

DR. BYERS' FREE COURSES

My goal is to support the efforts of homeschooling families around the world by providing high quality courses at very affordable costs. To take that goal one step further, I offer some of my courses for students in grades 7-12 absolutely FREE! One free course per student, please.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE COURSES: Some courses are designed for students in grades 7-8 only and thus are worth credit for only those grades in the respective subject areas. For example, a two-semester history course for 7th and 8th graders is worth one year of history or social sciences for 7th or 8th grade. However, a course meant for 7th and 8th grade students does not have the academic content or rigor necessary for the student to fulfill the necessary criteria to earn high school credits.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES (GRADES 7-12): Some of the free offerings are high school level courses and thus also earn high school credit in the subject area. These courses are open to students in grades 7-12. Parents can determine if they believe their students in grades 7-8 is ready for high school courses and/or I'm happy to provide advice to this end.

**Introduction to Poetry--FREE TUITION--\$100 value
1 semester, 1/2 credit in high school English; Grades 7-12**

- This course has free tuition because even though poetry is an important subject, many students will never be exposed to it if they aren't required to take a course in the subject. So, I make it painless for parents and students by making the course free and fun as we study a wide variety of poems, including song lyrics that students have often never realized were actually poems. Students are often surprised to learn that poems don't have to rhyme!
- The course is suitable for both boys and girls. And, the students who have taken the course (and their parents) have found poetry to not be as intimidating, confusing, or difficult to understand as they originally supposed it was. They also discover that they enjoy reading and even writing poetry!
- In the course, utilizing a variety of well-known and other high-quality poems, students learn how to read, interpret, and understand poetry. Students also learn about different types of poetry, how each type of poem is constructed, and key terminology for specific types of poetry and for poetry in general.
- Via the written assignments, students get an opportunity to write their own poem for each type of poetry we study. Students then receive gentle and helpful feedback and guidance from the instructor on their attempts at writing various types of poems, as well as with their interpretations of the poems they read. Sometimes interpreting a poem can be subjective and so students are praised for their attempts and then gently guided toward understanding what they might not have understood initially.
- Both boys and girls are surprised that they like this course and that they enjoyed learning about the subject of poetry. Many students are surprised to learn that poetry doesn't have to rhyme. Parents are surprised that their children discuss the poems and other assignments with them!

You Can Enjoy Writing

FREE TUITION-\$100 value

1 semester, English, Grades 7-8

- This course is free because many students don't like to write and many parents don't like to teach writing. Let's face it, writing can be challenging to learn and to teach in any environment, but it can be especially so when the parent is the teacher and the child is the student. The parent knows that feedback is vital to help the student learn from their writing mistakes, but it just feels like parental criticism to the child. Thus, there seems to be an inherent resistance that just makes the whole process difficult, frustrating, and even impossible for some homeschooling families.
- The solution is to let me teach your child how to write. I can help you eliminate this frustration from your homeschooling efforts while also helping you ensure that your child learns the basics of writing in order to prepare for high school, college, and life. And, let me help you and your child realize what so many other families have, that writing can be enjoyable and that your child is ready to continue to hone and refine their skills taking my other writing courses throughout high school.
- In this course, each week we will have a writing assignment. The student can select the subject or can leave that to me. For factual topics, we'll learn how to use a 5-paragraph essay approach, which helps build the student's writing knowledge and skills for much longer assignments in high school and college. I teach the same approach in my high school courses and to my college students. There is also the option for students to engage in creative writing—again, choosing their own subjects or using idea prompts that I provide.
- Students receive encouraging and supportive feedback, as well as edits that show and explain what needs to be fixed, how, and why. Rather than grading their first attempt at an assignment, grading occurs after the student has had a chance to revise the work based on the teacher's edits and feedback. The goal is to increase the student's writing confidence and skills in preparation for high school while taking one of the biggest frustrations (teaching your child how to write) out of your home and homeschool program!

It's Science!

FREE TUITION-\$100 value

1 semester, Science, Grades 7-8

- This free course lets students explore science from a variety of angles. First, students learn about the different types of science, what subjects are included in each one, and where similar sciences differ and overlap. For example, what is included in earth science versus geology and meteorology? Students will find out!
- Science is a lot of fun! And, in today's world, new scientific discoveries and advancements are occurring all the time. So, in this course students will investigate some of these exciting new aspects of science and learn how they impact our world!

Key Events in U.S. History that You May Not Have Learned Yet

FREE TUITION-\$100 value

1 semester, U.S. History, Grades 7-8

- This course is free because I see so many young college students who have little to no knowledge of key events in U.S. history that have shaped our country and defined who we are as citizens of the best country in the history of the world. If students have heard of some of the events, they fail to recognize their significance.
- In this course, we focus on specific events to study not only what happened, but why. We study what led to the events, who was involved, and how it all transpired. We then focus on identifying the impact(s) the events had on the U.S. and the world both in the short-term and long-term. This course helps prepare students for the in-depth learning and critical thinking skills needed for high school level U.S. history and other social science courses.
- Some of the events studied in this course include: The terrorist attacks on the U.S. on 9/11/01, the Children's Crusade of 1963, the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor 12/7/1941, Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, the Seneca Falls Convention, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the U.S. dropping two atomic bombs on Japan, the Cuban Missile Crisis, sending the 101st Airborne to protect the Little Rock Nine, the 2000 Presidential Election, and Rosie the Riveter. Some subjects are covered in one week and some are covered across two or more weeks to allow plenty of time to truly understand the subject matter.

Where in the World Is It?

FREE TUITION-\$100 value

1 semester, Social Sciences, Grades 7-8

- In this free course, students go on a geographical scavenger hunt. An important skill for high school and for college is being able to use resources to find information. What better resource is there for students of any age but the Internet?
- So, in this course students learn to use this amazing resource effectively to conduct both directed and independent research in multiple ways. First, students use Internet links provided by the professor to find and learn about some amazing people, places, and objects from both history and the present day. Next, students are given subjects to find without a link so they can practice finding quality and informative sources without relying on Wikipedia.
- It's not only important for students to learn how to find information, it's important for them to learn how to report what they found. So, in this course students learn how to write 5-paragraph essays in which they summarize the key information that they learned from the sites they visited. They research, read, review, critical thinking, summarizing, and writing skills that students learn and practice in this course are vital for success in high school and beyond.