

The Challenge Program for Next Year

To Assist 7th to 12th Grade Home School students Prepare for College

THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM is for students 12 and older. For 30 weeks they study 6 challenging subjects at home while practicing dialectic & rhetorical skills in a weekly class. An experienced home schooling parent tutors the students in math, foreign language, and science labs. Students also receive suggestions for improving their written work. Other coursework is shared through facilitated discussions. We call each level a Challenge rather than a grade, as we want students to be at the level they are prepared to study.

Challenge B - Latin, Short Story, Current Events, Mock Trial, History of Science, Formal Logic, Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ or Algebra I

The purpose of Challenge B is to encourage the students to stretch and excel in academics. The amount of reading is purposefully limited to give students more time to work on their dialectic skills. The program is very challenging and will prepare the students for the faster pace of Challenges I through IV.

Following is a brief overview of the material taught in each of the six seminars and what is expected of the students and the parents. Most of these courses are at the high school level and you might want to include them on your high school transcript, especially Greek, Logic, and Physical Science.

Latin- Fall and Winter Semesters

The classical model emphasizes language skills. This year they study Latin, specifically The Vulgate. The student's job is to study each week's assigned pages. The parent's job is to ensure the student completes and understands the assignment. It is very important for your child to memorize the vocabulary and paradigms (lists of noun and verb endings). In seminar, the tutor will explain the Latin in the next week's assignment, work on pronunciation, explain the grammar and encourage the students to do the memory work.

TEXT - Latin's Not So Tough, Book 5 and Book 6

Newbery Literature- Fall Semester

This is a continuation of the Literature Seminar begun in Challenge A. Students do not have to have taken Challenge A to enroll. The students are expected to read the assigned novel one-week and to participate in the book discussion. The next week they are to write an essay based on the novel read and share their paper in seminar. The tutor will lead the book discussion and suggest ways to improve their writing. Students read 7 books this semester. Parents should encourage their child to read the book the first week so they may participate in the seminar's discussion. Time should be spent writing the second week and not catching up on the reading.

Newbery Books - Shiloh by P. Naylor; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis; The Hiding Place by C. ten Boom; The Indian in the Cupboard by L. Banks; Where the Red Fern Grows by W. Rawls; Crispin, The Cross of Lead by Avi; The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Short Stories- Winter Semester

This semester is a transition between the easy reading of the previous semesters and the adult reading level required in the higher Challenges. Students will read short stories rather than novels of various writers they will encounter in Challenges I through IV. Aristotle, Shakespeare, Milton, Hawthorne and many more are included in the text. The students' job is to read the assigned short story at home in preparation for discussion in seminar. The tutor will lead the students through the literature from the perspective of a writer. At home, the students are to

take the whole semester writing one very long (or a couple of shorter) short stories. This is to give them the opportunity to really dwell on their story and get all the mechanics right. The parents' job is to keep the child on task, working on their story from the beginning of the semester and not waiting until the last minute. Time to write one long piece well will be limited as they study the various texts in high school, so don't waste this opportunity. Also, parents need to ensure their child reads their short story before seminar, even though they will read and discuss much of it out loud together in seminar. At the end of the year the students will illustrate their stories and have them bound as an anthology.

TEXT - An Introduction to Classical Literature through Short Stories

History of Science - Fall Semester

Each week the students do part of a research paper while researching a different scientist and his or her contributions to humanity. The students present and discuss their research in class. The tutor facilitates the discussion and, using the book The Soul of Science by Nancy Pearcey, explains how Christianity has been the moving force behind Western science.

TEXT - Internet, library, various, The Soul of Science by Nancy Pearcey

Origins- Winter Semester

This semester the students put together the research skills they learned in the previous semester and write a 4000 word thesis on a topic pertaining to the theories and science of the world's origins. Students are responsible for reading a chapter of Defeating Darwinism by Philip Johnson each week while briefly answering discussion questions for seminar. They also work on part of their research paper each week. They may research any area of Origin theory that interests them. The tutor will lead the text discussion in class and encourage the students to complete their paper.

TEXT - Defeating Darwinism by Philip Johnson

Introductory and Intermediate Logic- Fall and Winter Semesters

The first semester of Logic is an introduction to the vocabulary and concepts of Logic. There is purposefully not a lot of work so they can review the vocabulary and lessons REPEATEDLY. One try through will NOT do it. The tutor explains the concept and practices them with the students. Most problems will be done in class. Then the student is to try them on his or her own at home. Careful notes are important in this class. Most parents cannot teach the material unless they keep up with their student on the assignments. The parents can still help by providing the time for the lessons to be tried at least twice and drilling flashcards of any vocabulary words or concepts. These words are usually in italics or bold in the text. Over the Christmas holiday, it is imperative that the students memorize the appendices in the Intermediate Logic text. If the student does the memory work, the 2nd semester is much easier than the first semester as it teaches simple formulas. This coursework can be completed by middle schoolers. It is difficult if students don't take the time to master the new vocabulary.

TEXT - Introductory Logic and Intermediate Logic by Jim Nance.

Current Events - Fall Semester

This semester allows the students to discuss current events from a Christian worldview. Each week they are to research a different event, finding several related articles. At home they are to answer the relevant questions from their assignment guide and think about what this event means to their world and how Christ would respond to it. The tutor leads the seminar discussion, sometimes playing devil's advocate but always pointing the way to respond as an ambassador to Christ. The parent's job is to use these events as an opportunity to teach your child how you think about and respond to the world you live in.

TEXT - Any Current Publications. worldmag.com is suggested.

Mock Trial- Winter Semester

The tutor and students spend the semester preparing a case to be heard at a designated location at the end of the semester. Each team of students chooses roles as attorneys, witnesses, and victims for the prosecution and the defense. Each team will present each side of the case before a winner is chosen. This class is a lot of fun as the students get to role-play and debate without having to do much research. They have to decide on the most effect way to present their case, practice presenting it and perform it for their parents, friends and a judge.

TEXT - Mock Trial Notebook.

Algebra 1/2 or Algebra 1- Fall and Winter Semesters

The tutor will spend half the class answering the student's questions from previous assignments and the other half explaining the next four assignments. Students are expected to complete all problems and check them. Parents are supposed to make a note of any problems they can't help their student with and instruct their child to ask for help from their tutor. Parents also administer and score all tests. Math can be more interesting when you get to work with other students, hear their questions, and get explanations from a different perspective. Please note when registering whether your child will be in Saxon Algebra 1/2 or Algebra I

TEXT - Saxon Algebra 1/2 or Saxon Algebra I-MOST RECENT EDITIONS. Solution Guides are very helpful.