

“Teaching” High School At Home

by Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

Qualifications

- University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- Helped Develop Indiana’s Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes homeschool curriculum and Christian apologetics material
- No longer a part of Apologia. Please do not take anything I say as indicative of what Apologia believes, and please do not take anything Apologia publishes as indicative of what I believe unless it has my name on it.

CAN I DO IT?

YES!!

- IF YOUR KIDS CAN LEARN IT-YOU CAN TOO!!!!
- LEARNING FROM READING IS THE MOST PRODUCTIVE KIND OF LEARNING
- IF OTHERS CAN DO IT - YOU CAN TOO !!!!!!

Minimum Requirements for College-Prep High School

- 4 years of English and Library Research
- 4 years of Math
- 4 years of Science
- 1 year of health / Physical Education
- 1 year of US History
- 1 year of World History
- 1 year of Geography
- 1 year of Government
- 1 year of arts or music or crafts
- Familiarity with computers
- 1 year of Philosophy or Religion
- 2 (or more) years of SAT / ACT Review
- Foreign Language

A Few Details Regarding The Requirements

4 years of English and library research

- **Vocabulary:** Use Barron’s SAT review book for the list of vocabulary words.
- **Writing:** Explore all phases of writing, but emphasize research papers, using library and INTERNET research.
- **Emphasize Good Grammar!**

4 years of Math

- Saxon is easy to use but weak in some areas (More info at (800) 284-7019 or <http://www.saxonpub.com>).
- I like Math-U-See a little better, but it has weaker problems. (More info at 1-888-854-MATH [6284] or <http://www.mathusee.com>)
- Singapore math is really good, but it takes a lot of your time and is hard to reconcile with other programs (More info at <https://www.singaporemath.com> 503-557-8100)
- Videotext Interactive is the BEST video course that I have ever seen. (More info at 1-800-ALGEBRA or <http://www.videotext.com>)
- Abeka and Bob Jones are good, but someone needs to know the math.
- For help with any curriculum, look at The Khan Academy (<http://www.khanacademy.org/>)

4 years of Science

- Apologia Educational Ministries is my first choice (www.apologia.com)
- Bob Jones and aBeka can work for you, but most colleges want to see lab work. Video labs do not count in their minds.
- The Spectrum is good if your student isn't college-bound. (www.beginningspublishing.com)

1 year of health / Physical Education

This is NOT a science course. This is a nutrition, exercise, healthy-lifestyle course. I included sex education here.

1 year of US History Government

1 year of World History

1 year of Geography

1 year of

I personally stayed away from textbooks here.

In World history and US history, I found an encyclopedia timeline of major events and jumbled them up. My daughter then had to put them in chronological order. After that, we stepped through the list one-by-one. If she knew what the event was, who were the major players, and what the significance was, we moved on. If not, she either wrote a report or answered 20 questions I wrote out.

If you do want a history text, I strongly recommend Diana Waring's books at Answers in Genesis (More info at www.answersingenesis.org)

In geography, she looked in the paper once a week and found a new locality. She then did a one-page essay on where the locality was, what its significance to the world was, what the economic base was, and what kind of government there was.

In government, she spent one semester paraphrasing the US constitution. It was one of her MAJOR works in high school. She also wrote some essays on how bills become laws, the difference between democracy and republic, etc.

1 year of arts or music or crafts

Piano lessons, 4-H, etc. work well here

1 year of Philosophy or Religion

Apologetics is ideal here

Foreign Language

- The Learnables is excellent.
- Rosetta Stone is very good. Website: <http://www.techflow.com.au/Languages.htm>. They have a homeschooler discount which makes the program much less expensive. Contact Carol Severson at (815) 643-2157 for details.

Familiarity with computers

Your student needs to learn a word processor, a spreadsheet, and the INTERNET.

2 (or more) years of SAT / ACT Review: The Most Important Preparation for College!

SAT I: Math and English (All colleges recommend)

Review books: *Barron's SAT Review*, *REA's SAT Review* (available at all bookstores)

SAT II: Several Different Subjects that you can choose from

Some colleges recommend, especially for homeschoolers.

Start this in ninth grade. There are lots of vocabulary words to learn. The math starts with arithmetic! Weave this in to your normal school work!

Contact the Company:

College Board SAT Program

PO Box 6212

Princeton, NJ 08541

1-800-406-4775

<http://www.collegeboard.com/>

NOTE: ALL college-bound high school students should take the PSAT in their junior year!!!!!! This is the ONLY way to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship!

ACT:

- A better test that includes Math, English, and Science
- Many schools like it better, but some still would rather see the SAT
- Women tend to score better on this test

Review books:

Barron's ACT Review

REA's ACT Review

Contact the company:

ACT Registration

<http://www.actstudent.org/>

1-319-337-1270

Keep Good Records!

- Make a transcript, recording each subject taken and the grade given. Separate these by semester. Typically, each semester gets 1/2 of a credit. (see sample on the next pages)
- Include a list of the text (or the methodology) of each course. Make that an optional attachment to the transcript.
- Develop a set of requirements (see sample on the next pages). Display those on the transcript.
- Keep examples of the student's work. Develop a portfolio of the student's best work to use as a representation of what the student did.
- Keep track of the student's extracurriculars and awards!

Which Kind Of College Should You Choose

Christian Colleges and Universities:

- Generally not as highly-regarded academically than secular colleges
- More restrictive
- Christian students don't face as much antagonism

Secular Colleges and Universities:

- Generally more highly-regarded academically than Christian colleges
- Christian students face a LOT of antagonism. This can be good or bad for the student, depending on his or her maturity as a Christian.

Applying to College or University

Private Schools:

- Generally the more expensive alternative for college, and they tend to see homeschooling as a plus.
- When you apply, you will get a postcard in the mail saying that your application is being considered. At that point, call the admissions office and get an appointment (in person or on the phone) with your admissions counselor. Go to that appointment with examples of curricula and student work.

State-Supported Schools:

- Generally the least expensive alternative for college, but they also tend to view homeschool as a negative.
- Good SAT/ACT scores help. You should also consider the SAT II.
- Try to get an appointment with your student's admissions counselor as recommended for private schools.

Vieblefetzter Home School Transcript

Derdlesnerd Vieblefetzter

Academic Year 1993 - 1994

FALL

SPRING

Subject	Grade	Credit		Subject	Grade	Credit
English 9A	A	0.5		English 9B	A	0.5
Drama I	A	0.5		Drama II	A	0.5
Algebra IA	B	0.5		Algebra IB	B	0.5
Biology IA	C	0.5		Biology IB	B	0.5
Choir 9A	A	0.5		Choir 9B	A	0.5
Physical Education	A	0.5		Health	A	0.5

Credits Earned: 6.0
 Grade Points (sum of grade value times credits earned in course): 21.5
 GPA (grade points divided by credits earned): 3.58

Academic Year 1994 - 1995

FALL

SPRING

Subject	Grade	Credit		Subject	Grade	Credit
Honors English 10A	A	1.0		Honors English 10B	A	1.0
Advanced Drama A	A	0.5		Advanced Drama B	A	0.5
Latin 1A	B	0.5		Latin 1B	B	0.5
Advanced Biology 1A	B	0.5		Advanced Biology 1B	B	0.5
Algebra 2A	A	0.5		Algebra 2B	A	0.5
Driver's Education	B	0.5		Computer Applications	A	0.5

Note that Honors English carries 1 credit per semester. That's because it is a harder than average course.

Credits Earned: 7.0 Cumulative Credits: 13.0
 Grade Points: 26.0 Cumulative Grade Points: 47.5
 GPA: 3.71 Cumulative GPA: 3.65

Academic Year 1995 - 1996

FALL

SPRING

Subject	Grade	Credit		Subject	Grade	Credit
Honors English 11A	A	1.0		Honors English 11B	A	1.0
World History I	A	0.5		World History II	A	0.5
United States History I	A	0.5		United States History II	A	0.5
Algebra 2C	B	0.5		French I*	C	0.5
Chemistry IA	C	0.5		Chemistry IB	B	0.5
Crafts	A	0.5		Psychology	C	0.5
Library / Internet Research	A	0.5		Precalculus IA	B	0.5
Business Law	A	0.5		World Geography I	A	0.5

Credits Earned: 8.5 Cumulative Credits: 21.5
 Grade Points: 29.5 Cumulative Grade Points: 77.0
 GPA: 3.47 Cumulative GPA: 3.58

Academic Year 1996 - 1997

FALL

SPRING

Subject	Grade	Credit	Subject	Grade	Credit
Honors English 12A	A	1.0	Honors English 12B	A	1.0
Precalculus IB	B	0.5	Precalculus IC	B	0.5
French II*	B	0.5	French III*	B	0.5
Advanced Chemistry IA	B	0.5	Physics IA	C	0.5
U.S. Government I	A	0.5	U.S. Government II	A	0.5
World Geography II	A	0.5	Philosophy of Religion II	A	0.5
Philosophy of Religion I	A	0.5			

Credits Earned: 7.5

Grade Points: 26.5

GPA: 3.53

Cumulative Credits: 29.0

Cumulative Grade Points: 103.5

Cumulative GPA: 3.57

* These courses taken at Anderson University.

Credits Required for Graduation: 24

Credits Earned: **29.0**

The Student has earned more than the required credits for graduation.

Core Requirements for Graduation:

4 credits English (**completed**) 4 credits math (**completed**) 4 credits science (**completed**)

0.5 credit health (**completed**) 0.5 credit physical education (**completed**)

1 credit World History (**completed**) 1 credit U.S. History (**completed**)

1 credit U.S. Government (**completed**) 1 credit World Geography (**completed**)

1 credit art/music/crafts (**completed**) 0.5 credit Computer Applications (**completed**)

2 credits Foreign Language (**completed**)

The Vieblefetzter Home School is under the supervision of Hortence Vieblefetzter and Mortimer Vieblefetzter.

I hereby certify that these grades are an accurate representation of the student's performance in the above-listed classes and that **Derdlesnerd Vieblefetzter has completed all of the requirements necessary for graduation.**

Hortence H. Vieblefetzter