

Suggested Daily Home Rhythm:

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Goals: daily practice of diligence, independent learning and living, time management, organization, honor, future self

High School is usually focused toward a more traditional approach to learning (from texts with tests and deadlines) while working with the students as they become independent learners, self-motivated, organized, and responsible for their education. Ideally, this will carry beyond the 'classroom'. However, if your student and family are non-traditional learners that is wonderful and you can tweak just about anything we suggest toward your methods.

Growing up using academics as a tool is a process, so please help guide them, keep them in play, have them check their school work, and you check in with them at least once a week. In 9th grade it will be more like middle school until your rhythm is set and expectations are being regularly met. For some this may flow into 10th grade. Be patient, as you require diligence and consistency in all things- including your commitment to them. Start strong and later in the year you can relax.

Most high schoolers are taking classes outside of the home, but not all, so I will include our suggestions.

Math: Daily---According to your books scope/sequence and class assignments

If you need help:

Review notes

Go back a few pages in your textbook to look at examples and lesson

Kahn Academy (online) has great video support and explanations as do many YouTubers

Composition: Daily---20-30 minutes per day on creating and/or improving your writing

Your work is never completed (early) as there is always room for improvements!

Neatness and illustration count

Grammar Workbooks: Put on a loop schedule, so you are doing 1 workbook each day

Loop scheduling simply means that they rotate rather than happen on assigned days

-allows for life to happen w/o always seeming to miss certain subjects

(Daily Grammar Practice, Worldy Wise, or Daily Grammar Practice are our faves)

These small workbooks are packed with all that you need for a year of grammar! It is vital that you help your student learn how to use their workbook before setting them to the task. It is the only way they will fall into these easy methods of learning grammar

Science: 2-5X week; less if woven with another subject such as literature or composition

Utilize your textbooks to learn how to understand how the material is input using various forms from regular/bold text to images/boxes with additional information. Teach your student to read everything paying special attention to bold words, inserts, and any word/concept they do not fully understand.

Choose a textbook that draws on the imagination, explains what is going on politically, and offers opposing theories. We must understand that which we do not agree with in order to defend that which we believe.

Consider using many sources, texts, books, and sites rather than a single book. You can study any science at this point with no need to follow through on a single topic, such as physical science or biology, until high school. Enjoy this time of freedom to study broadly!

Teach them to take notes beginning simply with the chapter title, page numbers, bold words, and topic titles toward advancing/maturing toward defining the terms in their own words, further researching difficult concepts, and illustrating parts/wholes.

Teach how to utilize the fun of color—high light, various colored markings/symbols, colored illustrations

You will dampen your student's spirit if you

insist upon professional quality in their notes. They will need to take notes quickly yet efficiently.

Focus on efficiency and creating a method of shorthand, circling items to connect with related items with lines/arrows, numbers, Roman numerals—anything that makes sense in their mind.

BUT this is THE TIME to begin practicing neatness and mastery of proper note-taking methods in preparation for the Real World.

Nature Walk: 2-3X week according to parental expectations

–the power of observation will never fail to delight & cultivate.

Go outside daily to move about slowly using skills of observation

Sketch something of interest & observe it for the whole week adding details, researched information, and color.

History: 2-5X week; less if woven with another subject such as literature or composition

We think this is a great time to read the same books/texts for family discussion. It does not happen with every book/texts, but enough to let our student(s) know that we too are interested (and interesting).

Consider asking questions (Tell Back/Narration) to strengthen reading comprehension for test-taking skills.

Using a separate history text often leads to a myopic vision rather than the desired worldview. My point is that if you only study what you believe from a standpoint of America the Great (which it is), you will miss that other cultures/nations/religions have their viewpoint as well, and your children will not know how to defend their beliefs due to not understanding another's history/culture/point of view from any other vantage point than their own.

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Historically based literature is a wonderful way to weave curriculum; and meet the needs of two subjects with one source, and give various viewpoints. When weaving subjects, be sure to extend the time expectation. Literature may be 20 minutes/day, but when woven with another subject, increase it to 40 minutes/day.

Read alongside, aloud to one another, ask questions/narration (tell back), and definitely excitedly have discussions. History can be so very dry, but if you are excited by what has occurred in the past, they will become curious to learn more.....which will be great leading into possible dry high school/college history classes/texts.

For younger children, as you read aloud it is wonderful to have them draw pictures of that which you are reading. Chapter by chapter, picture by picture, you will create a personal history book.

Timeline: This can be quickly done using Veritas Press of Classical Conversation timeline cards or self-created using cutouts, print-offs, and drawings pasted along a ribbon on the wall. Introduce a small set, master, add-on, master, and so on.