



Middle School Student Scholarship Skills

Summer Course
2022



Instructor: Nancy Dayton

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Class Times: M/T/TH 12:30 PM or 2:00 pm (EST) [1 hour/class]

Class Dates: June 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 23, 27

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is intended for **rising 6th–8th grade students**. The instructor will model various scholarship skills for students. Students will practice and apply the skills in class and at home. Students should expect about 30 minutes of homework after each class. Students will receive qualitative feedback on their work, but assignments will not be graded. Students will engage in the following activities:

- the development of attending skills by using verse, drama, and visual art with classic literature, a Shakespeare play, and beautiful works of art. Students will provide narrations with oral, written, and artistic responses. The ability to attend is a prerequisite for learning in any circumstance.
- the development of reading skills using excellent literature and texts commonly found in Scholé Academy classes. Students will learn a method of highlighting and annotation to help them communicate with their reading material and grasp the author's logos.
- the development of writing skills as a means of communicating their ideas to themselves and others. Students will practice note-taking, commonplace journal entries, and the classical rhetorical devices of Invention, Arrangement, and Elocution for the purpose of persuasion.
- the development of personal organizational skills. Students will consider their various activities and obligations during summer and the school year and practice creating schedules that include work, rest, prayer, and play.

Books and Materials

This course draws on *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler and other articles and classical education resources. Materials will be adapted to fit the needs of younger students. (The Adler book is not required reading.) All reading and materials will be provided by the instructor. The students will need some common materials for use in class: a spiral notebook (@ 8 in x 11 in), pens, pencils, colored pencils, a ruler, and a set of highlighters (or colored pencils) that includes the colors pink, green, yellow, blue, and orange.

PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS:

- This course is designed as an introductory study skills course; no prior classes are required.
- The course is geared toward **rising 6th–8th 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–8th grade corporate learning environment as well as the online classroom dynamic.
- Students should be prepared to complete brief exercises 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 the instructor: ndayton.scholeacademy@gmail.com.

OFFICE HOURS:

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.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

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. Our classes are engaging and depend on students' willingness to contribute. Participation could include 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 a goal of this class, and grace will be extended as students learn and grow.

STUDENT GRADING AND EVALUATION:

No grades are assigned in summer courses, and 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, former principal of Scholé Academy

HOMework AND THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

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/ and be familiar with the ideas, policies, and procedures outlined.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Nancy Dayton comes to Scholé Academy with more than 26 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 partnering with parents to strengthen our learning and teaching skills. In May of 2022, Nancy is due to graduate from the CiRCE Institute’s Apprenticeship Program which focuses on concepts of classical education, writing, and certification as a Master Teacher. She strives to live the ideal of scholé—restful learning and teaching. 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 a German shepherd and a bunny. She loves living near the ocean on the beautiful Central Coast of California.