



A Guide to the Junior High Program



TLA's Junior High Program has as its mission statement:

“Bridging the gap from elementary to secondary education in community with the family.”

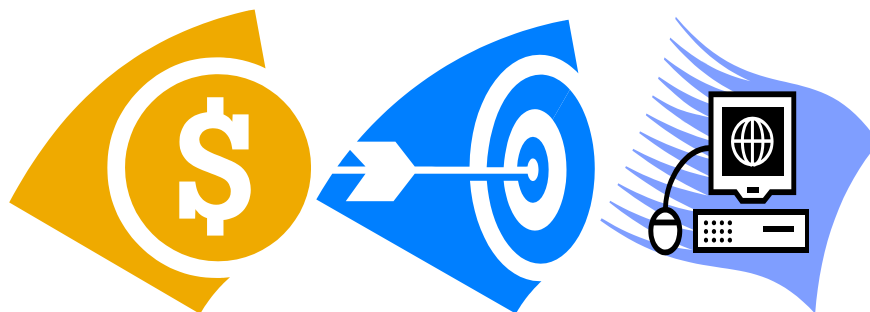
We attempt to do this by providing a program where parents can prepare the student for the online graduation program by selecting from online courses in the core subject areas of Science, Math, English and Social Studies, and in Bible, and Health and Career Education. We encourage families to be selective in choosing online courses so that the student can gain the experience of online learning while enjoying the familiarity of the home-learning system they have enjoyed under the leadership of their home teacher.

TLA's Health And Career Education

Whether families choose online learning in the core subject areas or not, TLA offers its Health and Career Education program so that all students province-wide can benefit even more from their enrolment with Traditional Learning Academy and be a part of the Junior High Department. This program offers numerous opportunities for students to gain experience in TLA's online learning system while enabling them to fulfill the learning outcomes for HCE. Furthermore, families gain some assignments they can use in their core subjects whether they enrol in online courses or not.

All students will have access to fun and challenging projects and activities that promise to be of high interest to young teens. Finally, they can become part of an economic 'game' which will help them to realize the worth of all that they do in and out of 'school' as they enter the 'business' of being a student. In community with students all over British Columbia, and beyond, students who take part in TLA's Junior High HCE course and program have the opportunity to enjoy a time of learning at home that is distinctly like no other.

Throughout the year, a student will have opportunities to do oral presentations of work using the virtual classroom program Elluminate. The student also has daily access to one-on-one help from the teacher using this system.



TLA's Online Courses

The Grade 8 English online course employs the textbook Crossroads, by Gage, and is broken into six units each about five weeks in length. This text is a secular school text encouraging its use by students of all faith backgrounds, but is taught by a teacher with a Christian perspective. This perspective is brought out in some questions and in some responses to students. It is assumed that all students of all faiths will be open about their faith in writing answers and completing assignments throughout this course. Evaluation is not based in any way upon a person's faith.

The course is built on three sessions per week requiring about 4 ½ hours of working time for a typical student. Parents are encouraged to actively monitor student time on task to ensure a healthy lifestyle is maintained.

Students will be expected to show strong comprehension of various writing styles and formats, proper grammar, proper spelling, grade-appropriate reading comprehension, an ability to use the computer and the internet, and a desire to conduct themselves maturely and responsibly. While late work is not penalized, student's formal reports are based upon portions of the course being completed by certain dates, and the entire course must be completed by the final report in June or missing work is counted against the student's grade. Parents are encouraged to dialogue with the teacher to determine if certain assignments ought to be removed from their child's requirements.

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The Grade 9 English course has much the same framework as the grade eight course described above, but is not broken into three weekly sessions. Rather, the course is composed of seven modules (units) either studying a novel or focussing on a theme taken from Abeka's Themes In Literature. Each module of study includes grammar and vocabulary studies, writing skills and strategies, and reading comprehension or literature appreciation. Again, parents are encouraged to interact with the teacher as the year unfolds to ensure their child benefits as much as possible from the learning opportunities.

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The Social Studies 8 course includes 8 modules (units) of study taken from the text Pathways, and focussing around the development of Western Civilization from 500 AD to 1600 AD. Students will need to invest at least three hours of study time weekly working at a decent grade 8 pace to stay caught up in this course. Most work is done on the computer or online thereby requiring the student to learn good computer skills. It is possible for students to mail some hand-done work to the teacher.

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The Grade 9 Socials course uses the sequel text to Pathways called Crossroads and traces the further development of Western Civilization from the 1600's to early Canadian history and the American Revolution. Both texts contain a wealth of information in an interesting and informative manner lending themselves well to challenging the students intellectually. The course has been built on a weekly framework of three one-hour sessions per week and thereby covers the entire text through the course of the year. Students learn a form of note-taking and study skills along with how to write reports and essays as they master the content of the text. Most work is computer and internet oriented, but alternatives can be considered on a per-student basis.

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Bible Worldviews 8/9: This one or two year course uses Summit Ministry's Lightbearer program and is a Christian Worldview course. This course contains 12 modules each 15 sessions long. A session is defined as one class period which tends to be about 1 to 1 1/2 hours in length. Most students will work through this course over their two years in TLA's Junior High program. However, once the entire course is online and available, students may work through it more quickly if they so choose. The course materials include the Lightbearers student workbook, the Bible, a small book of writings entitled How To Be Your Own Selfish Pig, and numerous videos. Most work is computer and internet oriented.



Humanities Program for Grade 8 and 9: For families wishing to benefit from the content area studies of Social Studies and Bible along with the skill areas of English, credit for the three courses (English, Social Studies, and Bible) can be given following completion of the Social Studies course, half of the Bible Worldview course, the grammar and vocabulary sections of the English course, and modified use of two novels (one for its historical content and one for its worldview).

Principles of Math 8: As well as maintaining previously learned skills, the course continues to develop arithmetic skills involved with decimals, integers, rational numbers, proportion and percent. A major emphasis is placed in developing problem solving skills. Other areas covered include: geometry, graphing, and algebra. Students are expected to put in 3 hours of work weekly, and complete at least one assignment per week.

Science 8: An interesting look at various streams of science from a Christian perspective. This course focuses on:

- Cells and body systems
- Fluids and dynamics
- Water systems on Earth

Students will be expected to devote 3 hours per week to the coursework. They can count on doing two assignments per week, as well as some hand on work with labs.

Principles of Math 9: This course puts a lot of emphasis on algebra. One third of the course time is devoted to the formal study of algebra. Other areas include: geometry, polynomial transformations, and trigonometry. Students can expect to put in 3 hours per week on the coursework, and submit an assignment every week.

Science 9: This course is an extension of Science 8 and will deal with the Grade 9 Science core curriculum from a Christian perspective. The topics to be covered are:

- Processes and skills of science
- Reproduction
- Atoms, elements and compounds
- Characteristics of electricity
- Space exploration

There will be focus on both the written work, as well as hands on work with labs. Students can expect to use 3-4 hours a week on the coursework, and will need to hand in 1-2 assignments per week.

