

Homeschool Co-op  
Tyler, Tx. · Since 1996



# Cottage Garden

*Equipping students for life.*

---

2011 – 2012 Class Descriptions

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

# **6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes**

**Name of Class:** Junior High Geography

**Teacher:** Kelly Hall

**Suitable ages, abilities or skill level needed for this class:** Second period age level is 8th and 9th grade. Grades 6-8 for students in third period. They should be able to work in a group and use the internet for research.

**Class Fee:** \$15.00 per semester for copies

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 10

**Minimum number of students in the class:** 4

**Objectives of this class:** Students will be able to deal comfortably with any map: scales, symbols, projection, etc. and be able to decode any information on a map. They will be able to identify bodies of water, countries and various physical features throughout the world, including knowing the location and labeling specific countries we have studied. Students will be aware of the relationship of geography to cultures, to global issues and to themselves and of historical landmarks throughout the world and their significance.

**Description of the general class format:** Students will be required to participate in class and complete all assigned work. There will be oral presentation projects in class. Any student who fails to bring his/her assignments will be sent to the parent for that class period.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** There will be homework, but it should not exceed two hours per week in addition to class time and will vary depending on class assignment. Parents may wish to supplement with additional work to receive high school credit for this course.

**Textbook/Workbook information:** Students will be required to have the following supplies to use in class:

Map colors (8 pack)

Highlighters (2 colors)

Lined 4 x 6 index cards

1 1/2 inch 3-ring binder with pockets

1 pack dividers with tabs

No other textbook or books are required.

**Name of class:** Mind, Body and Motor (2nd - 6th grade)

**Teacher:** Kelly Hall

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 2nd - 6th grade

**Class Fee:** \$5 each student

Fee covers: Copies, Brain Gym book, Koosh balls, Hulla hoops, Jump ropes and Long ropes.

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 12

**Minimum number of students for the class to make:** 4

**Description of the general class format:** In this class, we would work on different areas of development. I will be using exercises to improve motor skills that were developed and have proven to help children with their cognitive development as well. We will also work on body awareness and basic fine and gross motor skills. During bad weather or extremely hot weather, I will have class times where we focus on drills and skills of the basics in healthy competition. Class participation is absolutely required. We may also study basic health information / nutrition.

**Name of class:** His Reflections Art class 9 and older

**Teacher:** Betty Knight

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 9 to 18

**Class Fee:** \$72.00 per semester, plus a supply fee of approximately \$15. The supply fee for returning students will be less.

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 8

**Minimum number of students for the class to make:** 4

**Description of the general class format:** Teaching the principles and skills of drawing realistically by the method of "Drawing from the Rightside of the Brain"; using theory and example. Application of demonstrations taught in class are required by students.. Each student has a project to complete in each class applying principles taught in class.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** To draw objects that are taught in class.

**Textbook/workbook information:** Only handouts given in class

**Name of class:** Readers Theatre

**Teacher:** Peggye Mahfood

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade maturity level, 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading level, 1<sup>st</sup> grade creativity level required! In other words – we are going to have fun!

**Class Fee:** 10.00 for copies, props, supplies for the first semester; \$10.00 or less for the second semester.

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 16

**Minimum number of students for the class to make:** 6

**Objectives of this class:** instill appreciation of literature and theatre in students as they combine oral interpretation and presentational theatre. This group of animated readers will interact with a literary form for the purpose of generating within the audience member's imagination a vitalized, empathic response to the material.

**Description of the general class format:** In each class we will focus on the fundamental aspects of Readers Theatre: art, the material, the script, the interpreter, and the production. Students should dress for movement: shirts long enough that they cover during stretching, skirts will require shorts underneath, shorts must be past the tips of the fingers. We will be using our bodies as a tool and do not want anyone to be distracted – so dress comfortable and modest.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** No written homework will be assigned. However, students are strongly encouraged to review the handouts they receive in class to help them prepare for the next class.

**Textbook/workbook information:** Students will need the following supplies on the first class day: \_” Notebook with pockets, 6 tabbed dividers, notebook paper, 2 #2 pencils sharpened, yellow highlighter.

**Name of Class:** JH Sign Language

**Teacher:** Naomi Roach

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 6th-8th grade beginner's class

**Class Fee:** \$10.00

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 15

**Minimum number of students in the class:** 3

**Objectives of this class:** Our class will learn the foundations of how to communicate in a beautiful way: sign language. We will discuss the history of sign language, causes of deafness, technology that assist those with hearing disabilities, and the importance of facial expressions.

**Description of the general class format:** We will learn the alphabet and numbers, the most common nouns/adjectives/verbs, asking/answering questions, religious signs, and will practice conversing with one another. To culminate our efforts we will learn the pledge and a song completely in sign. Active participation in class is required!

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** Please encourage your children and help them practice throughout the week. With only one hour class a week, it is essential to help them retain the signs.

**Textbook/workbook information:** Each student will need a copy of The Joy of Signing by Lottie L. Riekehof. You may be able to find this on Amazon or at a bookstore. Any edition is fine. Each student should bring pencils and a folder/notebook to class.

**Name of Class:** Junior High Logic

**Teacher:** Keli Sparks

**Suitable ages, abilities, level needed for this class:** 6-8th grade Students will need to access online opportunities provided on [www.classicalacademicpress.com](http://www.classicalacademicpress.com). The expectation is that each child will come prepared and ready for growth in the area of argumentation and in the second semester, introductory debate.

**Class fee:** \$10.00

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 15

**Minimum number of students in the class:** 4

**Objectives of the class:** The course intent is to teach informal fallacies in argumentation, as well as how to determine an argument. They will learn the 28 "logical fallacies" common to incorrect reasoning. They will be taught to evaluate arguments and determine whether they are relevant, presumptuous, or clear. During the second semester, the students will be trained to build sound arguments.

**Description of the general class format:** The method of teaching will consist of drilling definitions, following text activities, classroom speech, testing, classroom discussion using a loose Socratic method. During the second semester, the students will delve into making logical arguments and begin arguing among peers. They will learn to use arguments including examples, analogy, comparison, testimony, and statistics, and layer them together into a strong whole.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** Homework will consist of drilling definitions, writing and practicing 2-3 minute weekly presentations, and review questions from the text. My estimation is that homework will take *2-4 hours outside of class*, depending on writing and reading abilities. Later in the year, students will study arguments of great orators. Completion of assignments given via syllabus at first of year is expected by the teacher.

**Textbook or workbook information:** The Art of Argument, an Introduction to the Informal Fallacies, by Aaron Larsen and Joelle Hodge and The Argument Builder, by Shelley Johnson (Textbooks will cost approximately \$25 each, and each student will need one)

**Other Important Information:** The text used in the second semester comes in a workbook format with "many everyday examples, funny illustrations, and plenty of exercises to ensure students learn to become skilled argument makers"! The students will have ample opportunity to practice building good arguments both by studying the masters and seeking to imitate them with their own arguments. They will even have a chance to engage in a debate with fellow students by the end of the year.

**Name of Class:** Cake Decorating

**Teacher:** Dawn Kitchens

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 6th grade and up

**Class Fee:** \$15.00 , plus supplies

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 10

**Minimum number of students in the class:** 4

**Objectives of this Class:** This class will teach students cake decorating skills that can be used for a variety of occasions. Students will learn basic baking tips, use two different icings that we will decorate with, and many techniques that will allow students to express their creativity. This is NOT a "Wilton" cake decorating class!!!!

**Description of the general class format:** Students will supply one cake (or cupcakes) each week to bring to class to practice our skills on. Lesson plans in sheet protectors will be provided by the teacher.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** Students will be expected to practice skills taught in class throughout the week at home.

**Textbook/workbook information:** Lesson plans in sheet protectors will be provided by the teacher. Students will need to purchase the blue (aqua colored, not the red one) Wilton toolbox cake decorating kit sold at Michael's. Michael's and Hobby Lobby run alternating coupon weeks, where they have a 40% off one item coupon that can be used for this tool caddy, bringing the total price to about \$39.00 (from the original of \$59.99). Michael's WILL accept Hobby Lobby coupons, but Hobby Lobby will NOT accept Michael's coupons.

Second Semester

**Name of Class:** Home Economics

**Teacher:** Melanie Leath

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 6th to 8th grade, possibly a high school student

**Class Fee:** \$10, plus supplies

**Maximum number of students in class:** 12

**Minimum number of students in class:** 6

**Objectives of this class:** To expose students to a variety of homemaking areas.

**Description of the general class format:** This class will be set up so that we start something new every month. Basics will be taught or reviewed first and then a project can begin. Ages and abilities of students enrolled will determine the projects we choose.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** Some projects may be completed during class time. Other, larger projects can be finished at home at the student's discretion. Hopefully, there will be community services that will take the scarves or blankets that we make.

**Textbook/workbook information:** None needed

**Other important information:** For younger ages we will build upon skills for the year. Older students may have more choices as to which projects we cover.

**Name of class:** General Science

**Teacher:** Dawn Kitchens

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 7th grade/ 8th grade

**Class Fee:** \$8.00

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 10

**Minimum number of students for the class to make:** 2

**Objectives of this class:** You will learn the history of science, how to do science, history of life, how your body works, and some of the amazing living creatures that exist in God's creation. This course will be hard work, but in the end, you will find it interesting and enjoyable.

**Description of the general class format:** We will be doing the labs and lab reports in class. There will be some lecture.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** This is a full science curriculum. There will be reading and activity homework each week from the book Expect four hours of homework per week.

**Textbook/workbook information:** Apologia Science/ Exploring Creation with General Science.

**Name of Class:** Zoology 2 and 3

**Teacher:** Vanessa Priestner

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 6th - 8th grade

**Class Fee:** \$10.00

**Maximum number of students in the class:**12

**Minimum number of students in the class:** 5

**Objectives of this class:** To explore, examine and enjoy the enchanting creatures God designed to inhabit the terrain and the underwater world.

**Description of the general class format:** Discussion and experiments. Students will keep a record of where each animal is found on a map and will learn to identify animal tracks. As with all the Apologia elementary science books, students will continue the practice of narration, keeping a notebook of what they have learned, and enjoy many hands-on projects and experiments throughout the course.

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** Reading the text and keeping a notebook will require a minimum of two hours of homework weekly. Any student who is not prepared for class will be sent to the parent or study hall for that period.

**Textbook/workbook information:** Students will need copies of Apologia Exploring Creation with Zoology 2 and 3 (Swimming Creatures of the Fifth Day and Land Animals of the Sixth Day).

**Other Important Information:** We will begin the year learning about swimming creatures, averaging one lesson (chapter) per week. Our study of land animals will commence near the end of the first semester. Students should be prepared to complete reading assignments and participate in class discussions. Apologia's approach to hands-on science learning provides books written to the student, beautiful color pictures and illustrations, and web links to enhance learning. Experiments utilize readily available materials and bring lessons to life. We plan to have a lot of fun!

**Name of Class:** Physical Science

**Teacher:** Melanie Leath

**Suitable Ages, Abilities or Skill Level Needed for this Class:** The Physical Science can be for High School credit. This class is for an 8th grade and older student or a younger student who has completed the General Science class. An older student who has not had the General Science will be fine. A young student should take the General Science first. *Students should display a maturity level that is appropriate for High School level work.*  
*Cost: \$10 per student per semester*

**Objectives of this Class: from Dr. Jay L. Wile,** *“This course will take you on an amazing journey! It will begin with a detailed discussion of the world around you and what makes it work. It will then take you out into the Universe so that you may learn the majesty of God’s creation.”*

**Description of the General Class Format:** Class time will be devoted to discussing, performing and recording experiments and maintaining a lab notebook.

**Maximum Number of Students in the Class:** 10

**Description of Enrichment or Homework Activities:** The student will be given a schedule of daily reading assignments and questions to answer at home. Occasionally, parents will lead experiments at home that were not completed in class because of time. Every other week the student will complete a study guide. Homework will require about one hour of work per day at home. Lab reports, study notes, OYO questions, & tests are also required assignments.

**Textbook Information:** The textbook is Exploring Creation with Physical Science, by Dr. Jay L. Wile 2nd Edition. The textbook, as well as the “Solutions and Tests” manual must be purchased by each participating family.

**Other Important Information:**

***High School Teachers Please Include the Following Additional Information:***

**Grading Method:**

Module study notes = 15% of grade

Lab reports = 15% of grade

OYO questions = 10% of grade

Study guide = 10% of grade

Tests = 50% of grade

**It's my desire to have good communication with parents throughout the year regarding grades. I**

will have a grade book page for each student available for periodic review.

**Name of class:** English Prep- 6th grade English

**Teacher:** Angela Greenwell

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:**

This class is designed for the following students:

1. 5th or 6th graders who are able to read on at least a 5th grade reading level
2. students who can quietly pay attention and learn in a classroom setting
3. students who will do their homework faithfully and participate in class discussions
4. students who have writing skills that would enable them to fill in reading comprehension worksheets

Class fee: \$20

**Class Maximum:** 10

**Class Minimum:** 4

**Class Objectives:**

1. to expose students to age-appropriate classical literature, presenting discussions of the literature from a Christian world view
2. to enhance writing skills
3. to improve understanding of proper grammar usage

**Class Description/Format:**

1. Students will be expected to complete all homework assignments. Class discussion will be a regular part of this class and will be based upon the comprehension questions that correlate with the reading assignments.
2. Students may complete worksheets and participate in writing activities that relate to the reading assignment (biographical information about the author, activities concerning the setting, etc.)
3. Students will often receive instruction in grammar and may be required to take notes.
4. Students may be tested.

**Homework Description/Expectation:**

Students will have weekly grammar and literature assignments. Occasional writing assignments/homework may be added. All students who are registered for this class will be expected to complete the assigned homework since the assignments are essential for classroom success.

**Textbook/workbook required:**

grammar- Rules of the Game - Book 1  
literature –

- The Magician's Nephew
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
- Prince Caspian
- Where the Red Fern Grows

(Progeny Press study guides will be provided through the class supply fee and will provide the comprehension and discussion base of this class.)

**Other important information:**

Students who develop a habit of not completing assignments will be sent to their parent or study hall at the discretion of the teacher. Students may be reassigned to study hall or another class if the practice continues.

**Name of class:** 7th-8th grade English

**Teacher:** Valerie Brimer

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** 12-14 year old students who have completed at least 6<sup>th</sup> grade level English instruction.

**Class fee:** \$15- The fee includes the cost of xeroxing Progeny Press study guides.

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 14

**Minimum number of students in the class:** 4

**Objectives of this class:**

1. to enhance a love of language and communication
2. to increase vocabulary and the understanding and use of correct grammar
3. to develop writing skills
4. to expose students to age appropriate classical literature
5. to prepare students for the level of responsibility they will need to succeed in high school English

**Description of the general class format:**

1. A vocabulary test will be given each week.
2. There will be weekly discussion and review of homework assignments. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions.
3. Instruction will be given in a lecture format. Students will take notes.

**Description of homework activities:**

1. There will be literature, writing, and grammar assignments each week, as well as a vocabulary lesson.
2. Students will also need to study for the weekly vocabulary test and other occasional exams.
3. Expect at least an hour's worth of homework for this class every day.
4. Parents will need to help keep their child organized and prepared to turn in homework in each of these English-related subject areas (grammar, vocabulary, literature, writing).

**Textbook/workbook information:**

**literature:**

Sign of the Beaver

Bronze Bow

A Wrinkle in Time

Island of the Blue Dolphins

(All Progeny Press study guides for literature will be provided for you through the class supply fee).

**grammar:**

Daily Grams: - Grade 7 (red book) This course is based on a two year rotation. All students will use the Grade 7 book this year. Please do not be concerned about your child using a 7<sup>th</sup> grade book in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Grammar is repetitive.

Easy Grammar: Plus. This book will be used as a reference during high school years, so please hang onto it! It contains lists of grammar rules that students will refer to in coming years.

***Please note: Workbooks labeled "student workbook" do not have answer keys in them. You may want to purchase workbooks with answer keys so you can help your student at home when they need it.***

**vocabulary:**

Vocabu-lit, book H will be used in the 2010-11 school year

**Other important information:**

Students are expected to complete homework assignments as assigned. Failure to complete assignments may result in the reassignment of the student to study hall.

\*All Jr. High and High School English classes will be two hours long. At the request of the teachers, students must register for the entire two-hour block. Students are not allowed to register for partial instruction.

**Name of class:** Algebra I

**Teacher:** Lisa Smith

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:**

The student needs to have a solid background in mathematics. The student should solidly have multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction facts in place. The student needs to have a good understanding of fractions and other basic concepts of math.

**Class fee:** A fee of \$15 will be charged for copies. Money that is not needed will be refunded to the parent at the end of the semester.

**Maximum number of students in this class:** 12

**Minimum number of students:** 1

**Objectives of this class:**

To equip the student with the ability to solve algebraic equations and to establish a self image of being capable and prepared for higher math.

**Description of the general class format:**

Concepts for the week will be introduced to the students. Students will be allowed to practice related problems and demonstrate to the teacher that they have understanding.

**Description of homework activities:**

Students will have daily homework assignments that must be completed. Expect about 1 - 1/1/2 hours of homework each day.

**Textbook/workbook information:**

Selection has not been made, but the students will likely be working from a public school textbook that the teacher has used in the past and thinks will equip the students well. Textbooks will likely be provided at no cost, but the teacher will be in touch with the parents as soon as possible, if this is not the case.

**Other important information:**

Students will be expected to complete all homework and study for exams.

**Grading for high school students:**

Grading will likely be based on a combination of daily homework and exams.

**Name of class:** Study Hall

**Teacher:** TBA

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:** Available for students in 6th grade and older, though some younger students may do well. Student must bring work to do and must work quietly throughout the class period. No napping, games, or texting allowed.

**Class Fee:** none

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 10 per class period

**Minimum number of students for the class to make:** 1

**Objectives of this class:** To use time wisely

**Description of the general class format:** quiet, supervised study time. The study hall monitor will not be assisting the student, or available to answer questions on their class work

**Description of enrichment or homework activities:** none

**Textbook/workbook information:** Student must bring work from home each week.

**Other important information:** High school students who are not able to pass the classes they may register for will be reassigned to study hall. Students who do not cooperate in study hall may be asked to leave the co-op, as they may have no other option for classes that period.

**Name of Class:** Fit to Serve

**Teacher:** Angela Greenwell will be the coordinator of this class and will work with the teachers.

**Suitable ages, abilities, or skill level needed for this class:**

1. This class is open to students in grades 1-12.
2. Students need to be willing to work towards program goals throughout the school year at home. These goals include scripture memory, physical fitness, and community service.
3. Students must be responsible for turning in weekly time sheets regarding their work at home.
3. Students need to be attentive to instruction and guest speakers in class.

**Class Fee:** A \$15 class fee will be applied towards the purchase of a "Fit to Serve" t shirt award for the student, a folder and time sheets, and a few supplies that may be needed by guest speakers.

**Maximum number of students in the class:** 12

**Minimum number of students in the class:** 3

**Objectives of this class:**

1. To develop an attitude within students to present themselves for service to God in their bodies, souls, and spirits.
2. To increase levels of physical fitness.
3. To memorize a chapter from the Bible by the end of the school year.
4. To develop a sense of satisfaction in serving others.

**Description of the general class format:**

Each day will include a period of time for students to recite their scripture memory verses. The class coordinator will keep records of progress in this area, as well as the fitness and service portions of the class, recording progress from the home time sheets. Students will also spend time in games and activities that develop sportsmanship and physical skills. There will be no rough play (tackling/wrestling). Occasional guest speakers will teach students skills that help them in their progress towards fitness and service goals, such as how to prepare a simple meal, nutrition tips, or simple first aid. As part of their service, older students will be expected to help younger students in class. This service can count towards their service goals.

**Description of homework assignments:**

1. Each student will be work towards the following goals and will be awarded the "Fit to Serve" t-shirt at the successful completion of these goals. The goals are set at a level to be achievable by the end of the first semester.
  - a) *the memorization of the first ten verses of a selected chapter of the Bible*- The selected chapter will be given the first day of class. The student will memorize in the version of the Bible that the parent chooses.
  - b) *25 hours of physical fitness training*- In one semester, this equates to approximately 30 minutes of exercise three times per week. The exercise can be anything the parent deems acceptable, with the understanding that the child should be exercising the entire time. For example, sitting on the bench for 20 minutes of a basketball game does not count as 30 minutes of exercise.
  - c) *15 hours of public service*. This is any time the student is doing something to help someone else, outside of their normal chores at home. It could include special projects at home that serve the immediate family or projects that help others outside of the family. Again, this is time that the student is actively participating.

**Textbook/workbook information:**

No textbook or workbook is required, though students will need to bring their folder to class each day. The folder will keep the student's records and time sheets.

**Other important information:**

The supply fee will be collected each semester so that the student has the opportunity to win two t-shirts of different colors in the school year. Special recognition will be given at the end of the year to students who achieve this goal. Any unused fees will be returned to parents. Students may volunteer for communityservice time at Cottage Garden, helping with various aspects of building clean up. Please contact Mrs.Coody at the beginning of the school year if you are interested in seeing your child serve in this way.