

## COURSES FOR THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR

### MANDATORY CLASS FOR ALL FIRST-TIME PILLAR STUDENTS

**CHRISTIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT** THURS. AUG. 28, 7:00 - 9:00pm – OR – SAT. SEPT. 6, 10:00am - 12:00noon **ALL NEW STUDENTS & PARENTS**  
Individual self-government is the essential foundation for all levels of liberty-based government – local, state, and national. This was recognized by our Founding Fathers as the necessary basis for the decentralized and limited form of government they established. It is learned in the family and practiced in public. Pillar students are expected to understand and practice individual Christian self-government, and as such, **ALL FIRST-TIME STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THIS 2-HOUR CLASS.**

### FULL YEAR COURSES

#### Annual Core Classes

**WORLDVIEW FOUNDATIONS** WED. 11:30 - 1:30, SEPT. 3 - MAY 13 — INSTRUCTOR: DANIEL HITE **9th-12th GRADE**

This course is unique to The Pillar Foundation and is a must for every American student. It will lay a solid foundation for a consistent Christian worldview in all academic disciplines as well as promote our Christian civic responsibility as American citizens. *WVF* will examine the essentials of absolute truth, the reliability of the Scriptures, origins, purpose, and other theological and philosophical roots that are necessary for a Biblical worldview. The Christian worldview will be compared and contrasted with other worldviews prevalent in American culture today – Marxism/Socialism, Secular Humanism, Islam, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism. This study will also examine various disciplines rooted in law and government, science and education, and the arts and media. This course will sharpen critical evaluation skills as well as promote the expression of individual Christian self-government in the home, church, civil arena, and society.

**AMERICAN HISTORY: AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** TUES. 10:00 - 12:00, SEPT. 2 - MAY 12 — INSTRUCTOR: DANIEL HITE **10th-12th GRADE**

This course is unique to The Pillar Foundation and is a must for every American student. Every American Christian needs to know the true nature and extent of America's Christian heritage. It is God who made nations and appointed their historical times and boundaries (Acts 17:26). We are commanded in Scripture to remember the great things the Lord our God has done. "In God We Trust," though not always official, has always been America's motto. Based on primary source documentation, students will study the heritage of our nation as one wrought in the struggle to find and defend truth, liberty, and justice. We will trace the development of civil liberty in world history, through the Reformation, and its subsequent establishment and development in America. We will see the providential hand of God in our history, the spiritual roots of our liberty, as well as the duty to understand, appreciate, and defend it. This course will continue to trace America's decline through the 20th and into the 21st Century – exchanging exceptionalism for pragmatism, republicanism for progressivism, and theism for humanism in its many forms. The restoration of America begins with knowing our providential history and heritage, and praying for spiritual awakening.

**PRE-ALGEBRA** THURS. 10:00 - 12:00, SEPT. 4 - MAY 14 — INSTRUCTOR: SHIRLEY MORRIS **8th GRADE**

Pre-Algebra is a standard 8<sup>th</sup> grade or honors 7<sup>th</sup> grade math course. The main concepts covered will be positive and negative integers, graphing on the coordinate plane, solving multi-step equations with variables, and writing equations for word problems. I will grade the assignments at first, but as the year progresses, I may supply answer sheets and ask parents to grade some assignments. In the first few lessons, students will be required to use basic arithmetic skills without calculators, but when the lessons get more advanced, I will allow calculators. The textbook to be used is Bob Jones Pre-Algebra (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). **PREREQUISITE: Students must pass a pretest.**

**ALGEBRA 1** THURS. 10:00 - 12:00, SEPT. 4 - MAY 14 — INSTRUCTOR: DARLENE FALLON **8th-12th GRADE**

A typical Algebra 1 class is 8<sup>th</sup> grade or higher. Using Saxon Algebra 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) textbook, we will cover signed numbers, order of operations, algebraic expressions, areas, surface area, volume, exponents and roots, fractional parts of numbers, ratios, graphs of linear equations, finite and infinite sets, factoring, probability and scientific notation. Four lessons will be taught each class period, and students are required to complete given assignments at home and bring them to class. **PREREQUISITE:** Completion of Pre-Algebra, knowledge of all addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts up to 12s, and the ability to multiply/divide multi-digit and decimal numbers along with a basic understanding of fractions. **Students must pass a pretest.**

**ALGEBRA 2** THURS. 1:00 - 3:00, SEPT. 4 - MAY 14 — INSTRUCTOR: SHIRLEY MORRIS **9th-12th GRADE**

As a continuation of Algebra 1, Algebra 2 will review solving simple linear equations and simultaneous equations and graphing linear and simple quadratic equations. In addition, we will solve proportions, graph quadratic and exponential equations, simplify radicals, and solve radical equations. Also addressed will be negative exponents and some geometric functions like angles, perimeters and proportional segments. The textbook to be used is Bob Jones Algebra 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). **PREREQUISITE:** Algebra 1 and **students must pass a pretest.**

**CHEMISTRY** MON. 9:30 - 11:30, SEPT. 8 - MAY 11 — INSTRUCTOR: RUSTY MYERS **10th-12th GRADE**

Using *Apologia Exploring Creation with Chemistry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by Jay L. Wile, topics covered will include: Stoichiometry, Acid/Base Solutions, Reduction/Oxidation Reactions, and much more. **PREREQUISITE:** Algebra and a strong curiosity about God's world. **Lab fee: \$30 per student.**

**BIOLOGY** WED. 10:00 - 12:00, SEPT. 3 – APR. 22 — INSTRUCTOR: BOB KIRKWOOD **9th-12th GRADE**

This course offers hands-on learning in cellular biology (microscope use) and anatomy/physiology (dissection of animals). The student will learn how science reveals the wonderment of God's creative hand; for example – the embryonic fetal development of the human and the symbiotic relationship of nature to man. There will be critical thinking skills designed to help the student develop higher thinking skills. **Lab Fee: \$30 per student**

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)** TUES. 12:00 - 1:30, SEPT. 2 - MAY 12 — INSTRUCTOR: AMBER SOBERY **9th-12th GRADE**

This year-long course in American Sign Language (ASL) introduces students to the language and culture of Deaf people in the United States and Canada. This course will focus on receptive and expressive language skills along with Deaf culture, community, art, literature, and history. Students are required to attend and participate during class using a comprehensible input model that focuses on understanding first and signing as understanding grows. Students should expect 5-10 minutes of daily practice of vocabulary, fingerspelling, and numbers in addition to 60-90 minutes of written homework and receptive language videos weekly. In order to demonstrate ability in signing skills, students will be asked to record videos of themselves signing to submit to the instructor throughout the year for individual progress tracking. Internet access is required for the completion of weekly "at home" assignments. This is a good class for those who are interested in studying sign language as a world language, want to be involved in ministry to the deaf in their church or community, or just want to learn something new.

**GETTING INTO GREEK**

TUES. 2:00 - 3:30, SEPT. 9 – April 28 — INSTRUCTOR: LEAH HITE

**9th GRADE-ADULT**

This course is for those who don't have time to take full Greek but would like a Greek primer. Using syntax and grammar rules together with Greek interlinear references, you will become familiar with the tools needed to translate the original New Testament language without the memorization of Greek vocabulary. By the end of the year, we will have translated the epistle of 1 John, and you will have a reference notebook to use for years to come. ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

**MUSICAL THEATER**

WED. 2:00 - 5:00, SEPT. 3 - DEC. 17 / WED. & FRI. 2:00 - 5:00, JAN. 7 - MAR. 13 — PRODUCER: KATHY SIDE

**High School Ages 14 – 19 (by 7-1-25)**

This course's classes are considered rehearsals for Take 3 Christian Theater's performing arts productions whose goals are to educate, edify, and entertain for the express purpose to glorify God. To "register" for Musical Theater means to sign up for a required audition slot in order to be considered for either or both of Take 3's 2025 Christmas musical and 2026 Spring musical production cast members. There is a limited number of audition slots and a limited number of cast members accepted. Not all who audition will be accepted. Rehearsals will be uniquely structured according to the production's needs. The production week will require attendance at Sitzprobe, dress rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals will conclude at the end of the cast member's final production. Production expenses will be shared by each cast individual (not to exceed \$200 **per cast member**). Note: 8<sup>th</sup> graders (age 13 by 7-1-25) may audition for a provisional consideration. Regardless of age, students who have participated in a high school graduation are not accepted. For more information visit [Take3christiantheater.org](http://Take3christiantheater.org) or email [Take3christiantheater@gmail.com](mailto:Take3christiantheater@gmail.com) with questions.

**1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER COURSES**

**CHRISTIAN THEMES IN *THE LORD OF THE RINGS***

MON. 11:40 - 1:30, SEPT. 8 – DEC. 15 — INSTRUCTOR: RUSTY MYERS

**9th-12th GRADE**

In this literature class students will read through J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. They will write three 1,000-word essays on Christian Themes in the books such as Good vs. Evil, self-sacrifice, friendship and others. Two essays will be expository and the third argumentative. Students will learn the difference between these two types of essays, and they will be provided examples of each. Each essay will account for 25% of the final grade with class participation accounting for the remaining 25%. Students will be expected to read their essays in class and be prepared to answer questions and give opinions during class discussion time.

**INCREASING PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

10 WEEKS - MON. 2:00 - 4:00, SEPT. 22 – NOV. 24 — INSTRUCTOR: LARRY DARBY

**9th-12th GRADE**

Personal Effectiveness is the ability to reach YOUR goals with minimal frustration. These goals may be career, relationship and/or ministry. In this 10-week course, you will learn and practice some of the most important skills (and attitudes) that lead to greater personal effectiveness. In other words, you will increase your ability to reach YOUR life goals. Topics include: what are effective goals; the art of affirmation; conversation skills; active listening; non-verbal communication; conflict resolution; positive attitude; taking initiative; perseverance; time management. Every week there will be mandatory homework (30-60 minutes) along with a goal-setting exercise. In order to be considered for the class, students should read this course description and write three complete sentences on "Why I want to take Increasing Personal Effectiveness." Answers must be submitted to [Larrydarby53@gmail.com](mailto:Larrydarby53@gmail.com) by September 1.

**CHRISTIAN CLASSIC LIT: DEVELOPING GODLY CHARACTER**

TUES. 10:00 - 11:30, SEPT. 2 - DEC. 16 — INSTR: CATHY RUCHTE

**9th-12th GRADE**

This course will focus on the interpretation and application of classic Lamplighter literature. During the semester, students will read and discuss these creative, 19<sup>th</sup>-Century stories woven with Biblical truths that cultivate Christlike character in attitudes, self-image, and relationships. We will evaluate character strengths and weaknesses, handling adversity and challenges, and discerning good and evil, truth and justice, and personal priorities. Students will also participate in weekly discussion, take comprehension quizzes, and will be encouraged to apply in their own lives the Christian virtues modeled in each story. **Different books will be studied each semester.**

**BEGINNER SEWING**

10 WEEKS - TUES. 1:30 - 3:30, SEPT. 9 - NOV. 11 — INSTRUCTORS: JAN PETZOLDT & SANDY SPENCE

**9th-12th GRADE**

This 10-week beginner class focuses on the basics of sewing, covering: how to begin sewing on your own; learning how to use your sewing machine; and learning to read and follow a pattern. We will complete simple, in-class projects to learn basic skills. Students are required to bring their own working sewing machine and basic sewing supplies and cover the cost of their fabrics.

**APPLIED APOLOGETICS**

TUES. 2:00 - 4:00, SEPT. 2 - NOV. 18 — INSTR: ED BOWEN

**9th-12th GRADE**

Why is Christianity true? How do I answer common objections to the Christian faith? How can I be an effective communicator? This 12-week course is a very focused and practical apologetics course, instructing students on how to start and guide more spiritual conversations in their sphere of influence. Students will be guided in understanding the basics of the simple Gospel message in 1 Corinthians 15, and their role in sharing the Gospel and also addressing personal questions and fears. Applying the Gospel message to today's challenging culture, this course will coach teens on how to relate to their audience, show care, and how to use questions to guide conversations. This class is an opportunity to help any student make the faith of their family or their church their very own.

**RIISING ABOVE CULTURAL MIEDIOCRITY**

WED. 10:00 - 11:30, SEPT. 3 - DEC. 17 — INSTRUCTOR: JIM HANCOCK

**9th-12th GRADE**

An in-depth book study and question-guided discussion class through two excellent books: *Do Hard Things* by Alex & Brett Harris, and *The Third Alternative* by Bill Burtress. This study will help students recognize their unique potential for excellence and impact in a culture that underrates teenagers, and will emphasize the value of embracing responsibility and developing Christian self-government. Through open discussion, students will uncover their own personal strengths and convictions, as well as confront areas of compromise, disorder, and fear. Students will also look at ways to develop character, direction, and a principle-based life in an unprincipled society. In order to be considered for the class, students should read this course description and submit a paragraph stating why you want to take this class and explain your commitment to attendance and completing reading/homework on time. Please send your answer to [pillar@thepillar.org](mailto:pillar@thepillar.org).

**REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 5, 2025**

**Please visit us at 15820 Clayton Road or call 636-386-7722, Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm**

**Pillar does not charge tuition; however, students are responsible for the cost of books and supplies.**

**These classes are available to all mature students who are serious about learning, have a positive attitude, and are respectful to teachers, fellow students, and the facilities.**

**INTRO TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**

MON. 11:40 - 12:30, JAN. 5 - MAY 11 — INSTRUCTOR: RUSTY MYERS

9th-12th GRADE

This class is for high schoolers who wish to learn the basics of computer programming. The computer language we will learn is called Python. It is a very popular language used by many large companies such as Google and Facebook but is also one of the easier languages to learn. Better yet, it is free to download. All students confirmed in the class will be sent download instructions. If you have a laptop, you can bring it to class, but it's not necessary. There will be no tests for the class, but we will complete required exercises and projects as described in the book we will use – *Python Crash Course 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by Eric Matthes. You must have access to a computer that can run Python. Before you sign up for the class, go to the website [www.python.org/](http://www.python.org/) and verify that your computer can run the latest version of Python. For Windows users, you need at least *Windows 8*.

**U.S. CONSTITUTION & GOVERNMENT**

MON. 1:00 - 3:00, JAN. 5 - MAY 11 — INSTRUCTOR: DANIEL HITE

9th-12th GRADE

This course will lead the student into a study of the U.S. Constitution and the principles and patterns of American government. We will discover the tapestry of American exceptionalism woven by the framers and superintended by the hand of Divine Providence. Using Rick Green's and David Barton's fast-paced video curriculum, *Constitution Alive!*, students will also read founding-era primary documents: the U.S. Constitution line-by-line, the Declaration of Independence, Federalist (and "Anti-Federalist") Papers, as well as other supporting historical documentation. We will examine the principles of liberty and the personal and political process by which our liberty is maintained. This course will require weekly class discussion and assignments, quizzes, and tests. It will equip students to understand and articulate our God-given rights and responsibilities, our civic duty, and the Godly principles which sustain and protect these liberties.

**CHRISTIAN CLASSIC LIT: DEVELOPING GODLY CHARACTER**

TUES. 10:00 - 11:30, JAN. 6 - MAY 12 — INSTR: CATHY RUCHTE

9th-12th GRADE

This course will focus on the interpretation and application of classic Lamplighter literature. During the semester, students will read and discuss these creative, 19<sup>th</sup>-Century stories woven with Biblical truths that cultivate Christlike character in attitudes, self-image, and relationships. We will evaluate character strengths and weaknesses, handling adversity and challenges, and discerning good and evil, truth and justice, and personal priorities. Students will also participate in weekly discussion, take comprehension quizzes, and will be encouraged to apply in their own lives the Christian virtues modeled in each story. **Different books will be studied each semester.**

**INTERMEDIATE SEWING**

9 WEEKS - TUES. 1:30 - 3:30, JAN. 13 - MAR. 10 — INSTRUCTORS: JAN PETZOLDT & SANDY SPENCE

9th-12th GRADE

This 9-week class offers further application of the skills learned in Beginner Sewing class as we create more complex and exciting sewing projects. Students are required to bring their own working sewing machine and basic sewing supplies and cover the cost of their fabrics.

**AMERICAN LIBERTY: PAST AND PRESENT**

THURS. 10:00 - 12:00, JAN. 8 - MAY 14 — INSTRUCTOR: NANCY SANDER

9th-12th GRADE

America's founding was called The Great American Experiment – something no other country in recorded human history had ever tried. The result? The freest, most prosperous nation the world had ever seen. What was the recipe for America's success? Come learn the foundational principles of America on display in the Monument to the Forefathers in Plymouth, Massachusetts. We will learn the principles on which our nation was built and see how those principles played out in our nation's history, government, and culture. The textbook *Monumental: Restoring America as the Land of Liberty* by Stephen McDowell will accompany a series of video discussions between the author and Kirk Cameron from the documentary film *Monumental*. There will be weekly reading and writing assignments along with class discussion.

**ETIQUETTE**

THURS. 2:00 - 4:00, JAN. 8 - MAY 14 — INSTRUCTOR: VICKIE WELLER

MINIMUM AGE 14 by September 1 & IN HIGH SCHOOL

An important component of a college prep home education is to develop social skills that promote confidence, character, and leadership while glorifying God. The Etiquette class will be an interactive and participatory classroom where principles and the practical application of etiquette will be presented, discussed and practiced. Students are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones to practice and further develop their etiquette skills to help others to feel comfortable and valued, all the while not compromising their own moral beliefs. During this semester course, students will learn many skills including: warm introductions, the art of conversation – including listening skills and body language, written correspondence, classroom etiquette, personal presentation, scholarship and job interviewing, work manners, technology etiquette – including social media and cell phone use, illness and disability etiquette, etiquette while attending the symphony - theatre - conferences, citizenship etiquette, home and community manners, hospitality, dance etiquette, wedding etiquette, funeral etiquette, etiquette of a gentleman/lady, and dining etiquette. Some expenses incurred include a casual luncheon and a semi-formal dinner which all students are required to attend. Please pay a \$75 per student fee by December 5, 2025. (Make checks payable to The Pillar Foundation and deliver or mail to the Pillar at 15820 Clayton Rd., Ellisville, MO 63011.) Homework: Only some weeks have required assignments outside of class to enhance the student's learning experience – not many and nothing difficult. **Auditing the class is not an option.**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 5, 2025**

**SCHEDULE SUMMARY**

**FULL YEAR courses are UPPER CASE**

**Semester courses are lower case**

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
• CHEMISTRY	9:30-11:30	• AMERICAN HISTORY	10:00-12:00	• BIOLOGY	10:00-12:00	• PRE-ALGEBRA	10:00-12:00
• Themes in LOTR (1 <sup>st</sup> sem)	11:40-1:30	• Christ. Classic Lit. (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> sem)	10:00-11:30	• Rising Above (1 <sup>st</sup> sem)	10:00-11:30	• ALGEBRA 1	10:00-12:00
• Comp Program (2 <sup>nd</sup> sem)	11:40-12:30	• AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE	12:00-1:30	• WORLDVIEW FOUND.	11:30-1:30	• Am. Liberty (2 <sup>nd</sup> sem)	10:00-12:00
• US Const & Gov't (2 <sup>nd</sup> sem)	1:00-3:00	• Beginner Sewing (1 <sup>st</sup> sem/10 wks)	1:30-3:30	• MUSICAL THEATER	2:00-5:00	• ALGEBRA 2	1:00-3:00
• Pers. Effectiveness (1 <sup>st</sup> sem)	2:00-4:00	• Intermediate Sewing (2 <sup>nd</sup> sem/9 wks)	1:30-3:30			• Etiquette (2 <sup>nd</sup> sem)	2:00-4:00
		• GETTING INTO GREEK	2:00-3:30				
		• Apologetics (1 <sup>st</sup> sem/12 wks)	2:00-4:00				

**CLASS INFORMATION**  
**2025-2026 School Year**  
**THE PILLAR FOUNDATION**

**15820 Clayton Rd., Ellisville, MO 63011 — (636) 386-7722 — [www.thepillar.org](http://www.thepillar.org)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The Pillar Foundation is not a school, and we do not operate as one. We are a research organization that exists to help and assist homeschooling families. We do not take responsibility for the overall education of the students that take courses here. That responsibility belongs to the homeschooling parents.*

*The Pillar Foundation is a nondenominational, private, charitable, educational foundation created to defend and propagate traditional Biblical Christianity. Our mission is to help prepare young Christians to be leaders in the next generation and to restore our nation's Christian heritage. As part of this mission, we presently offer courses to the homeschooling community at no charge.*

**REGISTRATION**

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year opens **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**. We do not accept online registrations. **Please visit or call The Pillar Foundation Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-5:00pm to register.** When you register for a course, you are making a commitment to complete the ENTIRE COURSE. If, however, you register for a course and need to cancel your registration before the course begins, please contact us immediately. Some classes will have a waiting list, and your prompt notification gives another student the opportunity to take the class.

**COST OF CLASSES**

Pillar does not charge tuition or registration fees; however, students are responsible for the cost of books and their own supplies. Details regarding books and supplies required for each class will be sent to you in July. Musical Theater and Etiquette participants incur a fee and Biology and Chemistry have lab fees.

**CLASS LIMITS**

As Pillar classes are intended to supplement, not replace, homeschooling, we limit each student to **3 courses per semester**. **Note:** Christian Self-government, Apologetics, Etiquette, and Sewing are exceptions to this rule.

**MANDATORY CLASS - CHRISTIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Please be sure to read the very first course on our 2025-2026 class list. This describes the 2-hour self-government class that we expect each of our students and parents to attend. **This class is mandatory for first-time Pillar students and at least one parent.**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PILLAR GUIDELINES**

When new students and parents attend Christian Self-Government, they are given "Pillar Guidelines" to read carefully, sign, and turn in before leaving.

**GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENT FOR PILLAR CLASSES**

Please note the grade requirements for each class. **Students wanting to enroll for courses above their grade level need the approval of the course instructor.** Students requesting to repeat a class will be put on a waiting list until first-time students have a chance to register for that class.

**LENDING LIBRARY**

Our library of over 8,000 books, videos, and periodicals is of special interest to homeschoolers and is available for all homeschooling families to use. You are invited to visit us, see our facility, talk to our staff, and browse our library.

**PILLAR SCHEDULE**

<b>CLASSES BEGIN -</b>	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
<b>Thanksgiving Break -</b>	Wednesday, November 26 - Friday, November 28, 2025
<b>1st Semester Ends -</b>	Thursday, December 18, 2025
<b>2nd Semester Begins -</b>	Monday, January 5, 2026
<b>Spring Break -</b>	Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 20, 2026
<b>CLASSES END -</b>	Thursday, May 14, 2026
<b>Other Holidays -</b>	<b><u>Pillar is NOT closed for other holidays.</u></b> Teachers may cancel individual classes, but Pillar will remain open.
<b>Snow Cancellations -</b>	Pillar will observe a snow day when Rockwood School District has a snow day.
<b>Pillar Business Hours -</b>	Monday - Thursday, 9am - 5pm

**THE PILLAR FOUNDATION - 15820 Clayton Rd., Ellisville, MO 63011 - (636) 386-7722 - [www.thepillar.org](http://www.thepillar.org)**