

Shiremanstown Homeschool Group

Spring 2019 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

All class information is subject to change. (Updated 11/20/2018)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING

Classes meet each Thursday from

January 10 – April 25, 2019.

No classes on March 21

Make-up day is May 2, if needed

ENGLISH

LITERARY CONCEPTS THROUGH SHORT STORIES Gr. 5-8 \$100/Semester

Mrs. Abby Baia

This one-semester course focuses on literary concepts using fun short stories from many countries and genres. Students will explore concepts such as point-of-view, perspective, character analysis and development, setting, plot structure, and themes. Students will write a number of small papers about the short stories read. They will learn how to discuss the stories in an academic manner which will prepare them for high school. One short story will be explored each week. Homework will utilize the internet. Grammar will not be a focus of this class, except where it pertains to their writing. **Required Materials:** Students are expected to have a pencil, highlighter, spiral notebook, folder, and internet access.

HIGH SCHOOL AMERICAN LITERATURE: Banned Books (Semester 2)

Mrs. Abby Baia

Gr. 9-12

\$125/Semester

This full-year, American Literature course will focus on reading banned American novels that are considered classics. We will use these novels to talk about their sociological impacts, why they were banned, a history of what was happening in America when they were written, and what they mean for us today. Through these novels we will analyze literary techniques and conventions and study such concepts as plot, theme, narrative, foreshadowing, metaphor, etc. Students will also be expected to write creatively, analytically, and persuasively, including a ten-page research paper. Students will have the opportunity to show what they've learned through speeches, discussions, presentations, and artistic representations. In addition to the novels, we will also cover short stories, poetry, plays and cinema. Students will be expected to work at least four hours a week on this course outside of class. Although this is the second part of a two-semester course, new students are welcome. **Required Texts:** *The Outsiders* by: S.E. Hinton (ISBN-13: 978-0142407332), *Fahrenheit 451* by: Ray Bradbury

SCIENCE

THE SCIENCE OF DISEASE

Gr. 7-12

\$150/semester

Mrs. Demetra Luciano

(includes most supplies)

Students will learn the basics of pathology and epidemiology. We will utilize case studies, research and resources from Tuft's University's *Great Disease* course to study the science of infectious disease and cancer. We will explore the history and science of diseases like smallpox and the common cold to better understand how our own bodies work. We will also explore how our understanding of cancer has changed over time, what we know about how our cells usually live and die, what you can do to minimize your own risk of getting cancer and recent breakthroughs in treating it. This class can be taken as a non-

credit course by participating in class projects and discussions. It can be taken as a credit course and earn 1 science credit by completing approximately 2-4 hours of homework per week (including a semester project) in addition to participating in class discussion and projects. Although this is the second part of a two-semester course, new students are welcome. **Required Materials:** a spiral notebook or binder with loose-leaf paper, a folder for handouts, pens or pencils, and reliable internet access.

PHYSICS TUTORING

Gr. 9+

\$35/hour

Mr. Michael Burke

By appointment

Does your student need extra support with their high school or college physics courses? Help is available. A veteran homeschool dad and experienced instructor, Mr. Burke taught high school mathematics and physics at Shiremanstown Homeschool Group for seven years and continues to tutor high school and college-level math and physics. Scheduling is by appointment, weekly or as needed. Please contact Mr. Burke at MBurke@ABSCinc.com with inquiries or scheduling.

MATHEMATICS

MATH TUTORING

Gr. 9+

\$35/hour

Mr. Michael Burke

By appointment

Does your student need extra support with their high school or college math course? Help is available. A veteran homeschool dad and experienced instructor, Mr. Burke taught high school mathematics and physics at Shiremanstown Homeschool Group for seven years and continues to tutor high school and college-level math and physics. Scheduling is by appointment, weekly or as needed. Please contact Mr. Burke at MBurke@ABSCinc.com with inquiries or scheduling.

SOCIAL STUDIES

CLASSROOM CITY:

Gr. 5-12

\$90/Semester

A Simulation of Local Government and Economics in a Classroom Mini-city

Mr. Michael McKenna

In this two-semester course, students design, run and sustain a classroom mini-city while striving to accumulate money and assets in this simulation dealing with local government and economics. "Citizens" plan the city's geographical and political structure, elect officials, appoint individuals to positions- such as bank president, police chief and post master. They will learn to manage money while buying and selling property in order to replicate the government workings of a modern city. Fate Cards introduce unexpected yet commonplace expenditures and incomes- purchasing a present, paying a doctor's bill, winning prize money- that affect citizens funds. Although this is the second part of a two-semester course, new students are welcome. **Required Materials:** Students should have a binder or folder with note paper, pen or pencils. All other classroom materials will be provided by the instructor.

ZOMBIE-BASED GEOGRAPHY

Gr. 5-8 and Gr. 9-12

\$100/Semester

Mr. Michael McKenna

When zombies attack, where should we run, where regroup, and where rebuild our lives? Those questions, key to survival, can focus student attention on a highly motivating and dangerously overlooked fact: Geography skills can save you from the zombie apocalypse! Use students' natural desire to survive zombie assaults to motivate study of a complete curriculum based on the 2012 National Geography Standards, and then to apply those skills in a series of scenarios based on surviving when the attacks come to your own neighborhood. This course motivates students by showing one student's use of geography skills to overcome the challenges of a zombie-filled world. This class can count as a 1 credit

for social studies. Although this is the second part of a two-semester course, new students are welcome.

Required Materials: Students should have a binder or folder with note paper, pen or pencils. All other classroom materials will be provided by the instructor.

U. S. CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

Gr 7-12

\$90/Semester

Mr. Michael McKenna

This course will give the students an understanding of the purposes, principles and practices of the American Government as established by the Constitution. Students will learn about the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and The Bill of Rights. They will also learn of citizens right and responsibilities. Students will learn the basics about political parties, electoral college and voting. They will get a better understanding of the Branches of Government. Lesson plans will be taken from *105 Lessons of American Government* by Robert W. Shedlock. Class discussions, exercises, games, puzzles and worksheets will be used for the lessons. Although this is the second part of a two-semester course, new students are welcome. **Required Materials:** notebook or binder, pen or pencils

ELECTIVES

BAKING

Gr. 5-12

\$80/Semester

Mr. Michael McKenna

* Limited Class Size*

Waiting List and New Students Accepted first

This introductory baking class provide students with an understanding of the ingredients and methods used in creating breads, pastries, cookies and other desserts. Students learn how dairy, fruits, flour and chocolate come into play with pastry and baking. The fundamentals of dough and basic decorating skills are covered, reading recipes, measurements and this baking class also introduces students to baking equipment and baking costs. **Required Materials:** All supplies for this will be provided and are covered in the cost of the class.

COMMUNICATING IN THE REAL WORLD

Gr. 5-12

\$125/Semester

Mrs. April White

Could your middle or high schooler use better communication skills? Could they better develop pleasant and productive relationships? We will be covering skills such as eye contact, verbal reinforcement, physical reinforcement, meeting people, understanding other people's point of view, not being boring, and more. We will learn specific exercises that students can practice to strengthen these skills. We will also discuss tips for better communication, making good first impressions, and having pleasant, purposeful conversations. This will be an engaging, activity-filled class that will require study participation but won't be scary for the introverts among us. Lesson plans will be taken in part from *Communication and Interpersonal Relationships*. **Required Materials:** Please bring a notebook and pen or pencil.

REAL LIFE PRESENTATIONS

Gr. 5-12

\$125 +\$10Copy Fee

Mrs. April White

Does your middle schooler or high schooler need experience presenting to an audience? Does the thought send them running the other direction? In this class we will cover not only the writing and presentation of a speech, but all the things to consider as well--appearance, facial expressions, eye contact, body language, using your voice correctly, and much more. The students will listen to and evaluate other speeches, attending to particular details. We will discuss information and practice for a variety of other specific speaking forms, such as choral speaking, oral description, debate, and others. This will be a fun, interactive, and safe place for students to get comfortable talking in front of others.

Homework will include preparing several short easy presentations. Lesson plans will be taken in part from *Public Speaking for Kids*. **Required Materials:** Please bring a notebook and pen or pencil.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS AND FAIR

Gr. 6-12

\$175/Semester

Mrs. Demetra Luciano

5 Students Needed to Run Class

1 Semester

In addition to the weekly class sessions, this course will include 1-2 weeks of event preparation and will culminate in a business fair where students will be able to showcase their new business to the public. Students will become entrepreneurs as they learn to recognize opportunities, market their product, implement a successful business plan, and more. There will be weekly homework. **Required Materials:** Students should bring to each class pens or pencils, a folder or binder for handouts, and a notebook. (Other supplies may be needed for their individual product or business)