



## *Middle School Student Scholarship Skills*

Summer Course  
2021



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**Instructor:** Nancy Dayton

**E-mail:** ndayton.scholeacademy@gmail.com

**Class:** T/TH 12:00 PM or T/TH 1:30 pm (EST)

June 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, July 1, 6, 8

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

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This course challenges students to develop the wise diligence which is vital to academics and to life.

Incorporating elements that will encourage students of every learning style, this course encourages students to identify and overcome obstacles to learning. Under the guidance of the instructor, students will complete fun and insightful self-evaluation quizzes, identify individual strengths and weaknesses, and develop growth strategies.

Students will learn how to manage time and minimize distractions, how to prudently use technology in learning, how to prepare to study, how to study actively, and how to self-assess using a student mastery portrait (set goals and measure personal goals). Through assigned reading selections, students will hone their comprehension skills and learn how to read various genres of literature. In the process, they will learn active reading, note-taking, and outlining skills. Similarly, targeted writing exercises will train students to organize their thoughts and craft paragraphs.

Ultimately, this course aims to foster student virtues of patience, perseverance, and joy in learning.

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### **PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS:**

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- This course is designed as an introductory study skills course; no prior classes are required.
- The course is geared toward **rising 6th–9th graders**. When considering whether this course is a good fit for your student, please keep in mind that in addition to readiness for the course content, students should be developmentally prepared to engage in a 6th–9th grade corporate learning environment as well as the online classroom dynamic.
- Students should be prepared to complete brief exercises a couple of times per week outside of class time.

If your student is outside the target grade range for this class, or if you have further questions about placement, please contact [Scholé Academy](#).

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### REQUIRED TEXT:

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**None.** This course draws on *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler as a primary text, adapting its goals and scope to fit the needs of younger students. (This book is not required reading.)

*The instructor will provide students with all requisite materials electronically, to include diagnostic quizzes, selected essays, and correlating exercises.*

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### OFFICE HOURS:

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**If a student or parent would like to schedule a time to speak outside of class, please email the instructor with a suggested meeting time.** During “Office Hours” students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material. This can happen via email or a meeting in the Zoom classroom. Your instructor will do her best to respond within 24-48 hours; please keep in mind that she likely will not respond immediately to messages after 5 p.m. EST Monday-Friday and messages sent on the weekend.

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### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

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The following is taken from the Scholé Academy Student-Parent Handbook:

#### *Necessary Skills/Basic Requirements*

Students enrolling in Scholé Academy courses should be able to write and communicate at their grade level.

Participation might be anything from active listening to asking a question or sharing an idea. To facilitate all students’ ability to meet these expectations, the instructor will encourage an atmosphere of thoughtful, cordial engagement with material and plenty of opportunity for student questions and responses.

**Note:** Attendance is flexible for summer courses; while attending every class is optimal, students may attend as they are able. Recordings will also be provided for missed classes.

#### *Attitude & Behavior*

When students enter the classroom, they are committing to a joint pursuit of truth with their fellow pupils. In order to uphold an atmosphere where this is possible, all parties must maintain a posture of respect toward the material, toward one another, and toward the instructor.

Students should strive to uphold these virtues in the classroom:

- humility
- patience
- constancy
- temperance/studiousness

At the same time, developing these virtues is the goal of this class, and grace will be extended as students learn and grow.

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### STUDENT GRADING AND EVALUATION:

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**No grades will be assigned** for summer courses.

**Note:** Summer courses are not designed to be used for credit.

*Please remember restful learning consists of accurate expectations, accurate preparation, and accurate attitude. –Joelle Hodge, principal of Scholé Academy*

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## **HOMEWORK AND THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

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### *Homework*

Students will submit homework assignments by uploading them to the MS Student Scholarship Skills Schoology assignment page. (Access will be granted to this page once enrollment is finalized.)

### *The Virtual Classroom*

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” Zoom software, which will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom. *If a student misses a class, he or she may request access to a class recording link.*

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

*Please note: While this syllabus addresses details specific to this course, it is not extensive. Parents should also read the Student-Parent Handbook located on [scholeacademy.com/student-parent-handbook/](http://scholeacademy.com/student-parent-handbook/) and be familiar with the ideas, policies, and procedures outlined.*

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## **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:**

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Nancy Dayton comes to Scholé Academy with more than 25 years of teaching experience in a variety of public school and homeschool settings. She earned a B.S. from Pennsylvania State University and holds a teaching credential in the state of California. Nancy taught English for ten years in public schools in Northern California. Upon having children, she and her husband decided to educate them at home. Her family embraced the ideals of classical education very early in their journey, and Nancy’s passion has been to promote and support classical education among the homeschool community. She enjoys encouraging parents to strengthen their learning and teaching skills, and she offers Latin, English and history classes for students in her local community. To invest in her own learning, Nancy participates in the CiRCE Institute’s Apprenticeship Program, honing her own skills and building her understanding of classical education. She strives to live the ideal of scholé—restful learning. In her spare time, Nancy cooks a wide variety of cuisines, especially Italian, Mexican, Moroccan, Chinese, and Indian. Her family dotes on their pets that include two dogs and a bunny. She loves living near the ocean on the beautiful Central Coast of California.