

## LIFE Co-OP Classes

Co-op classes are a cooperative learning environment where families come together and help each other educate their children. It is not a drop off class, but rather a place where each family contributes their knowledge, talent, and skill in some way. It may be teaching a class, helping in a classroom, taking young ones to the restroom, running errands, set up or clean up.

Because each family contributes and is counted on for the successful run of classes, students would be signing up for **both** classes within their grade level and participating for the whole 3 ½-hour block.

We offer 2 classes per age level with a transition period between the 2 classes. We have found this transition period to be a wonderful way for our children to build valuable friendships. We consider it an integral part of the co-op experience.

Due to the nature of co-op classes, families would need to make a commitment for the entire school year. Unfortunately, for this same reason, we cannot add families mid-year.

Co-op Classes meet at First Presbyterian Church in Blissfield, on Tuesday mornings from 9:00am-12:30pm during the school year. We have class offerings for three grade levels: Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, Grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. As Co-op is designed for the entire family, we also provide a nursery during the class time for children under 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

We realize that the skill level between a 1<sup>st</sup> grader and 4<sup>th</sup> grader are vastly different. The same is true for a 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Therefore, co-op classes are run in the style of a one-room schoolhouse. Whereby older and more skilled students are given more challenging assignments, while younger and less skilled students are provided assignments a bit less challenging, yet all students are learning the same material. Teachers will make these determinations based upon the parent's requests, as YOU know your students the best.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** In the event of bad weather cancellations of co-op classes will be made by 7am Tuesday morning. Notification will be sent out via e-mail by 7:15am. WLEN will also be contacted and asked to add it to their closing and cancellation lists. We make every effort to hold classes, however the safety of our members is our priority.

**Contact Information:** If you have questions about co-op or would like further details regarding the classes offered please contact Karen Saxton @ 517-486-2062 or [saxton@tc3net.com](mailto:saxton@tc3net.com) . To register, contact Karen Saxton with your child's name and grade.

**Deadline for payment / registration for 2012-2013 Co-Op classes is August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

### Click on the links below for more details:

- Complete Co-Op information Packet
- Class Schedule for 2012-2013
- Fee information for 2012-2013
- Class Listings/Descriptions for 2012-2013
- Materials list for each classroom

(This will be available by August 1<sup>st</sup>; however you can plan on normal classroom supplies such as pencils, paper. Notebooks, glue sticks, erasers, colored pencils, etc.)

## **Co-op Schedule for 2012-2013**

### **First Semester**

**September 4, 2011**  
**September 11, 2011**  
**September 18, 2011**  
**September 25, 2011**  
**October 2, 2011**  
**October 9, 2011**  
**October 16, 2011**  
**October 23, 2011**  
**October 30, 2011**  
**November 6, 2011**  
**November 13, 2011**  
**November 27, 2011**  
**December 4, 2011**  
**December 11, 2011**

### **Second Semester**

**January 8, 2012**  
**January 15, 2012**  
**January 22, 2012**  
**January 29, 2012**  
**February 5, 2012**  
**February 12, 2012**  
**February 19, 2012**  
**February 26, 2012**  
**March 5, 2012**  
**March 12, 2012**  
**March 19, 2012**  
**March 26, 2012**  
**April 2, 2012**  
**April 9, 2012**

**We meet Tuesdays from 9:00am- 12:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Blissfield, Michigan.  
We have 28 weeks of co-op classes.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE. WE WILL UPDATE THIS SCHEDULE  
AS DATES FOR MID- WINTER BREAK AND SPRING BREAK ARE AVAILABLE.**

## FEE INFORMATION

We make EVERY effort to keep the cost for these classes as low as possible. Fees are solely for materials or copies, books or supplies your students will be using in class and a small building fee. Teachers are all volunteers. Unless otherwise noted in the description, fees include all books your students will need. Please note that normal classroom items may be requested for each class, i.e. notebooks, pencils, folders, calculator, etc.

Costs of textbooks needed are not included in the fees for co-op. Textbooks are the responsibility of the parent. We encourage you to find used materials when possible. We include textbook description and details to facilitate obtaining the correct versions and editions of the books. If you have any questions regarding the textbooks required, please contact Karen Saxton, [saxton@tc3net.com](mailto:saxton@tc3net.com). We will be placing a pre-paid order to Rainbow Resource August 20, 2012 to combine shipping for anyone who will still need books.

All fees are due at registration. We know this time of year is full of expenses. Fees can be paid in 2 installments. If you choose, you may pay ½ the fees at registration and the balance would be due by October 31st.

Fundraising will available in August and September to help offset costs of Co-Op classes. As details become available, they will be sent out via website updates, e-reminders and the newsletters. Please note that there is a *minimum* and a *maximum* number of students needed to run each class. **Registration Deadline is August 15, 2012.**

<p><b>ALL FEES COVER THE ENTIRE YEAR!</b></p> <p>One low Price/ One Payment covers the <i>entire year</i> and includes <i>two</i> classes for your child. An exceptional value for your family!</p>	
<p><b>Nursery children (ages 0-5)</b> Loving attention <b>No additional fees</b></p>	<p><b>Grades 5-8</b> Language Arts &amp; US/World Geography <b>Material Fee: \$85</b></p>
<p><b>Grades 1-4 (age 6 by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>)</b> US Geography &amp; Language Arts/Critical Thinking <b>Material Fee:</b> <b>\$50</b></p>	<p><b>Grades 9-12</b> American History/American Literature &amp; Composition/ Bible/ Apologetics/Poetry/ Note Taking/ College Prep <b>(textbooks required)</b> <b>\$70</b></p>

Any questions regarding fees, curriculums, location, times or format, please contact Karen Saxton at 517-486-2062 or [saxton@tc3net.com](mailto:saxton@tc3net.com).

# 2012-13 LIFE Co-Op Class Descriptions

**1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Students will have a fun interactive time learning together. There will be minimal homework throughout the year for older students. Assignments are scaled for younger students.

## **Class 1: US Geography (Teacher –Robin Boyd)**

Using **Cantering the Country** curriculum, students will explore the 50 states of our great Union. Completing mapping activities and state facts charts are some of the Skills students will be developing this year. Cost of class includes copies and supplies.

## **Class 2: Enhancing Literature and Exploring Analogies (Teacher: Kathleen Boley)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade class will enjoy reading a favorite children's literature selection each week and will enhance these stories with creative, hands-on learning activities that integrate language arts, math, social studies, and science skills with reading. A few of the children's books we will explore throughout the year are: Dandelion by Don Freeman, Danny and the Dinosaur by Syd Hoff, Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel, Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss, and The Biggest Bear by Lynd Ward. Our class will also spend a portion of each class focusing on critical thinking analogies. Children will have their own age-specific analogies folder to work through. Younger students will receive beginning analogies, while older students will work through more challenging analogies. In addition, our class will incorporate dramatic play while writing a short play, making costumes and props, and performing our play at the end of each semester. Parents will be asked to provide additional materials as needed. A list of class supplies (tape, glue, scissors, etc...) will be sent to parents by the end of summer. Class fee includes the analogies notebook, copying, and weekly craft and teaching supplies.

**5<sup>th</sup> Graders-8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Students will have some homework throughout the year as they progress through their subjects.

## **Class 1: Language Arts (Teacher- Laura Hopkins)**

We will be covering several key areas of language art this year. Our focus will be on listening skills, note taking, literature studies, composition, and poetry.

Although most people can hear, **listening** is a skill that takes time and motivation to develop. Much information is given to us verbally, and it is essential to pick out the vital messages. The students will build their listening skills as they are taught to recognize important information in a passage that is read to them.

**Note taking** is a valuable skill that will help students retain information, organize research, and improve test-taking abilities.

For our **composition** component, we will use the Excellence in Writing materials to work on and improve writing skills. Assignments will be adjusted for younger and older student.

This year the students will complete the *Island of the Blue Dolphin* and *Where the Red Fern Grows* **literature studies**. These have been carefully selected based on reading and grade level ranges. Assignments will be adjusted for younger and older student.

**Poetry** can be fun especially when done in a group setting! We will read and study poems written by great author like: Frost, Poe, Whitman, Browning and many more. Student will also write their own poems based on specific prompts and types.

Class fees for this class will cover supplementary materials, handouts, resources, and the literature books.

## **Class 2: World/US Geography (Teacher Angel Cazares)**

1<sup>st</sup> semester will be an overview of world geography with weekly mapping, fast fact reports on various countries and some famous people along the way. 2<sup>nd</sup> semester will continue the activities focusing on the United States. Students will complete a detailed project of a country and state of their choosing.

# 2012-13 LIFE Co-Op Class Descriptions

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders- 12<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Your high school student will be earning 5.5 high school credits for the completion of these courses. There will be homework required of all students to practice and gain mastery of material covered in class.

## **Class 1: US History/ US Literature & Composition/Bible (Teacher: Karen Saxton)**

Using Exploring American History by Ray Notgrass, students will gain an understanding of American History through the present. This is a unit study approach to learning and literature and composition assignments will dovetail with history lessons. Bible lessons will also correspond to history lessons. **Integrating all three subjects will give your students a solid understanding of history and literature *in context*.**

### **Textbooks Required:**

***Notgrass Exploring American History Curriculum Package (Rainbow item# – 041609 -\$89.95)***

***Exploring American History Quiz and Exam Book (Rainbow item # 041610 - \$14.95)***

### **Recommended Material:**

***Exploring American History Resource Literature pack (Rainbow item # EXPAMC - \$59.50) Students will need a copy of each book in this pack. These books may also be purchased separately or perhaps located at your local library.***

## **Class 2: Apologetics/College Prep/ Note Taking/ Poetry/ (Teacher: Laura Hopkins)**

### **Demolishing Strongholds**

The Demolishing Strongholds biblical study, from Answers in Genesis, will take your student's Christian walk to the next level. They will learn to defend their faith and develop true biblical world views. This study will equip them to truly understand and apply the teachings of God's Word.

### **College Prep**

The goal of the course is to prepare students for taking their College Board tests. Students learn to ace standardized tests! Many students have raised their SAT scores as much as 600 points after completing this course. The prep class will teach the hidden recurring patterns found on the SAT and PSAT that usually cause the students to fall for the wrong answer. Over 350 tips, shortcuts, and strategies will be covered.

### **Note Taking**

This Excellence in Writing class will focus on the 'note taking' portion of EIW's Advance Communication program. This course will help students hone their information processing skills by focusing on advanced note taking. Concepts presented will cover key word outlines, reconstructing ideas from outlines, along with the tree and branch system. Outside resources will also be used.

### **Poetry**

Poetry can be fun when done in a group setting! This course will help student learn how to write and understand poetry as we define poetic element in easy to understand term. We will explore examples of poems written by people of all ages. The exercises and concepts are so relevant and dynamic that students will greatly improve their poetry writing.

**Textbook Required: Writing Poetry by Shelley Tucker is available through Rainbow \$14.25 (Item # 005279)**

## Class Supply Lists

**Coming Soon**  
**August 2012**