



Middle School English/Social Studies

Overview

We're looking for a teacher with the ability to teach a variety of English and/or Social Studies classes, with an emphasis in middle school (grades 7-8). There is some flexibility about the specific assignment, based on the strengths of the teacher we hire. Some courses are offered every 2 years to multiple grades to reduce preps for teachers. Our complete set of secondary English and Social Studies classes is as follows:

Grade	English	Social Studies
7	English 7	Latin America or World Studies
8	English 8	Latin America or World Studies
9	English 9	World History
10	English 10	World Geography
11	AP English Language or English 11	AP Economics, Economics, Comparative Government or U.S. History
12	AP English Literature or English 12	AP Economics, Economics, Comparative Government or U.S. History

Qualifications

- 4-year degree in English, History, Geography, Middle or Secondary Education, or related field
- Teacher certification and 2 years experience preferred
- Evangelical Christian testimony with active local church experience
- Sense of calling to teach in a developing country setting
- Willingness to make a three (or more) year commitment
- Full fluency and expertise in English; conversational Spanish preferred but not required

Sample Schedule

Although the actual assignment will be created based on the strengths of the teacher, a sample schedule is as follows:

Time	Period	Class	Notes
7:30-7:40	0H	Homeroom, devotional	10-15 students; same gender as teacher
7:43-8:33	1	Latin America 8	Two sections of the same class; 8th grade students
8:36-9:26	2	Latin America 7	Two sections of the same class; 7th grade students
9:26-9:41	Break		
9:41-10:31	3	Planning Period	Or possibly a Bible class 3 days per week for 1-2 semesters
10:34-11:24	4	MS or HS Elective (Drama, Creative Writing, Accelerated Reader)	1-2 semesters, 5 days per week
11:24-11:54	Lunch		
11:54-12:44	5	Planning Period	
12:47-1:37	6	English 8	
1:40-2:30	7	English 7	

Social Studies Curriculum

The Latin America class uses a textbook from Pearson Education, and World Studies uses Bob Jones World Studies, 3rd edition. Both of these are supplemented with a number of other resources, materials and well-developed lesson plans.

Latin America: Students will identify major geographical features and countries in Latin America. Students will experience and comprehend key concepts in the text World Explorer. Students will deeply learn the history of all of the Latin American countries, and build practical projects relating to Native American and Spanish History.

World Studies: World Studies is a year-long course designed that begins with the history of Europe in 1100, traces the development of world cultures through the Middle Ages and the

Renaissance, and continues through the present times. The focus is on governments, religions, explorers, inventions and the arts that have helped to shape our world.

World History: Students will know that God directs world history, starting in the Ancient Near East and moving throughout the various civilizations. Students will learn how one civilization borrows concepts from previous ones and memorize key points and persons throughout history. Students are to be aware of the unique spread of Christianity and how they are recipients of God's blessing. Class projects will enhance learning and understanding. Two textbooks are used for the course: Human Legacy (Holt) and World History (BJU Press).

World Geography: This is a standard World Geography course focusing on the five themes in geography. Using a regional approach to the world, students study countries from each continent. Using a variety of media along with traditional textbooks, students will gain a better understanding of how geography affects the culture and history of people living in different places. Two textbooks are used: Cultural Geography (BJU Press) and Geography (Holt).

U.S. History: Students will develop an awareness of the formation of early British colonies in the 13 states, focusing on the autonomy and independent culture that developed. Students will look at the cultural values at the birth of the United States and learn about historical events from 1776 to the present. Students will participate in class activities including a section on invention. Finally, students will explore the importance of the United States in a world setting.

Comparative Government: This introductory course in Comparative Government will offer students the opportunity to investigate various political systems, their underlying philosophies and ideologies, and the similarities and differences between the different ones. Background information on political philosophy, outlines of contemporary regimes, a brief study of American government as a reference, and individual country studies of nations classified under Industrialized Democracies, Current and Former Communist Regimes, and the Third World, will give students the tools for analysis of government in its many forms. The comparative nature of the class will also require students to apply a Christian worldview to a right interpretation of government and power as seen in the various examples studied.

Economics: This introductory one-semester course presents basic microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts from a perspective guided by the truth that God created mankind to inhabit an earth full of resources and that man is accountable to God to use properly and productively the wealth that has been given to him by the Creator. Textbook: Economics (A Beka Books)

AP Microeconomics: A semester-long course which is aligned to AP standards. Success in the regular economics course, along with high averages in social studies and English, are prerequisites. All students are required to take the AP exam when it is offered in May.

English Curriculum

January 2022 update: Our secondary English curriculum is currently under review and we expect to have new curriculum materials in place for the coming year. Some of the descriptions below have been updated with the new curriculum, and others describe the old curriculum.

Each of our English courses provide a comprehensive study of various aspects of English Language Arts, including literature, composition, grammar, and communications skills development. Classroom resources at all grade levels include literature anthologies, grammar textbooks, dictionaries and thesauri. We use “Write Shop I and II” for the writing process, “Wordly Wise 3000” for vocabulary, and “Easy Grammar Plus” as a supplement to these materials. To enhance the core curriculum, a number of selected novels are built into each class for reading and analysis. Descriptions of specific classes are provided below.

English 7: This class focuses on literature grouped into several themes. Students will begin building understanding of theme, plot, and conflict. They will work on critical reading and thinking skills. They will work on the writing process, including peer conferencing and mechanics. Literature titles: *A Long Walk to Water* (Linda Sue Park), *Pygmalion* (George Bernard Shaw), and various selections.

English 8: Students use a different textbook and read a different set of novels, but continue developing their understanding of literature, composition, and grammar. Literature titles: *Inside Out & Back Again* (Thanhha Lai), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee), *Unbroken* (Laura Hillenbrand) and *An Omnivore’s Dilemma* (Michael Pollan).

English 9: Students will study literature, utilize and develop their writing skills, and complete a research paper assignment. Literature titles: *Taming of the Shrew* (William Shakespeare), *House on Mango Street* (Sandra Cisneros), *A Separate Peace* (John Knowles), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee) and *Things Fall Apart* (Chinua Achebe). Major textbook is *Fundamentals of Literature*.

English 10: Students will learn specific elements of literature, including imaginative comparison, allusion, theme, and irony. They will read poems and stories, critically analyzing them for these elements. Writing skills and a research paper will be integrated into the literature. Literature titles: *The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald), *Night* (Elie Wiesel), *Romeo and Juliet* (William Shakespeare) Major textbook is *Elements of Literature*.

British Literature (until recently, this was taught in even years, like 2020-2021): Students will read literature ranging from the Old English period through the Modern Period, focusing on British authors. They will enhance their critical reading and comprehension skills by reading essays, poetry, novels and short stories. They will work on writing skills in various forms. Literature titles: *Macbeth* (William Shakespeare), *Great Expectations* (Charles Dickens), *Pride and Prejudice* (Jane Austen), *The Great Divorce* (C.S. Lewis) and selections from *Paradise Lost* (John Milton). Major textbook: *British Literature*.

American Literature (until recently, this was taught in odd years, like 2019-2020): American Literature is a comprehensive study of the literary heritage of the United States. The course provides students the chance to read significant works in the genres of poetry, short story and novels, as well as affording them the opportunity to write responsively to such works. Cultural and historical context is studied for each work. In addition to the textbook, students will read the following novels: *The Scarlet Letter* (Nathaniel Hawthorne), *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Mark Twain) and *The Chosen* (Chaim Potok).

Elective classes: Many of our faculty members teach semester-long elective classes for middle school and/or high school students. Teachers are encouraged to develop courses of interest to themselves and our students. Possibilities might classes include drama, public speaking, debate strategies, works of J.R.R. Tolkien or C.S. Lewis, journalism or creative writing.

AP English Language and Composition 11: The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of non-fiction prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who can compose for a variety of purposes. By their writing and reading in this course, students should become aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing. Textbook: *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric, Second Edition* by Renee H. Shea, et al.. Supplementary titles: excerpts from *Blood of Brothers* (Stephen Kinzer).

AP English Literature and Composition 12: This course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository analytical and argumentative essays. Although critical analysis makes up the bulk of student writing for the course, well-constructed creative writing assignments will help students see from the inside how literature is written. Literature titles: *The Good Earth* (Pearl S. Buck), *Pride and Prejudice* (Jane Austen), *A Tale of Two Cities* (Charles Dickens), and various poems and short stories.