

Elementary/Middle School Planning Sheet For _____

Course Recommendations: A minimum of 4 courses is recommended - **English Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Math, plus two additional courses of your choice.** Middle school students typically take more than four courses.

Your education plan can include workbooks and other traditional resources, but life also includes so many opportunities to learn outside of your curriculum. Many people use a combination of both formal and informal resources. Books and curriculum are often a spine to your education plan. This planning sheet is meant to give you ideas and a place to plan your educational journey whatever that may be. **Your path is your own!**

<p>LANGUAGE ARTS</p> <p>books, read-alouds, copywork, storytelling, memorization, narration, journaling, spelling, grammar, writing, book report/project</p>	<p>MATH</p> <p>board games, card games, cooking, baking, grocery store, number songs, counting money, budgeting and finances</p>	<p>SCIENCE/NATURE</p> <p>literature, observation, experiments, kitchen chemistry, weather, animals, field trips, 4-H, bird watching, gardening</p>
<p>SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY</p> <p>literature, learning about grandparents' childhood - family history, cultural studies, field trips, documentaries, projects</p>	<p>MUSIC/ART</p> <p>community/church groups, lessons/classes, free time with art supplies, listening to music, taking sketch book on field trips</p>	<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</p> <p>free play, sports, chores, nature walks, running, trampoline, bike riding, exercise, farming or yard work</p>
<p>BIBLE</p> <p>church programs, devotionals, memory work, copywork, documentaries or video-based series, serving the community</p>	<p>LIFE EXPERIENCES</p> <p>field trips, vacations, chores, service to others, sports, home and vehicle maintenance, pet care, and other learning opportunities</p>	<p>OTHER</p> <p>Remember: Everything counts!</p>

HomeLife Academy (HLA) offers maximum flexibility and these guidelines are general recommendations based on our experience and understanding of different learning styles. Parents may use a formal or informal method of schooling. Please reach out to a HLA Academic Counselor with any questions or to discuss learning styles, curriculum, or your student's situation.

Life as Education

Everything counts - gardening, field trips, nature hunts, bird watching, journaling, story writing, working with mom/dad, grocery shopping, baking with grandma, babysitting, games, playing outside, etc. **Life provides learning opportunities.** Look for ways to teach your child as you go about your day. With this method, the child learns all day, every day.

We suggest letting your child's interest be your guide, either in addition to a more formal program or instead of one. Children are more likely to love learning, and remember what they learned, if they can learn about things that interest them. Think about how to help your child love learning. Include them in planning their year. Ask them what they would like to learn. When a child discovers new things that interest them, learning becomes enjoyable, and they are more likely to remember. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

Homeschooling allows for so many opportunities, don't be afraid to make all-of-life part of their education.

- If you bake cookies together, practice measuring, count the number of eggs needed to double the recipe, etc. This counts!
- Suppose you go to the grocery store and talk about where eggs, milk, cheese, and bananas come from. Older students can help with menu planning, grocery budget, and cost comparisons. If your child is learning, it counts!!
- Read aloud to your child every day. Both parents reading to the child is even better.
- Have your child memorize poems, and then let him recite them to a friend, neighbor, relative.
- Let your child copy Bible verses, make cards for relatives, write Thank You notes, write stories, etc.
- Go to the library, get exciting but straightforward books. A solid beginning with strong reading is essential for long-term enjoyment and a successful relationship with education.
- Play games, do puppet shows, put on plays and role play, play store, do kitchen chemistry, and go on lots of field trips.
- Go outside and learn about God's creation.

With all of the beautiful curricula out there, **consistent yet straightforward** is the best way to start. It is lovely to have a schedule, but just as wonderful to decide, this day is just not working out well..."Let's go outside and see what we can learn outside." Einstein once said, "*A man's true education is what remains after he has forgotten everything he learned in school.*"

Ways to Measure Learning Without a Written Test

Many classes use formal testing because they are assessing dozens of children at the same time. One advantage of home education is that you most likely know what your student understands and what they don't because you are working with them everyday at their pace. This gives you an opportunity to teach mastery by sticking with a topic until they know it. Ways to assess your child without a #2 pencil include oral assessment, gaming, or projects. Discussing the subject with them, asking them to narrate what they learned, and having the student re-tell what they learned to other family members is a great way to get an idea of what they are retaining. Projects and gaming are more hands-on ways to find out what they know. Things like making a video or creating a city or scene in Minecraft for example can keep a hands-on learner engaged. Since you are working one on one with your child...you are in the best position to assess their learning and their understanding.

Guidelines for Early High School Credit in 8th grade

It is recommended that early credit be limited to 3 credits prior to entering the 9th grade. Curriculum **MUST** be high school level to earn credit. Possible courses for early High School credit include **Algebra 1, World History, World Geography, Foreign Language, or Biology.** Physical Science can be considered but some colleges may not accept it as a high school credit. Contact our High School Readiness Counselor to discuss your options. Email earlycredit@homelifeacademy.com

The following courses should NOT be counted for high school credit during middle school.

- High School English Courses
- Pre-Algebra or Consumer Math
- US History, Economics, or US Government
- Personal Finance
- Health or P.E.
- Most Electives