

Homeschooling Middle School with Mission: Great Commission

At Half-a-Hundred Acre Wood, we aim to provide a complete course of study for Grades K-12, one in which families can experience the many benefits of a one-room schoolhouse atmosphere. Each program in our Mission: Great Commission Curriculum series has been designed for use with Grades 2-8. With that in mind, we offer some additional suggestions for those wishing to work beyond the core program in Grades 7-8. In the future, we aim to write more detailed curriculum plans for middle and high school students. Until then, you can use the following as a guide for selecting curriculum for further expanding the content for middle school students.

Note: We are not professional guidance counselors. Consult your state education standards, a local school guidance counselor, and/or your preferred college's entrance requirements to further modify the following scope & sequence options for your family as needed.

Regardless of what grade your child is in, he or she can cycle through Mission: Great Commission, matching English composition and other subjects to the content within each program.

Mission: Great Commission Middle School Subjects Overview

| | Mission: World Wonders Focus | Mission: Faith Forgers Focus | Mission: Lasting Liberty Focus |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| History | World History - Ancient to Renaissance | World History - Reformation to Modern or Church History | U.S. History |
| Geography | World Geography - Africa, Asia, and Americas | World Geography - Europe and Asia | U.S. Geography |
| Science | Biology and Earth/Physical Science | Astronomy and Physical Science | Human Anatomy and Basic Chemistry |
| English Comp/Literature | World Literature (Ancient to Renaissance) | World Literature (Reformation to Modern) or British Literature | American Literature |
| Electives | Fallacies or Logic Latin | Fallacies or Logic Latin | Fallacies or Logic Latin |

However, some of our suggested resources (such as for logic and Latin) will depend on the grade level instead of the Mission: Great Commission. The following page shows our suggested scope and sequence for seventh and eighth grade along with an explanation of each subject and our corresponding recommendations.

Seventh & Eighth Grade At-a-Glance

| | 7th grade | 8th grade |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| History | Mission: Great Commission with Narration/Portfolio Entries or corresponding Dave Raymond's History | |
| Science | Mission: Great Commission with Lab/Journal Entries or corresponding science | |
| English Composition | IEW Structure & Style for Students Level B Year 1 or corresponding history-based writing lesson | IEW Structure & Style for Students Level B Year 2 or corresponding history-based writing lesson |
| Latin | Latin I (Recommended Resource: Visual Latin 1 . For advanced students, also use Lingua Latina and the Lingua Latina Companion) | Latin II (Recommended Resource: Visual Latin 2 . For advanced students, also use Lingua Latina and the Lingua Latina Companion) |
| Logic | Fallacies (Recommended Resource: Fallacy Detective or Art of Argument) | Logic (Recommended Resource: Introductory Logic or Memoria Press Traditional Logic or Discovery of Deduction) |
| Other | Geography (Recommended Resource: Memoria Press Geography: Exploring and Mapping the World or Mapping the World with Art) | Debate (Recommended Resource: Everyday Debate) |
| Math | 7th Grade Math or Pre-Algebra | Pre-Algebra or Algebra I |

Mission: Great Commission - History & Science

Middle school students may use *Mission: World Wonders*, *Mission: Faith Forgers*, and *Mission: Lasting Liberty* with no additional history or science resources to fulfill history and science requirements. To provide an additional challenge for middle school, we recommend that students write journal entries and record lab write-ups for science investigations and experiments that are assigned in our Mission: Great Commission curriculum. Students may draw and/or record their observations in a three-ring binder, composition notebook, or a sketch book. Likewise, they may also include written narrations and sketches for history, cultural, and missionary studies. Refer to the last pages of this document for examples of science and history journal entries.

For those who wish to extend beyond the history readings assigned in our Mission: Great Commission curriculum, we recommend [Dave Raymond's Antiquity](#) for Mission: World Wonders, [Dave Raymond's Christendom](#) (with an expected release in 2022) for Mission: Faith Forgers, and [Dave Raymond's American History](#) for Mission: Lasting Liberty. However, this is not necessary at the middle school level.

For those who wish to extend beyond the science assigned in our Mission: Great Commission curriculum, we recommend [Exploring Creation with General Science](#) and [Exploring Creation with Physical Science](#). (Other recommendations will be made at a later date as we continue science curriculum evaluation.)

English Composition

For students in middle school, we recommend either using two years of IEW's Structure and Style for Students Level B ([IEW Structure & Style for Students Level B Year 1](#) and [IEW Structure & Style for Students Level B Year 2](#)) or using writing lessons corresponding to the history studied in each of the Mission: Great Commission programs as follows:

- Mission: World Wonders: [Ancient History-Based Writing Lessons](#) or [Bible-Based Writing Lessons](#)
- Mission: Faith Forgers: [Modern World History-Based Writing Lessons](#) or [Bible-Based Writing Lessons](#)
- Mission: Lasting Liberty: [U.S. History-Based Writing Lessons](#)

Other programs we recommend include:

[Grammar of Poetry \(1/2 credit\)](#). This course teaches the mechanics of poetry by using the classical approach of imitation. Although designed for 6-9th grade, it is also appropriate for older students seeking to achieve a better knowledge of how poetry works. [Download two free lessons here.](#)

[Grammar for Writers \(1/2 credit\)](#). Taught by Dr. Jonathan Rogers, author of *The Wilderking Trilogy*, this course is designed to help students and writers analyze their own writing, diagnose problems, and write better sentences. [Try four free lessons here.](#)

[Creative Writing through Literature \(1/2 credit\)](#). Taught by Dr. Jonathan Rogers, author of *The Wilderking Trilogy*, this course is designed to help students to become better writers by examining and practicing techniques used in beloved classics such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Students learn to write compelling narrative through effective dialogue, memorable characters, and more. [Try two free lessons by clicking on "Sample Lessons."](#)

[Writing with Skill \(3 levels; 1 credit each\)](#). Susan Wise Bauer's composition series teaches students to work independently through the basics of composition, outlining, sentence skills, introductory literary criticism, narratives, research, and documentation. Uses excerpts and examples from literature and provides detailed step-by-step instructions for students to gain confidence in their writing.

Latin and Logic

Middle school students (and their parents!) benefit greatly from a study of Latin and logic. You can read [some of the reasons we study logic](#) as well as [our goals in studying Latin](#). Our family's goal is to provide a solid foundation in Latin in the middle school years so that in high school we can proceed with either advanced classical studies in Latin/Greek or a foreign language. As a two year program, [Visual Latin](#) provides us with the opportunity to tackle Latin in middle school so that we have more flexibility in high school. We recommend the following resources for these two subjects:

- 7th Grade
 - [Visual Latin 1](#). For advanced students, also use [Lingua Latina](#) and the [Lingua Latina Companion](#)
 - [Fallacy Detective](#) or [Art of Argument](#)

- 8th Grade
- [Visual Latin 2](#). For advanced students, also use [Lingua Latina](#) and the [Lingua Latina Companion](#)
- [Introductory Logic](#) or [Memoria Press Traditional Logic](#) or **Discovery of Deduction**

If you're not sure you want to study Latin, be sure to [check out Word Up!](#) which is a great vocabulary program that teaches over 600 words based on Latin and Greek roots.

Other - Geography

Students who complete the Mission: Great Commission curriculum series will memorize all the countries of the world along with physical features and states and capitals of the USA. If you would like an additional resource to extend this knowledge, we recommend [Memoria Press Geography: Exploring and Mapping the World](#) for memorizing additional features and country capitals or [Mapping the World with Art](#) for a course in cartography that focuses on the art of mapmaking instead of political boundaries of countries.

Other - Debate

Debate is a fantastic skill to introduce in the middle school years. We recommend [Everyday Debate](#) from Classical Academic Press.

Math

Also add a math program of your choice to complete required coursework.

The following chart provides some of the suggested resources for each program in tabular format.

Corresponding Middle School Subjects Overview

| | Mission: World Wonders Focus | Mission: Faith Forgers Focus | Mission: Lasting Liberty Focus |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| History | World History - Ancient to Renaissance (Recommended Resource: Dave Raymond's Antiquity) | World History - Reformation to Modern or Church History (Recommended Resource: Dave Raymond's Christendom or Dave Raymond's Modernity) | U.S. History (Recommended Resource: Dave Raymond's American History) |
| Geography | World Geography - Africa, Asia, and Americas (Recommended Resource: Memoria Press Geography: Exploring and Mapping the World or Mapping the World with Art) | World Geography - Europe and Asia (Recommended Resource: Memoria Press Geography: Exploring and Mapping the World or Mapping the World with Art) | U.S. Geography |
| Science | Biology and Earth/Physical Science | Astronomy and Physical Science | Human Anatomy and Basic Chemistry |
| English Comp/ Literature | World Literature (Ancient to Renaissance): (Recommended Resource: IEW Structure & Style for Students Level B Year 1 or Year 2 , Ancient History-Based Writing Lessons , or Bible-Based Writing Lessons) | World Literature (Reformation to Modern) or British Literature (Recommended Resource: IEW Structure & Style for Students Level B Year 1 or Year 2 or Modern World History-Based Writing Lessons , or Medieval History-Based Writing Lessons) | American Literature (Recommended Resource: IEW Structure & Style for Students Level B Year 2 or U.S. History-Based Writing Lessons) |
| Electives | Fallacies or Logic Latin | Fallacies or Logic Latin | Fallacies or Logic Latin |

Middle School Science: Lab Entry Example

Experiment 1: Chemistry Is Fun

Date: January 6, 2021

Question: Given a metal spoon, wooden spoon, ruler, pencil, and butter knife, which materials conduct heat the fastest? Which ones conduct heat the slowest?

Research: Pots, pans, and baking dishes are made of metal or glass. I have never seen a baking dish, pot, or pan made of wood.

Hypothesis: I think the order for the conductivity of the items (from fastest to slowest) will be: butter knife, metal spoon, pencil, ruler, and wooden spoon.

Experiment: See procedure on p. 9 of God's Design for Chemistry & Ecology: Properties of Matter.

Observations/Results:*

| <i>Item:</i> | <i>Time:</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Metal Spoon</i> | <i>2:02</i> |
| <i>Wooden Spoon</i> | <i>6:10</i> |
| <i>Plastic Ruler</i> | <i>4:32</i> |
| <i>Pencil</i> | <i>4:50</i> |
| <i>Butter Knife</i> | <i>2:10</i> |

Conclusions:* *The order for the conductivity of the items (from fastest to slowest heat conductor) is: Metal spoon, butter knife, plastic ruler, pencil, and wooden spoon.*

* The results and conclusions reported in this example lab entry are fictional.

History Portfolio Examples

A history portfolio is a great way to review and record written narrations and may be a sketchbook, a scrapbook, a binder with notebooking pages, or a digital creation. Students can draw pictures and add captions, or they can write detailed narrations about each missionary and each reading from *The Story of the World*.

