



Student/Parent Handbook

Introductory Details

Hello! I hope you are excited for a great year of science with ABLE! This handbook covers most of your questions about taking a class with Adventure by Learning Education. Always feel free to reach out to my email address if you have any questions!

Teacher Contact Information

Paige Kirsch

Email: paigekirsch@adventurebylearning.com

Website: adventurebylearning.com

Phone: 832-797-1725 (*for emergencies only, please*)

In-Person Locations and Schedules

Cedar Park

Ignite: Rockbridge Church

2001 W New Hope Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78613

[Calendar Link](#)

Georgetown

Treehouse: Crosspoint Lutheran Church

3800 Shell Rd, Georgetown, TX 78628

[Calendar Link](#)

South Austin

Ignite South: Westoak Woods Baptist Church

2900 W Slaughter Ln, Austin, TX 78748

[Calendar Link](#)

Zoom Login Information

This will be used for online courses AND office hours

Direct Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5907364927>

Meeting ID: 590 736 4927

Textbook Information

Note to the parent: these details may change over the summer as I edit and further develop each course. I will send out finalized details of the resources needed on the first of August.

Forensics: No textbook for this course

Anatomy and Physiology: No textbook for this course

Biology:

[Prentice Hall Biology](#)

ISBN: 0-13-036701-X

Chemistry:

[Pearson Chemistry](#)

ISBN: 0-13-252576-3

Pre-Algebra:

[Math Mammoth Complete Volume 6 or 7](#) (depending on placement test results)

Algebra 1:

[All Things Algebra Packet](#) (provided)

[Holt McDougal Algebra 1](#)

[\(Virtual copy of textbook found here!\)](#)

ISBN 10: 0-03-099574-4

Note: Math courses are structured to accommodate learners at different stages of the curriculum. Content is customized to smaller cohorts or individuals based on the needs of each child. Therefore, different kids may have different supplies for the same math class. I can provide entry level tests to students to determine which course would best fit their needs upon request!

ABLE Course Guidelines and Common Questions

Applicable for all In-Person and Online Courses

Welcome to your science course with ABLE! Here is a Q&A for my most commonly asked questions. Feel free to look it over, and if you have any other inquiries, shoot me an email! I'll be more than happy to answer them.

Q: When and where do in-person classes meet?

A: In person classes meet on Tuesday afternoons in Georgetown, Wednesdays in South Austin, and Thursdays in Cedar Park. Virtual classes meet Tuesday mornings.

Q: What if my student misses a class?

A: I don't typically record classes or have kids Zoom in (I've tried it before, and it's very hard to make work within the hustle and bustle of class). What I've found works best is having kids who are absent attend office hours with me on Fridays or Mondays to go over what they missed in class! Within the one-on-one setting, I can answer specific questions, go over the material we learned in class, and help them get caught up!

Q: How do I get my online assignments?

A: Assignments are administered through a platform called Google Classroom. Students are given a specific code that gives them access to view, complete, and submit their assignments all through Google Classroom.

Q: How many hours of work should I expect to complete a week?

A: It takes an average student 2-3 hours of work per week depending on the week's assignments. Middle School classes have less at-home work than High School classes!

Q: What all is included in the lesson?

A: There are 2-3 lessons posted per week, and most lessons include a warm-up, a video lesson, a PowerPoint, and a notes document that should be filled out. This notes document organizes vocabulary for the unit and provides students with relevant questions regarding the video they just watched.

Q: When are assignments posted and due?

A: See the calendar that I provide for your courses' specific due dates. Due dates are also posted on each individual assignment, which syncs to your Google Calendar to make life easy!

Q: Are grades optional?

A: Grades are optional for parents who wish it! I am happy to work with you to design the best fit for your child.

Q: How many tests can I expect my child to take?

A: High School courses usually have 2-3 tests a semester. Middle School courses typically have 1 test a semester (midterm or final exam). Tests are optional if the parent communicates that desire to me.

Q: How are assignments weighted?

A: For high school courses, the breakdown is this: daily grades (20%), quizzes (25%), tests/projects (55%).

For middle school courses, the breakdown is this: daily grades (20%), quizzes (40%), projects (40%).

Q: What is your policy concerning late work?

A: Here is the breakdown if offer based on most situations:

For High Schoolers: I provide one “freebie” per semester to turn in an assignment late. After that, the score for the daily grade is deducted 30 points. For quizzes and tests, students lose 5 points per calendar day it is not turned in. I call or email parents when I see a pattern of missing work.

For Middle Schoolers: I provide three “freebies” per semester to turn in an assignment late. After that, the score for the daily grade is deducted 30 points. For quizzes and tests, students lose 5 points per business day that the work is not turned in, with a maximum deduction of 30 points. I call or email parents when I see a pattern of missing work.

I do provide extensions if the reasons for that extension are communicated to me before the assignment is due. I also provide extensions for students with learning differences if requested at the beginning of the year by the parents.

Q: What is your policy concerning make-up work/test corrections?

A: My policy is as follows:

Daily grades can be completed again up to a 70. These assignments must be made-up within two weeks of being graded.

Quizzes can be redone as follows: at the end of each grading period, a cumulative closed note quiz is offered for every student to take. I replace the lowest quiz grade of that quarter with the grade received on the cumulative quiz.

Tests can be redone for partial credit up to a 70 except for midterms and final exams.

Q: How are virtual labs conducted?

A: Virtual labs will take place through Zoom. I give your student a code to enter into Zoom and a time to log in and join the lab. My personal instruction will guide the virtual students through the lab activities. Lab supplies will be mailed to the student at the beginning of each semester. A security deposit may be required (depending on the course) to ensure that I get my pricier equipment returned to me safe and sound.

Q: How are grades posted?

A: Grade averages are shared quarterly via email to both the parents and the students. Grades are also shown for each individual assignment via Google Classroom and the online quizzing software (Socrative).

Q: What is your COVID policy?

A: ABLE follows CDC guidelines regarding COVID. Changes in mask mandates will be communicated to parents in advance. We are fortunate to meet in a large space where social distancing is possible for those who have concerns!

In-Person Course Supply List

In Class: Here are the things you'll need to bring to class every week

- 1-inch binder
- Eight binder separators with tabs
- Lined paper for notetaking
- Lead pencils (or mechanical pencils)
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighter
- Post-it Notes
- Access to a Cell Phone/iPad/Computer **please let me know if this is not an option for your child*
- Basic Calculator*
 - *Students taking the Chemistry course must have a scientific calculator with square root and logarithmic functions
- Recommended: Pencil bag to store your supplies
- Recommended: Personal pencil sharpener

At Home: Here are the things you'll need to have at home every week

- Computer
- Headphones
- Access to a printer
- Cell Phone (or camera on your computer to upload photos of certain assignments)
- Calculator (see notes for your class)

Extras: Kids will share these supplies throughout the year to make their learning and comfort even better! This is optional, but if you'd like to contribute, that would be wonderful.

- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Play Dough
- Pipe Cleaners
- Craft Puff Balls
- White Poster Board
- Construction Paper

Online Course Supply List

In Class: Here are the things you'll need to bring to class every week

- 1-inch binder
- Eight binder separators with tabs
- Lined paper for notetaking
- Lead pencils (or mechanical pencils)
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighter
- Computer
- Headphones
- Access to a printer
- Cell Phone (or camera on your computer to upload photos of certain assignments)
- Basic Calculator*
 - *Students taking the Chemistry course must have a scientific calculator with square root and logarithmic functions
- Recommended: Pencil bag to store your supplies
- Recommended: Personal pencil sharpener

Extras: I will communicate the extra supplies needed for some labs at the beginning of each grading period. Most supplies will be mailed to you.

Tuition Information

There are several tuition payment options depending on your preferences. I will be sending out a form next week for you to select which payment option you prefer!

Monthly Automatic: You sign up for automatic withdrawals of your tuition each month via PayPal. You can either use money from your PayPal account or link it to your bank.

Pros:

- You do not run the risk of late fees
- No thoughts required!

Cons:

- You do NOT have the option of avoiding the 3% PayPal service fee

Pay-by-Semester: You send me half of the tuition owed at the beginning of each semester. This can be done via check, Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, or cold hard cash (which I've never had a parent do--but would love to see put in a suitcase if at all possible).

Pros:

- You only have to think about it twice a year
- You choose the method of payment
- You have the option of avoiding the 3% PayPal service fee

Pay-in-Total: If you're the kid in the room who always lands on "Free Parking", and you just want to knock it all out at once--awesome! Feel free to send me the entire tuition owed at the beginning of the year. This can be done via check, Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, or cash.

Pros:

- You only have to think about it once a year
- You choose the method of payment
- You have the option of avoiding the 3% PayPal service fee