



Elijah Academy Homeschool Handbook

Curriculum Guidance

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Curriculum Guidance

There are many curriculum options available to parents. We recommend that families considering home schooling attend a homeschool conference.¹ It is always encouraging to see the variety of materials that have been developed for homeschoolers. You have options. Book fairs are not exhaustive, and neither is this guide. We will recommend some favorites and try to point you in the right direction. It will be your responsibility to filter this advice, and the advice of others, and to make selections that are best for your own family.

You can always choose a single source or provider of curriculum materials for all courses of study. Many parents find it easiest to begin this way. On the other hand, one reason many parents choose to home school is to offer their children an escape from a “one size fits all” approach. The best source or style of history curriculum is not necessarily the best source for mathematics. If you find that the materials you started with do not suit your homeschool dynamic, try something new! This is completely normal. You are not failing at homeschooling if your initial plan needs adjustment.

Subjects List

The subject list is a convenient way to consider the K-12 Body of Knowledge, and plan courses accordingly for each year. A subject is not the same as a course. A course is defined to meet specific learning objectives. Most courses at the K-12 level fall within a particular subject. For example, Economics and Civics are two high school courses in the subject of Social Science. Some courses might span subjects, for example, a “Grammar and Composition” course.

Table 1: Summary of the K-12 Body of Knowledge by Subject

SUBJECT CATEGORY		DESCRIPTION
AFFECTIVE DOMAIN (Character, Conscience, and Worldview)		
1	Biblical Studies	This subject includes courses for general historical and doctrinal knowledge. At upper levels, it includes courses on hermeneutics and apologetics. Learning outcomes in the affective domain relate to attitudes, motivation, and values. These apply directly to explicit learning goals in the cognitive and psychomotor domains.
COGNITIVE DOMAIN (Skills and Content Subjects)		
2 - Language Arts	2.1 Phonics / Grammar	Phonics coursework is the foundational skills for reading and writing. It is the first subject in the language arts, starting with alphabet sounds in kindergarten. The subject scope spans from K-2 nd . Phonics is systematic and moves naturally to learning the conventions of grammatical construction which can start in first grade and continues to build up to a “complete course” in high school.

¹ This is discussed further in our School Year Planning Guide. If you missed the conference season, and live in the Dallas area, you can also go to Home Educator’s Resource in Lewisville, TX. This store is an excellent resource for homeschool curriculum, organized by subject.



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2.2	Reading / Literature	Use of grade-level “readers,” starts as soon as phonics instruction starts. These books or short stories are intentionally kept at lower reading levels. These may be more or less helpful depending on the student. This quickly turns into a study of great literature of all forms and genres that continues through high school, and hopefully beyond.
2.3	Spelling / Vocabulary (3+)	Vocabulary and spelling start at a third grade level, and continue progressively through high school.
2.4	Writing / Communication (including penmanship)	This subject starts with beginning handwriting courses (manuscript and cursive) and narration (oral reports) in early elementary. This is followed by a course in keyboarding (typing) to support a study of written composition. The writing process, content development, and style are often integrated with other courses; but writing is an important skill to consider deliberately and intentionally. In high school, speech and debate courses fit into this general subject as well.
2.5	Foreign Language	Learning a foreign language is typically high school coursework, but earlier exposure is good.
3	Mathematics	This is a continuous, cumulative thread of subject matter from K-12, and beyond. Arithmetic is a skills subject that is foundational. This is followed by Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Calculus. These are fundamental to the study and practice of upper-level science courses.
4	Natural Sciences (Life, Earth, and Physical)	In elementary school, this is a content subject consisting of nature study and concepts in the nature of science. Children should enjoy a generous selection of non-fiction reading selections and demonstrations from all branches of science as well as the nature of science. Once a child has the appropriate math skill, the practice of science can be pursued with discipline-specific science subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
5	Social Sciences (History, Geography, Economics, Civics)	This is also a category of learning based on non-fiction reading, with mathematics introduced later. History can begin in 1 st grade, and continue through 12 th . Geography includes physical and political geography of states across the entire world. Many courses integrate history and geography, but a high school level course in World Geography is common. This thread also includes a high-school level civics (comparative government) course. Economics is also a social science typically studied in high school.
PSYCHOMOTOR DOMAIN (Life Skills)		
6	Phys Ed / Health	Instruction and practicum on fitness, coordination, teamwork, illness, wellbeing, body systems, nutrition, manners, respect, safety, & reproduction.
7	Music	This subject includes knowledge and appreciation of cultural and historical music. It also includes a study of melody, harmony, form, and the expressive qualities in performance and production - singing, playing, creating, and reading/annotating.
8	Art (visual and performance)	This subject includes the tools and techniques, elements and principles, history, cultural context, and appreciation of visual and performance arts. Drama might be paired up with public speaking communications course in



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		high school.
9	Electives / Other	This subject includes practical studies such as household and automotive maintenance, family finance, and business entrepreneurship. As well, parents should take the opportunity to consider guided life experiences such as field trips, family travel, scouting, and work experience.

Curriculum Recommendations

Most of the above subjects span K-12th in some form or fashion, and you will have courses in most subjects each year, with some exceptions. We've grouped phonics/grammar, and reading/literature for the purpose of making a continuous thread of learning from a skills-based subject into a content-based counterpart.

Some are continuous for the normal K-12 scope of materials. For example, Spelling - as a separate category of learning - typically starts in 3rd grade. Also, Foreign Language, although it can be studied through mastery, is typically limited to 2 years of study in high school. As the students skill in each subject progresses, there is more and more overlap. For example, advanced sciences are heavily reliant on math skill.

ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
<p><u>Biblical Knowledge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arch Books (Kindergarten) - The Picture Bible (independent reading) - Bible Story Coloring Pages - You Version ESV Audio Bible - NKJV Bible - Heidelberg Catechism 	<p><u>Biblical Understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blue Letter Bible Commentaries (Chuck Smith, David Guzik, Matthew Henry) - Haley's Bible Handbook - Biographies/Testimonials of Christian men and women. (YWAM publishing). 	<p><u>Hermeneutics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic Bible Interpretation (Roy B. Zuck) - Advanced Discipleship Intensive (ADI), Calvary Denton <p><u>Apologetics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundations of Apologetics (Ravi Zacharias) - Kingdom of the Cults (Martin) - Mere Christianity (Lewis) - Evidence that Demands a Verdict (McDowell)



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<u>ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
<p><u>Phonics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ordinary Parent’s Guide to teaching Reading - Explode the Code - Rod and Staff <p><u>Grammar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language Lessons for the Well Trained Mind (1st through 4th) - Shurley English - Winston Grammar - Write Source - Editor in Chief (Supplemental) - Daily 6-Trait Writing (Evan-Moor) 	<p><u>Grammar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rod and Staff - Shurley Grammar - Write Source - Winston Grammar - Analytical Grammar - Easy Grammar / Daily Grams - Editor in Chief (supplemental) 	<p><u>Grammar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rod and Staff - Winston Grammar - The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric (Shae, et al.) AP course - Editor in Chief (supplemental) - Principles of Style (Strunk&White, supplemental) - On Writing Well (Zinser, supplemental) - Cliffnotes AP English Language and Composition
<p><u>Reading / Literature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abeka Reading for Fun Readers, K5 - Abeka Grade Level Readers 1st – 2nd - Bob Jones Grade Level Readers 2nd – 3rd - Tapestry of Grace literature thread. - Sonlight Reading Thread - Classical Christian Education, 1000 Good Books List - Veritas Press grade-level recommendations - EDCON Publishing Classics - Progeny Press 	<p><u>Literature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tapestry of Grace Literature thread. - Sonlight Reading Thread - Robinson curriculum Book List - Classical Christian Education, 1000 Good Books List - Lamplighter Books - Progeny Press 	<p><u>Literature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tapestry of Grace literature thread. - Sonlight - Abeka - Classical Christian Education, 1000 Good Books List - Progeny Press Book List - Cliff’s notes AP Literature and Composition (supplement)



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<p><u>Spelling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spelling Power, 3rd Edition Beverly Adams-Gordon. - AVKO Spelling - -A Reason for Spelling - Spelling Workout <p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject-integrated Vocabulary lists (e.g. Tapestry of Grace) - Red Hot word Roots - English from the Roots 	<p><u>Spelling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spelling Power - AVKO Spelling <p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject-integrated Vocabulary lists (e.g. Tapestry of Grace) - Vocabulary for Achievement - Wordly Wise - Word Roots (Critical thinking Company) - English from the Roots up - Vocabulary from Classical Roots 	<p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject-integrated vocabulary lists (e.g. Tapestry of Grace) - Vocabulary for Achievement - Word Roots (Critical Thinking) - Wordly Wise
<p><u>Handwriting/Keyboarding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peterson’s Directed Handwriting (resource and approach) - Rod and Staff (manuscript) - Rod and Staff (cursive) - Typing Instructor for Kids (Recommend 4th Grade, but can be done later) <p><u>Composition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Narration and writing from other subjects (Tapestry of Grace, Sonlight) 	<p><u>Composition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wordsmith - Tapestry of Grace - Write from the heart (online program) - Write at Home (online program) - Reports and Essays from other subjects (Sonlight, Tapestry of Grace, etc.) - Elements of Style (“Strunk & White,” Supplemental - On Writing Well (William Zinser, Supplemental) 	<p><u>Composition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AP Composition (pahomeschoolers.com) - Tapestry of Grace - Write from the heart (online program) - Write at Home (online program) <p><u>Speech & Debate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abeka
<p><u>Foreign Language</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosetta Stone - Latin Primer - KidSpeak - Classical Academic Press 	<p><u>Foreign Language</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosetta Stone - Latin Primer - A Beka - BJU Press 	<p><u>Foreign Language</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosetta Stone - College-level classes - Auralog - Artes Latinae - A Beka - BJU Press



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<p><u>Mathematics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Singapore - Saxon - Abeka - Teaching Textbooks - Math-U-See - Horizons 	<p><u>Mathematics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saxon - Singapore - Teaching Textbooks - Math-U-See 	<p><u>Mathematics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saxon - Singapore - Teaching Textbooks - Math-U-See - Larson’s Calculus - Barron’s AP Computer Science
<p><u>Natural Sciences</u></p> <p><u>Topical Supplements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Let’s Read and Find Out Science” Series of Books (great for Kindergarten Science) <p><u>Overview Courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abeka (comprehensive) - BJU Press (comprehensive) <p><u>Topical Courses (best together and with multi-year approach):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologia (seven topical semesters, heavy on life science: astronomy, botany, flying creatures, swimming creatures, land animals, anatomy, physical science&chemistry). - Wonders of Creation Series, Masterbooks (eight topical semesters, heavy on earth science: geology, paleontology, astronomy, caves, archeology, weather, oceans, ecology). - Real Science 4 Kids (Gravitas) (topical by “stage” concepts for biology, chemistry, physics, geology, astronomy). 	<p><u>Natural Sciences</u></p> <p><u>Overview Courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ABeka Science - BJU Press <p><u>Topical Courses (best together and with multi-year approach):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologia (Young Explorer Series through 6th Grade, General Science in 7th, Physical Science in 8th). - Wonders of Creation Series (Earth Sciences from creationist perspective) - Real Science 4 Kids (Gravitas) 	<p><u>Chemistry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologia - Gravitas Publications - College Courses - Apologia (Advanced Chemistry) <p><u>Physics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologia - Abeka (not calculus-based) - Saxon (not calculus-based) - Physics for Scientists and Engineers (Giancoli, calc-based) - College Courses <p><u>Biology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologia Biology - Abeka - BJU Press - College Courses - Apologia Advanced Biology



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<p><u>History/Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tapestry of Grace -Sonlight -Rod & Staff -TruthQuest History -Story of the World -Geography Matters (resources) 	<p><u>History/Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tapestry of Grace -Sonlight -Rod & Staff -TruthQuest History -Story of the World -Abeka -BJU Press -Homeschool in the Woods' History Timeline -Geography Matters (resources) <p><u>Economics (supplemental)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Capitalism for Kids -Your Teacher Said What? -The Official Counterfeiter 	<p><u>History/Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tapestry of Grace -Sonlight -TruthQuest History -Abeka World Geography -BJU Press <p><u>Civics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -AP Comparative Government (Wood) <p><u>Economics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Henry Hazlit (Economics in one Lesson) -Abeka Economics -Notgrass Economics -Economics: Public & Private Choice (Gwartney et al), for AP micro and macro-economics.
<p><u>Phys Ed / Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Abeka Health -Rod&Staff Health -Gymnastics, -Red Cross Swimming 	<p><u>Phys Ed / Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Abeka -Total Health -Gymnastics -Red Cross Swimming -Team Sports 	<p><u>Phys Ed / Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Team sports -Nutrition 101 -Abeka -Total Health



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<p><u>Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Calvert Schools Music Course (video) -Piano Sight Reading Lessons -Learn to Play (Barr None Music) -Great Musicians Series (Zeezok) -Meet the Great Composers -Maestro Classics (Listening CDs) -Hoffman Academy (free Online video Piano Lessons for kids) -Andrew Furmankzyk Academy (free online video piano) 	<p><u>Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Instrument Lessons -Meet the Great Composers -History of Classical Music by Beautiful Feet -Learn to Play (Barr None Music) -Choir -Justin Guitar (free online guitar lessons) 	<p><u>Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Instrument Lessons -Professor Carol Discovering Music -Choir -Band -Learn to Play (Barr None Music) -Justin Guitar (free online guitar lessons)
<p><u>Art</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Artistic Pursuits -Art Adventures at Home -Drawing Textbook 	<p><u>Art</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Artistic Pursuits -Art Adventures at Home -Drawing Textbook 	<p><u>Art</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Artistic Pursuits -Art Adventures at Home -Drawing Textbook <p><u>Drama</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Clubs -Abeka
<p><u>Electives/Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Field Trips/Family Vacations -Household Maintenance 	<p><u>Electives/Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Scouting 	<p><u>Electives/Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Auto Mechanics -Home Economics -Work Experience



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Sample Curriculum Progression

It is also important to consider continuity of curriculum. Different curriculum developers follow different sequences, and jumping from one curriculum to another may leave the student with knowledge gaps. The below table is a map of possible curriculums sequenced from K-12. This is just one of many possible configurations of recommended curriculums.

EXAMPLE CURRICULUM SEQUENCE BY GRADE AND STAGE	P r e	K	PRIMARY								SECONDARY			
			GRADE SCHOOL				MIDDLE SCHOOL		Jr. HIGH		Sr. HIGH			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			GRAMMAR				DIALECTIC				RHETORIC			
Biblical Studies		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bible Stories & Lessons	X	X												
Bible Reading Cycle 1			X	X	X	X								
Bible Reading Cycle 2							X	X	X	X				
Bible Reading Cycle 3											X	X	X	X
Biblical Hermeneutics (ADI/Zuck)													X	
Foundations of Apologetics (Ravi Zacharias)														X
Phonics/Grammar		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The Ordinary parent's guide to teaching reading		X	X											
First Language Lessons (1-4)			X	X	X	X								
Rod and Staff Grammar							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
College entrance and scholarship essays														X
Reading/Literature		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Abeka Read for Fun Readers		X												
Tapestry of Grace Literature Thread, and various supplements (Veritas, Robinson).			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reading for Fun and Grade-level readers Abeka (Supplemental)		S	S	S	S									
Vocabulary / Spelling		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spelling Power, 3rd Edition					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
TOG Integrated Vocabulary Lists						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Writing / Communications		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rod & Staff Handwriting (manuscript & cursive)			X	X	X									
Keyboarding (Typing Instructor for Kids)						X								
Writing / Composition – Tapestry of Grace					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



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Speech - Abeka												X		
Foreign Language	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Rosetta Stone			X	X	X	X	X	X						
Missions Trip									X					
AP language dual enrollment credit										X				
AP language dual enrollment credit											X			
Mathematics	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Singapore Grade Level curriculum	P	1	2											
Math Flashcards – Add, Mult.		X	X											
Saxon 5/4, 6/5, 7/6, 8/7				X	X	X	X							
Saxon Algebra ½, 1, 2 (includes ½ credit geometry)								X	X	X				
Saxon Advanced Math (includes ½ credit geometry)											X			
Saxon Calculus I,II												X	X	
Natural Sciences	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
“Let’s read & find out” General science topic overviews	X													
Six year Topical Cycle of Life Sciences (Apologia, one semester)		X	X	X	X	X	X							
Six year topical cycle of Physical Sciences (Real Science 4 Kids)		X	X	X	X	X	X							
Six year topical cycle of earth sciences (summer supplemental), Masterbooks Wonders of creation.		X	X	X	X	X	X							
Apologia – General Science								X						
Apologia Physical Science									X					
Biology										X				
Chemistry											X			
Physics 1												X		
Physics 2 (calculus-based)													X	
Social Sciences (History, Geog, Econ, Civics)	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
TOG, Year 1: Creation to Fall of Rome		X				X				X				
TOG, Year 2: Medieval through US Constitution			X				X				X			
TOG, Year 3: 1800's				X				X				X		
TOG, Year 4: 20th century to today					X				X				X	
US President Card Project				X	X									
US State Card Project				X	X									



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World History Timeline Project							X	X	X	X				
Abeka American Govt (Civics, ½ credit)														X
Abeka Economics (1/2 credit)														X
Health / Phys Ed		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red Cross Learn 2 Swim (Levels 1-6)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Red Cross Lifesaving											X			
Rod and Staff Health & Manners			X	X	X	X	X							
Team Sports								X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nutrition											X			
Music		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Music Appreciation	X	X												
K12 Beginning Music 1			X	X										
Great Composers Series (Zeedok)			X	X	X									
Learn to Play series Barr None music (piano)					X	X	X	X	X					
Furmankzyk/Hoffman Online Academies (supplemental)					S	S	S	S	S					
Art / Drama		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Artistic Pursuits			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Abeka Drama/Public Speaking (co-op)													X	
Life Experience		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Field trips keyed to subjects		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Summer job											X	X	X	X
Collecting Hobby - Fossil and Minerals				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Auto Mechanics											X			
Cooking							X	X	X					
Sewing Lessons									X	X				