make some techy mistakes, so if you find links that don't link, or if navigating the site is difficult in anyway, Let me know. It will probably take me a few days to fix it...but I've been learning a lot and I'm becoming a WordPress expert. (Total exaggeration).

With all of that out of the way, let's move on to next school year!

Raging Waters

Tuesday, August 23rd

\$29 per person, \$15 for parking

I need a headcount ASAP, and the money for this trip to me by August 16th. (Yes, I can add more on at the park, but I need to make sure we meet the minimum for a group rate.) You can drop a check or cash off at my house, or pay via Paypal, the link will be operational soon, I'll let you know. This is one of the field trips that inviting friends and family to is encouraged. The more the merrier!

If you have curriculum questions or questions about this next year, I'll be hanging out by the River, and we can chat. We can also chat about non-school related things, I'm good at chatting.

Registration

A quick reminder of what you'll need when you register.

- Shot Records, or updates for current records.
- If you are a new student, a Request for Records, I will have the forms at the first parent meeting.
- Registration form
- Course of Study (a simple summary of what subjects and curriculum your child will be doing this year.)
- Fees – Registration and Tuition Fees. Class Fees if applicable.
- If your student is a high school student, be sure you get a copy of high school graduation requirements.

Fee Schedule

Full Time Students (\$35 per child to register, \$30 per month for the first child, \$5 per month for additional children)

Full Time – includes record keeping, curriculum counseling, activities, school photos, field trips etc. Classes for full time students is \$15.)

Part Time Students (Does not include record keeping. No registration fee, tuition is \$20 per month. May participate in Field Trips, classes are \$20)

Adjunct Students (Students whose only involvement involves taking classes)... each class \$30 per month

First Parent Meeting

August 29th 7:00

We will be meeting at Kelly's House, 30750 Montgomery Ave., Nuevo, CA 92567

Friday Classes

All classes will be held at Kelly's house.

Warning: I have an unfenced pool in the backyard. We are working on fencing it, but currently, it is open. It is an above ground pool, and while all of the students in classes are tall enough to stand in it, both the pool and the deck will be completely off limits to all students, regardless of age or swimming abilities.

Also, kids can use my refrigerator and microwave. However, food, glasses, silverware etc. is off limits.

8:30 Marine Biology

This class is for students in 3rd grade through 8th grade.

The text is [Exploring Creation: Swimming Creatures of the Fifth Day](#) Along with the text, students will also need the notebook journal. There are two of them. [This will take you to the one for older students.](#) And [HERE you'll find the Junior Notebook.](#)

Here is the syllabus. This lays out the work that will be done at home for the year. In class we will be adding in some additional books, experiments, videos and dissections. I realize that is a wide age range, but the book and notebooking journal is written to accommodate this. This course is a bit more intense than the Astronomy that we did last year, so appropriate for Jr. High students. I will expect that their notebooks will be filled in more completely and the quality of the projects that we will work on will be more involved. Younger students will need help with the notebooking, perhaps using Mom as a scribe for portions.

We will be going on a variety of field trips that will add to this class: Sea World, Tide Pools, and Whale Watching.

Love the ocean, so this is one of my favorite classes.

9:30 Boot Camp

This class is a bit of a everything...but a bit of everything with a purpose. All ages welcome. There will be a \$10 curriculum fee. I'll be providing the curriculum, so there is nothing for you to order.

This course is open to all ages, provided students can read and write on their own. Students will be creating their own reference notebooks that they will be able to refer back to for years. Our class time will consist of a short lesson, and then work in stations. I will have a sample of the book students will be working on at the first parent meeting. I will also be posting the syllabus for this class soon.

Math – (Note – this is not meant to be your child's math program. Our time will be spent primarily on rote memory drills, which, adds to a solid foundation so your student can concentrate on more important aspects...but, a good math program is going to be concerned with concepts, reasoning etc.) We will be using speed drills, games, crafts etc. to master basics of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, reducing fractions, converting improper fractions, converting between fractions and percents. Older students can move on to drill some algebraic concepts. Students will all begin with the basic drills and then progress at their own rate. We will also cover some geometry, perimeter, area etc

Vocabulary – a portion of each week will be spent on vocabulary and spelling development. The focus will be on learning Greek and Latin roots and building from those. I know many of your students have done some of this already, so they can zip along quickly.

Grammar – Students will get lots of hands on (literally) practice. Reviewing the parts of speech, punctuation, graphing sentences, and common errors.

History – We will be doing fun activities to learn portions of important speeches and documents. We will also have activities to hone students ability to place major events into the correct time period.

Art & Music – We will develop our ability to recognize famous artists and composers and their works.

Very excited for this class!

10:30 Greek Mythology and Percy Jackson

The Percy Jackson books should appeal to students from 4th grade on up. They are fast paced and offer plenty of humor, excitement, and a creative perspective on the Greek gods. A thorough understanding of mythology has long been considered a necessary component of a good education. Allusions to myths are frequently made in novels, plays, and articles. [Here is a link to the syllabus for this class.](#)

This class will provide a thorough grounding in the myths and the classic story, The Illiad and the Odyssey by Homer. While studying the Percy Jackson books we will explore literary themes, terminology, plot construction, characterization...and have a ton of fun.

I've been having a great time planning this course this summer and a reading syllabus with preliminary notes about some of our projects can be found here.

Here are links to the books we will be reading. The Percy Jackson books must be purchased, and I STRONGLY recommend the D'aulaire book, but there are numerous links on the Internet that also tell the stories. Note: The books about The Odyssey are part of the Magic Tree House series, they are obviously written for younger children, but provide a good basic retelling of the stories, for an good price. Jr. High and High School students may want to read The Odyssey, I've included a link to a good translation.

[Greek God's and Goddesses byD'aulaire](#)

[Tales from the Odyssey, Part 1 by Osborne](#)

[Tales from the Odyssey, Part 2 by Osborne](#)

If you have older students, they may want to read the full story. [Here is a good translation of The Odyssey.](#)

[Percy Jackson books by Rick Riordan, this link is for all 5 books.](#)

11:30 Geography – 4th grade and up can handle this class. Parents are welcome to join us.

We will be learning the countries of the world, major rivers, mountain ranges, seas, and other features. We will work continent by continent across the globe. A syllabus will be available later this month. It's great to have kids do this or a similar program several times during their school years. I had mine do it in elementary, Jr. high, and again in High school. They have told me this served them well in college.

Along with gaining an appreciation for the physical and political features of the globe, we will also delve into a few different cultures to get a feel for the great diversity of God's creation.

This year we will be working in this [Geography Coloring book](#), instead of a collection of copied maps. I really like this book, and think it will serve the kids better than what we have done in the past. They will be able to keep their books as their own personal Atlas.

12:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Shakespeare

This class is primarily for Jr. High and High School Students. Motivated upper elementary students have also enjoyed this course, but that age will not be the focus. Parents are welcome to join us.

We meet 35 times during the course, so that will give us 7 weeks per play. The plays are 5 Acts long. The readings will generally be one Act per week, with the additional two weeks to memorize portions, to prepare re-enactments of scenes, or to do a written project. A syllabus will be posted in the next few weeks.

I have chosen a Tragedy, 2 Comedies, a History, and a Romance.

We will be starting the year with As You Like It, as there is a performance of this play being done the beginning of October in Pomona. You will note, that I have two books per play. The first book listed is the play in the language we think of for Shakespeare. The second book listed 'Shakespeare Made Easy' has the original play, and next to it a translation of the play into modern English. If you think it would be helpful for your student to have the modern English to refer to, then get that edition. Just to be clear, you only need ONE copy...choose which one will suit best.

[As You Like It](#)

or

[As You Like It Shakespeare Made Easy](#)

Julius Caesar

or

[Julius Caesar Shakespeare Made Easy](#)

[A Midsummer's Night Dream](#)

or

[A Midsummer's Nights Dream, Shakespeare Made Easy](#)

[Romeo and Juliet](#)

or

[Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare Made Easy edition](#)

[The Tempest](#)

or

[The Tempest, Shakespeare Made Easy edition](#)

2:00-3:00 World Religions

For Jr/Sr High School Students and adults/parents. [Here is the syllabus for this course.](#)

I've been doing quite a bit of study to get ready for this class, and it's been fascinating. Kudo's to Desiree for suggesting it.

We live in a community of diversity. The U.S. has always been a melting pot of nationalities, it's one of the things that defines us. That, combined with the mobile nature of the world we live in, means that many cultures now live in our neighborhoods. There was a time that Christ's commission to go to the ends of the earth spreading the message of the gospel, meant being a missionary and traveling. There is certainly still a need for that in our world. However, in this mobile age the truth is the world has come to us. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend God's kingdom.

Unfortunately, and I place myself in this group, many of us are woefully ignorant of the world's religions. I had a rudimentary understanding of Islam, but almost no knowledge of Hinduism and Buddhism. While I understood Judaism up through the time of Christ, I was less familiar with the modern day practices of Jews.

As I studied this summer I was reminded of the Apostle Paul's words that he had become all things to all men so that he might save a few...and also his speaking in Athens to the crowd and using a statue to an unknown god to tell them the truth of the one, true God. In order to be lights in a dark world, we need to know our audience, to connect to something in their world to reveal to them our faith.

I am a firm believer that we do not 'argue' people into the kingdom of heaven. We do not open their eyes to truth by insulting their culture and beliefs. No, when we respect and understand other's beliefs, when we treat them with the same respect we would want an unbeliever to treat our faith, we open the door to honest dialog. And so, this year we will be going on a journey to understand the wisdom traditions and religious beliefs that have shaped our world.

Students will be keeping a journal, (like a Mead Composition book currently \$.50 at Walmart). Each week students will read a section of the text and write a reflection (or more) in their journal. This tool will be useful for processing the information, recording questions, areas of confusion, etc.

Students will also need to purchase [the text](#). This book includes great photographs of sacred texts, artwork, and the buildings associated with each faith. This text, in a condensed form, has been one of the leading works on this topic for 50 years. In a recent Anniversary update, the author (yes, he's in his 90's and still writing) wrote this shorter version with beautiful illustrations. This book is a bit (well, quite a bit) easier to read than the original. If you wish to read the longer version, it is [this one](#).

I would suggest parents read along with us so that they can discuss the chapters with their kids.

See you all at Raging Waters!!!!