

**Core Block A (1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> )**

**Teachers:** Chris Leone

**Class Size:** 10-12

**Tuition:** \$750/year

**Material fee:** \$75/year

(Divided among Lit/Writ/Hist/Grammar)

**Day/Time:** T & TH 8:30-11:00

**In-Class Instruction:** 5 hrs/wk

Texts required:

***First Language Lessons* by Jessie Wise, Peace Hill Press** \*\*There are 2 editions. The first edition will have both first and second grade levels in the book together. The second edition separates each grade level into 2 different books. I am using the first editions but either one will work for this class.

***Writing With Ease Workbook Level 1* by Susan Wise Bauer or *Level 2* for students working solidly in a second grade curriculum level.**

**Not required but encouraged:**

**Please note that this 5 hour class will touch on general reading skills and phonic reinforcement but families are encouraged to provide a systematic and disciplined curriculum to their child's weekly workload. Suggestions are available upon request.**

Children at this age are eager and engaged learners. The classroom is exciting and making friends is fun. Students have different learning styles and this core class will incorporate a multi-sensory approach to the curriculum. This in-class experience will consist of both whole-class and small group instruction/reinforcement. Centers and other activities will also be utilized. Both the in-class experience and directed homework will consist of both level-specific material as well as multi-level "whole group" material. Students will be individually assessed in order to determine the best placement for leveled groups, activities and materials.

***Writing/Grammar/Literature:***

- Novels will be chosen and it is suggested that these be checked out from the library.
- Optional suggestions for additional reading will be provided to families throughout the year.

***History (not needed to be purchased but will let families know unit book selections in case they want to be added to the family reading time)***

- **A variety of classroom selections will be used to parallel the HSU Core B and C timeline.**

- **Usborne Encyclopedia of World History**

**The “Core Block” consists of 5 hours of in-class instruction per week. Subjects included (approximate class time in parenthesis)**

**Spelling/Handwriting (1/2 to 1 hr/week, 15-30 min. per class day)**

**Grammar/L.A./Writing (2 hrs/week, 1 hr. per class day) History (1 hr/week: Tuesdays)**

**Literacy/Literature: (1-1.5 hr/week: Thursdays)**

***Spelling/Handwriting:***

*Spelling:* Students will receive new Spelling lists on Thursdays, along with various activities/assignments for home. Spelling words will be included in our writing activities and Tuesdays will specifically include time for in-class activities/games with the week’s Spelling words, with a culminating test on Thursday.

*Handwriting:* Proper letter formation and spacing will be emphasized throughout your child’s time in class in order to lay the foundation for our Writing Lab publications.

***History:***

Students will be studying history in light of the Bible and through a Christian perspective. Class time will include review/short instruction/ discussion time to review weekly reading, as well as time for centers, short assignments and projects (including timeline and geography/map work). Homework will mainly include reading assignments.

***Writing/Grammar:***

We will be weaving grammar, spelling, and handwriting into the Writing Lab two days a week where students will be guided into memoir, expository and poetry writing.

Your child’s creativity will be celebrated as they are engaged in meaningful exercises and it is certain that you will enjoy our classroom publications.

*Parents may wish/need to add to the grammar work assigned and/or reinforce concepts as necessary for their student(s).*

***Literacy/Literature:***

This year, students will be engaged in a “**2-element**” literacy/literature piece in Core A. We will be using:

- **Literature/novels** to “reach across” our curriculum and help bring our history to life.

- **Around the World Reading**” project which will encourage students to read various genres of literature as well as provide students a chance to choose literature of interest and challenge.

Texts required:

First Language Lessons by Jessie Wise, Peace Hill Press

Writing with Ease by Susan Wise Bauer Level 1 or 2 if your student is working at the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level.

Spelling and Poetry 1 or 2 by Abeka

Homework = Heavy/Homework is Mandatory

**Chris Leone** (Godly Girls, Logic 201, Core A, Core 201/202 Resources)

Chris and her husband of 17 years reside in Wheaton. She has four children that she began home schooling three years ago. Chris received her BS in Special Ed at Northern Illinois University and a MS from National Louis University in Education. She is endorsed to teach K-8<sup>th</sup> and Secondary Ed. She has taught in the Naperville School District in a variety of different teaching capacities and was the Building Facilitator for the Educationally Challenged. Chris is sensitive to children with different learning styles and appreciates that each child is divinely made by our wonderful Lord for His glory. Chris has also served as the committee head for the children's ministry event night at her church and enjoys seeing children grow in their relationship with Christ.