



Middle School Core Choices 2016-2017

ONLINE CURRICULUM

Time4Learning

Gr. 6-7

Time4Learning is an approach that takes advantage of today's technology. It's a convenient, online home education program that combines learning with fun educational teaching games. Time4Learning helps parents build interesting diverse days. By shifting from computer-based lessons to discussion, or from paper and pencil exercises to art projects, children stay engaged and benefit from different teaching methods. Variety keeps children motivated and attentive throughout the day. Time4Learning's online learning system combines in one homeschool curriculum interactive lessons, multimedia reinforcement activities, printable worksheets, learning games, and assessments with reports.

Subjects Covered: Language Arts and Math; Social Studies and Science curriculum will need to be ordered

Format: Online program – requires Internet access; Grade level Content Standards will also be given

Learning Style: multi-sensory

Teaching Style: structured, low prep, moderate interaction required; basic computer skills required

For a Better Look...Check out www.time4learning.com

READING

Elements of Literature

Gr. 6-8

Utilizes a skills-centered approach and a foundation of literature. Students are able to learn and master one skill at a time while being immersed in classic and contemporary literature. Colorful, high interest. Auxiliary materials available also for free on the Internet. Includes writing lessons as well as literature skills.

Format: traditional hardback text

Language Arts Strands Covered: reading, some writing

Learning Style: traditional public school

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep, moderate interaction required

Publisher: Holt Rinehart

Glencoe Literature: Reader's Choice ****Enter the following access code: E116204650**

Gr. 7-8

Utilizes a skills-centered approach and a foundation of literature. Students are able to learn and master one skill at a time while being immersed in classic and contemporary literature. Colorful, high interest. Auxiliary materials available also for free on the Internet. Includes writing lessons as well as literature skills. *Limited Teacher's Editions available*

Format: traditional hardback text

Language Arts Strands Covered: reading, writing

Learning Style: traditional public school

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep, moderate interaction required

Publisher: Glencoe

TLC Literature Units (No preview available; corresponds with Accelerated Reader)

Gr. 6-8

Literature-based units with a growing title list. Select a title and receive a reading guide and away you go! Excellent for students who love to read. Each reading guide has different comprehension activities based on the title of the book.

Language Arts Strands Covered: reading comprehension, reading skills

Format: Literature guides plus related novels/stories

Learning Style: directed, for students who want to learn using novels of their choice

Teaching Style: Structured, low prep, moderate interaction required

WRITING

English

Gr. 6

This program helps students become powerful, motivated writers by building strong grammar, usage, and mechanics skills through real-world applications. It covers multiple genres throughout the book.

Language Arts Strands Covered: grammar, writing

Format: traditional hardback textbook with consumable workbook

Learning Style: reading/writing

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep, moderate interaction required; high parent support

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

Elements of Language

Gr. 6-8

In four comprehensive parts—communications; sentences and paragraphs; grammar, usage, and mechanics; and the quick reference handbook, this program addresses a range of literacies through lessons focusing on reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing.

Language Arts Strands Covered: writing, grammar

Format: traditional hardback textbook with reproducible activity pages

Learning Style: traditional textbook, reading/writing

Teaching Style: flexible or structured, moderate prep, moderate interaction required

Publisher: Holt Rinehart

Writing Strands, Level 3

Gr. 6-8

Writing Strands presents exercises that were written to clearly walk students through the writing process. Most students take one year to complete a level. Each lesson includes: identifying the skill, listing objectives of the lesson, presenting a model, pre-writing exercises, and clear and detailed instructions for the writing.

Language Strands Covered: Writing

Format: Soft-back book and Teacher's edition

Learning Style: structured

Teaching Style: structured, low prep and low interaction

Publisher: Writing Strands

Inside Writing

Gr. 6-8

Sentences, Paragraphs, Narratives, Descriptions, Expository Essays, Persuasive Essays, Responses to Literature, Research Reports, Letters * *Letters not available for 6th grade; Limited quantity available of all titles as program is being revised

The *Inside Writing* units address basic types of writing, including those types often featured on state tests. There are nine units per grade level. All of the units are ready to implement: everything students need to complete their work is included, from step-by-step guidelines to high-interest writing models and space for students to do their work. Each page within the unit is self-contained. The design of this program is helpful for struggling writers. The Teacher's Edition contains helpful background information, daily lesson plans, assessed writing samples, prompts for additional writing, and much more.

NOTE: The Description unit will come first unless Sentences or Paragraphs has been specially requested.

Language Strands Covered: Writing

Format: Portfolio style

Learning Style: structured, has suggestions for multiple learning styles

Teaching Style: structured

Publisher: Write Source

[Write Source](#)

Gr. 6-8

Write Source reflects the latest research on writing and learning and provides everything students need to become better writers, thinkers, and learners, including clear coverage of the writing process and the six traits of writing within every unit; detailed information on all the key forms of writing, complete with student models, clear writing guidelines, and practice activities; integrated mechanics, usage, and grammar activities.

Language Strands Covered: Writing, grammar

Format: handbook with exercises included; teacher's edition, grammar workbook (optional)

Learning Style: visual

Teaching Style: May be used in structured or flexible format; low prep, moderate interaction

Publisher: Great Source

GRAMMAR

[Core Skills: Language Arts](#)

Gr. 6-8

Developed to improve grammar skills, this program contains activities that present only one skill per page, beginning with the grammatical rule and specific examples that model the following activities. The "Rule-example-practice" activity format is ideal for independent study.

Language Arts Strands Covered: grammar

Format: consumable workbook

Learning Style: reading/writing, independent

Teaching Style: structured, no prep, low interaction required

Publisher: Steck-Vaughn

[Easy Grammar](#)

Gr. 6-8

Just like it says...easy. The idea is to cross out prepositions first and then it becomes easier to classify the remainder of the sentence. In addition to grammar concepts, capitalization, punctuation, sentence types, phrases/clauses and more are included. Ample practice worksheets are offered for each skill.

Language Arts Strands Covered: grammar

Format: Teacher's soft back book plus student workbook

Learning Style: directed, incremental

Teaching Style: structured, no prep, low interaction required

Publisher: Easy Grammar Systems

[Daily Grams](#)

Gr. 6-8

Designed to take 10 minutes every day. Reviews five basic skills: capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence combining on every page. This program does not provide instruction, but rather review of skills.

Language Arts Strands Covered: grammar

Format: student workbook

Learning Style: directed, daily reinforcement

Teaching Style: structured, no prep, low interaction required.

Publisher: Easy Grammar Systems

SPELLING/VOCABULARY

Spelling Power

Gr. 6-8

Requiring just 15 minutes a day, *Spelling Power* is totally individualized. Everything needed to teach each of your student spelling skills to the college level is contained in this one easy-to-use, step-by-step curriculum manual. Placement tests tell you exactly where your student should begin. Once the placement level has been determined, your student will use the research proven test-study-test method, along with immediate self-correction, to master word lists which are organized by phonetic principles and spelling rules.

Language Arts Strands Covered: Spelling

Format: Teacher's manual with student workbook

Learning Style: visual

Teaching Style: structured, low prep after initial level assessment, moderate interaction

Publisher: Castlemoyle

Spelling Workout

Gr. 6-8

This program uses a kid-friendly sports theme to help make learning spelling systematic and fun! Student edition includes cross-curricular reading selections, high utility list words, writing/proofreading exercises, and a dictionary at the back of each book. The beginning of each lesson has a spelling "rule" clearly stated so students may memorize it.

Language Arts Strands Covered: spelling

Format: consumable workbook

Learning Style: reading/writing

Teaching Style: structured, no prep, low interaction required

Publisher: Modern Curriculum Press (MCP)

Vocabulary for Achievement

Gr. 6-8

Introductory Course

First Course

Second Course

This program helps students understand and use words effectively. Each level of the program contains 30 six-page lessons featuring 10 grade-level appropriate words to help students build a solid vocabulary. All analogy sections are compatible with the types of analogies currently found on the SAT—to provide effective preparation for the SAT and other college-entrance exams.

Language Arts Strands Covered: vocabulary

Learning Style: reading/writing, directed

Teaching Style: structured, no prep, low interaction required

Publisher: Great Source

Wordly Wise 3000

Gr. 6-8

Offers carefully selected words from literature, textbooks, and SAT-prep books to instruct by using reading, writing, and a variety of exercises. Each 15-word lesson begins with an alphabetized word list that gives pronunciations, parts of speech, and concise definitions, and uses each word in a sentence. Engaging sentences provide a mnemonic anchor for the word. Exercises in each lesson encourage students to apply word meanings, think critically, and discover word relationships. Short narratives are featured in each lesson to allow students to experience words in context.

Language Arts Strands Covered: vocabulary

Format: consumable workbook

Learning Style: directed, independent

Teaching Style: structured, no prep, low interaction required

Publisher: EPS

Vocabulary from Classical Roots

Gr. 6-8**Level A****Level B****Level C**

Vocabulary from Classical Roots is a challenging vocabulary series that teaches strategies for determining unknown word meanings using Greek and Latin roots. Understanding and applying knowledge of Greek and Latin roots helps increase vocabulary and reading comprehension, providing students with a useful, transferable technique for making sense of unfamiliar vocabulary across content areas and on standardized tests including the SAT.

Language Arts Strands Covered: vocabulary

Format: consumable workbook and answer key

Learning Style: classical approach

Teaching Style: structured, no prep, low interaction required.

Publisher: EPS

MATHEMATICS

Traditional Textbook Math

Gr. 6

This program offers carefully developed concepts within and across the mathematical strands. It is designed to build conceptual understanding, skill proficiency, problem solving ability, and logical reasoning. Has more of an elementary format rather than middle school format.

Format: hardback textbook

Learning Style: traditional textbook format with optional opportunities for reteaching and/or challenging the students.

Teaching Style: structured, moderate prep, moderate interaction required, provides high teaching support

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

Math in Focus

Gr. 6-8

This program provides an authentic Singapore math curriculum—highlighting problem solving as the focus of mathematical learning. This complete program teaches concepts using a concrete–pictorial–abstract learning progression to anchor learning in real-world, hands-on experiences. This curriculum is on the California Adoption List of materials for teaching the Common Core State Standards and is used in the Middle School onsite Math study groups.

Format: hardback text, full color format

Learning Style: traditional textbook format plus opportunities for reteaching and challenging the students.

Teaching Style: structured, moderate prep, moderate interaction required, provides high teaching support

Publisher: Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt

Primary Mathematics

Gr. 6

Mathematical concepts are introduced in the opening pages and taught to mastery through specific learning tasks that allow for immediate assessment and consolidation. New mathematical concepts are introduced throughout a spiral progression that builds on concepts already taught and mastered.

Format: textbook format with consumable workbook components

Learning Style: All learning styles are addressed

Teaching Style: structured, moderate prep, moderate interaction required

Publisher: Singapore Math

Dimensions Mathematics

Gr. 7-8

The emphasis of this series is on empowering the students to learn mathematics effectively and independently. Depending on the topics covered, different approaches are adopted for the presentation of concepts to facilitate easy understanding by students to internalize concepts and instill in them an interest to explore the topics further. Each book includes appropriate examples, class activities and diagrams to understand the concepts and apply them. This program is aligned to Common Core Standards in Mathematics for grades 7 and 8.

Format: textbook format with consumable workbook components

Learning Style: All learning styles are addressed

Teaching Style: structured, moderate prep, moderate interaction required

Publisher: Singapore Math

Saxon Math

Gr. 6-8

Math 76

Math 87

This program is based on introducing a topic to a student and then allowing the student to build upon that concept as they learn new ones. Topics are never dropped, but are instead increased in complexity and practiced every day, providing the time required for concepts to become totally familiar.

This program includes a student text, tests and worksheets, and a solutions manual that has full, step-by-step answers to all of the lesson problems.

Format: softback text; comes with complete solutions manuals and test booklets

Learning Style: students who benefit from incremental teaching and lots of reinforcement

Teaching Style: structured, low prep, low interaction required, provides high teaching support (includes solutions manual)

Publisher: Saxon Publishers

SOCIAL STUDIES

Traditional Textbook Social Studies

Gr. 6-8

Employs a content-rich, relevant narrative to provide an integrated approach to skills development and reading support. Standard public school textbook with activity materials. This program is aligned to grade level California Content Standards in History-Social Science.

Format: traditional textbook with reproduced Study Workbook; audio versions of the textbook are available for ESL students or students with reading difficulties.

Learning Style: traditional textbook format; online activities can be used to reinforce learning

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep, moderate interaction required, provides high teaching support

Publisher: Houghton-Mifflin

Discovering Our Past

Gr. 6-8

Employs a content-rich, relevant narrative to provide an integrated approach to skills development and reading support. This program includes Document-Based Question debates, primary sources, and world literature activities and connections to provide a well-rounded Social Studies program aligned to grade level California Content Standards in History-Social Science with connections to the California Common Core Standards. This program is used in the middle school onsite Social Studies study groups.

Format: traditional textbook with optional online support; 6th and 7th grade standards are covered in one book

Learning Style: traditional textbook format; online option allows text to be read aloud

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep, moderate interaction required, provides high teaching support

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

A History of US

Gr. 8

Your child will learn all about American history in an interesting format. No stale textbook here. Each volume covers a specific period of our history. They work great as a backbone of a Unit Study as well as for read-aloud and private readings. Eighth grade students should cover at least volumes three through eight. Topics include "From Colonies to Country," "The New Nation," "Liberty for All?," "War, Terrible War," "Reconstructing America," and "An Age of Extremes." This program is aligned to grade level California Content Standards in History-Social Science.

Format: multi-volume set of non-consumable readers with reproducible study sheets and tests

Learning Style: dependent or independent

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep, moderate to high interaction required

Publisher: Oxford Press

Prime Social Studies

Gr. 6-8

Ancient Civilizations (6)

World Cultures (7)

American History (8)

Your child will cover grade-level California Content Standards in History-Social Science in this collection of high interest, easy readability books. These books help develop student's ability to analyze, interpret, and make connections between current and historical events. This program is good for students who struggle with reading.

Format: multi-volume set of non-consumable readers with reproducible student and teacher pages

Learning Style: dependent or independent

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep

Publisher: Benchmark Education

The Story of the World

Gr. 6-8

Volume 1: The Ancients (5000 BC – 400 AD) Grade 6

Volume 2: The Middle Ages (400 – 1600) Grade 6

Volume 3: Early Modern Times (1600 – 1850) Grade 7

Volume 4: The Modern Age (1850-1994) Grade 7

Told in a straightforward, engaging style this four-volume set covers the sweep of human history from ancient times until the present. Find out what happened around the world in long-ago times. This read-aloud series is designed for parents to share with elementary school children, but may be used with older students with additional writing assignments and assessments. Activity books, tests, and student pages accompany all four volumes.

Format: soft bound book plus consumable or reproducible activity book and test packet

Learning Style: multi-age, auditory, project and activity based

Teaching Style: flexible, moderate prep, moderate to high interaction required

Publisher: Peace Hill Press

SCIENCE

Science Voyages

Gr. 6-8

Earth Science

Life Science

Physical Science

Traditional textbooks provide abundant information on one of the three strands of science listed above. Numerous online tools for learning science (study guides, online quizzes, web links, etc.) are available. This program is aligned to grade level California Content Standards in Science.

Format: traditional hardback textbook and reproducible workbooks

Learning Style: traditional public school, multi-sensory

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep, moderate interaction required

Publisher: Glencoe

Science Explorer Series

Gr. 6-8

Earth Science

Life Science

Physical Science

Your student will focus on a strand of science listed above in series of 5-6 books. This series provides a great alternative to a traditional textbook. This program has a balance of content and hands-on science inquiry. Worksheets and assessments are also available. This program is aligned to grade level California Content Standards in Science.

Format: multi-volume set of non-consumable books

Learning Style: multi-sensory

Teaching Style: structured or flexible, moderate prep

Publisher: Prentice Hall