

Excel Middle School Western Civilizations History (6th - 9th*)

Tuition: \$45 per month (August – April)

This course will study the history, culture, and significance of three eras of western civilization: the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Reformation. Each week the student will read from their textbooks, answer study guide questions, and do occasional worksheets and maps. In class, we will review the past week's homework and students will take notes from lecture. Each student will do one topical project per unit. There will be five tests: one midterm and one final exam for each unit except for Reformation which only has one.

Course Objectives:

- * Comprehensively study the historical eras of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Protestant Reformation
- * Learn to read and extract information from textbooks
- * Learn the skill of taking notes from lecture
- * Acquire various broadly applicable academic and organizational skills
- * Practice the essential life skills of following instructions and being responsible for one's own tasks
- * Prepare students for their next level of education

Supply List:

- * Three ring binder, 1 ½ to 2 inch thick
- * One set of 6 tab dividers
- * Loose leaf paper
- * 1 ream of white copy paper (at home)
- * Various craft supplies (to be announced)

Other requirements: internet access, e-mail, word processing, library access, working printer

Required Texts: Teacher has several copies to loan; contact instructor to reserve one.

PLEASE USE ISBN NUMBER WHEN ORDERING YOUR BOOKS

ISBN: 1-978-1-938026-2 (Early Times: The Story of the Middle Ages **2nd Edition**)
Wayside Publishing 2014

ISBN: 0-9656557-0-9 (The Story of the Renaissance – **1st Edition**)
Wayside Publishing 1997 (Some versions say Pemblewick Publishing)

ISBN: 0-8007-5644-4 (The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History)
Fleming H. Revell 1998

ISBN: 978-1-84550-222-5 (History Lives: Courage and Conviction Volume 3)
Christian Focus Publications 2006

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*Excel guidelines require students to be 11 by August 1st to be considered in 6th grade

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is my student ready for Middle School History?

Your student is ready for the class if they can do the following:

- * read at a 5th grade level
- * take in information from lecture and textbooks and answer homework questions from the same
- * study notes weekly, performing self-quizzes to prepare for tests
- * follow multi-step instructions
- * manage the weekly workload of a multi-part class

If they don't have the above skills yet, it doesn't mean they can't take the class. It means that the homeschool parent(s) will need to step in to work with the student at home during the week, both in academic skills and/or organizational skills. I can help parents facilitate that if requested.

2. Is Middle School History hard?

MS History is not hard; however, it is a lot of work. A student, possibly with parental help, needs to be able to

- * keep track of what is due and when it's due (a syllabus will be provided)
- * break down the week's assignment into manageable pieces
- * be responsible for turning in work completely, correctly, and on time
- * keep an organized binder – there is a LOT of paper instructions, samples, examples, and notes given. Lack of organization is the #1 reason some students struggle in MS History.

3. Does my student need to work on their own?

Yes, but...

While I do not allow students to share the workload, answers, etc., I would encourage students to study together for exams when possible, and I believe at the middle school level it's essential for parents to step in and work with their student to shore up any holes in their academic knowledge or to manage the workload. Looking at your student's graded work each week when they bring it home and regularly checking Gradebookwizard can help you assess how much help your student needs at home. And you can always ask me.