

# HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

*Libraries of Hope Newsletter*

“LEARNING IS NOT  
THE PRODUCT  
OF TEACHING.  
LEARNING IS THE  
PRODUCT OF  
THE ACTIVITY  
OF LEARNERS.”

--JOHN HOLT

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

--We are so excited to finally be able to open up [Belle Ame at Home](#). If you missed the introductory video, you can watch it [here](#). We talk a lot about layers here, so following is a countdown we did until the opening, just to give you bit by bit what this is all about.

-18 days to Belle Ame at Home launch! Each day as we count down, I'll give you a little preview of good things to come.

Here is the [adapted rotation calendar](#) we will follow. We wanted to be sure Germany/Russia get a chance to be seen before many of you break for the summer. Remember--this is an introductory tour around the world.

You will also notice 'breather' weeks. These are the white weeks you see on the calendar and coincide with holidays or fall/spring breaks. These are open weeks where you can catch up on anything you may have missed or go deeper into subjects that have especially piqued your interest. You can use them to get a head start on topics to come or to spend more time on the topics that preceded it.

-17 days to BAAH. One of the benefits is a new streamlined version of Catch the Vision right in the community. It will be super easy to stop and then pick up where you left off. You will also be able to check off each part as you listen to it so you can keep track of your progress. There's even a place for comments and questions with each little 'talk' and transcripts will be linked right there, too. No more clicking to multiple pages and losing your place.

You do not have to have finished CTV to begin the program, but all participants will be encouraged to make their way through. So if you have friends and family who are not yet part of WEH, this will be a great way to introduce them.

(Announcements cont.) -16 days to BAAH! Some of you are confused about the purpose of creating groups. The simple answer is that we're trying to facilitate friendships. It can be hard to try and do WEH in isolation. Our platform helps you find families nearby or you may even connect your kids with other kids who don't live nearby, but who have similar interests. There is something very motivational to see other people engage in the same kinds of things you are doing.

One advantage of Early Bird Registration is getting a headstart on this process. If everyone waits until the last minute... well... I hope you can see the problem that would create.

Are you required to create a group? You aren't 'required' to do anything in this platform. You can choose what works for your needs and circumstances. All this will make more sense as we go along.

-15 days to BAA. Today I want to introduce you to our Music Together instructor, Kerri Dahl, and [let her explain](#) to you more about this program. Her classes won't begin until August, but as soon as you register, we will send out your music packet she references.

-14 days to BAAH. Let me try and bring the 'vision' of this platform more into focus.

Each week, you will have the entire week's offerings unlocked at the same time. These are pre-recorded, view on demand offerings. (The exception is our music teacher who would like to offer a live session for those who can join, but it will be recorded for viewing at your convenience.) There will be a music class, an art class, a cooking class, a storytelling class, plus the sewing and craft options and other things.

In addition, there will be four 'Inspiration Stations"--these are short 5 to 10 min. orientations to the day with a quick inspirational thought that can be used for copywork or memorization, if you choose.

And there will be four 'prompts'--ideas for discussion or interaction within the zoom call 'friendship' groups.

You are completely in charge as to how many you use or when you watch them or which ones you choose. Each week will remain open for 4 weeks, after which time it will be archived until the next year. (With the exception of

**"True genius is impossible without heart; no amount of intellect alone or of imagination, no, nor of both together, can make a genius. Love is the soul of genius."**

**--Gottfried von Jacquin**

Art credit: A Virtuoso  
by Nikolai Bogdanov-Belsky





Art credit: Children's Concert by George Jakobovits

(Announcements cont.) the Monart class which will remain open because it needs to be done sequentially.)

We have built some 'breather' weeks into the schedule which come about once a month in connection with holidays and fall/spring break. This allows you to catch up if you had life happen that made you miss a class.

As to what ages... there really is something for everyone within this community. The singing classes provide something for as young as babies, but in our beta test group, we had high school teens who enjoyed it. The drawing classes can be started with preschoolers, but even our accomplished artist teacher has expanded her skills through this method. Storytelling is for everyone as are the cooking classes. There will be craft options for littles and ones for older kids. Same with sewing. If you are doing the sewing machine options, she suggests age 10 and up, maybe age 8 with help. But hand sewing will also be an option. Folk dancing is for everyone.

The zoom class prompts will be adapted to younger kids vs. older ones. The purpose is to spark interest in a variety of subjects related to the rotation topics each month and to teach them the tools and resources available to them to learn from. And then we have several ways they can share with each other!

So in short, this is intended as a family learning experience.

-13 days to BAAH! I just want to be sure you all understand that when we open early bird registration on July 1st, our main core classes like Monart, Music Together, etc. will not yet be available. Those will open in Mid-August.

But it is to your advantage to register early for many reasons, and we are offering some incentives to do so, which I'll be unfolding in this countdown. One of the exclusive benefits to our early bird registrants is Patti Rockus' Rock Art Camp.

Here's a [little peek](#) at the fun. (But don't go register! It will be available in the BAAH community for our early bird registrants.)

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(Announcements cont.) -12 Days to BAAH. One of the features you will find in this community platform is the “Academic Station.” While WEH doesn’t focus on the academics, we realize they are necessary. Kids need to learn to read, to write and do some math. We like to think of them as being part of the rhythm of the day, but we don’t want them to overtake the ‘melody’ and the ‘harmonies’ of learning. (One of the lessons in Catch the Vision addresses that.)

So we have provided a page where we have linked some of the most popular basic academic programs available, and given you just enough information to help you decide if it is a good fit for your kids and your budget, if you are looking for ideas.

We are hoping that, when you get these in place, you can relax and allow yourself to trust the process of all that WEH promotes.

Having said that, there still are heart-based ways of weaving academic skills in more organic, natural ways. And those are talked about in the Mother’s University. But, especially, if homeschooling is new to you, some of these focused academic programs may ease your fears as you continue this journey.

The Academic Station will be open in Early Bird Registration and will remain a permanent feature. Also, we will provide some optional Live Chat sessions where you can talk with other moms and bring your academic questions and concerns.

-11 days to BAAH! On July 1st, we will open early bird registration. Please remember that the courses--Music, Art, Storytelling, Cooking, etc. will NOT be available until mid August.

So why are we asking that you register early?

Primarily it is to your advantage. Connecting families and setting up Zoom Friendship groups is a great benefit of this platform. But to do that, we need you to come into the community and set up your profile so that you can begin to find each other.

Plus, as with all new things, there is a learning curve. We want you to feel completely comfortable with all the different features so that when classes open, you are ready to participate and not frustrated because you don’t have things set up.

On our end, we need to get a sense of how many families are serious about using this platform. There is a large team of people working on this behind the scenes. We need to make sure there is enough commitment to continue.

Art credit: The Little Bird Nesters by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot



(Announcements cont.) So for your sake and for our sake, we are offering some incentives for you to join in July. Here is what will be open to you with your July payment. (By the way--payment will not come out until 7 days after you join, so you will still have time to look around before payment is withdrawn. There are no contracts. You can cancel your membership at any time.)

1. You will have full access to Biblioguides
2. You will receive your annual Music Together family packet. Almost all of your first payment goes towards this packet, which you will receive and keep even if you decide to not continue with this platform. By signing up in July, you are ensuring you will receive it in time to start the program in August.
3. You will have access to the new streamlined Catch the Vision course complete with a checklist.
4. You will be able to join live chats to answer any questions you have or to get any problems solved you may encounter. We want to be sure you are comfortable with all the technology that will enhance your experience in this platform. Or you can join live discussions of what you are learning in CTV.
5. You will have access to the Academic Station with its suggested Academic programs to choose from, along with live support.
6. You will meet all the teachers and get to have a sampling of classes.
7. You will be able to create your Zoom Friendship groups and will have opportunities to interact with each other.
8. Early registrants will have access to Patti' Rockus' 4 week Rock Art Camp.
9. Early registrants only will be able to join a class on de-cluttering and organizing your home. There will be 4 live classes (recorded as well) starting July 6. You can learn more in [this video](#).

-10 days to BAAH! We've had to make an adjustment in our line of instructors. Karla Huntsman, who I introduced you to in the intro video, has had some circumstances arise that will make it not possible to teach the weekly class as she had hoped. She will still be offering some classes through the year and will be telling stories. She is sorry she can't be there weekly, but she introduced me to a colleague of hers, Steffani Raff.

I'll let her [introduce herself](#) to you--but I think you will agree--she is perfect for what we are trying to do here in our community. Her passion for the last 25 years has been to restore the art of storytelling in the home. She has trained with masters of storytelling around the world. How blessed we are to have her join our team of instructors. Her classes will begin mid-August.

-9 days to BAAH! Some years ago, we took our family to London. Our hotel was across the street from the train station, so for the first few days, we picked out specific destinations, mapped out the tube route, crossed the street and got on a tube that carried us underground to our destination.

It was a few days before we climbed on board one of those double decker tour busses that takes you on a tour around the city. We so wished that had been the first thing we had done because it gave us a sense of where things were in relation to each other and we saw many places we wanted to go back and visit that we weren't aware of. We really missed out by traveling underground the first few days.

Consider this first tour around the world via Bella Ame at Home as seeing the world on a double decker tour bus. It really is meant as an orientation tour. So don't get stressed out that it feels like we are moving quickly. You'll still have plenty of time every day to get off the bus and spend time in your preferred areas of study.

As you move forward, you will be customizing your study and diving deep where you want to dive deep. To help this orientation tour, each month as we enter a new area, you will be given a sort of guidebook to print out. Included will be: black outline maps to keep track of where you are; a page of suggested people to meet and places to visit; a supply list if you want to do some of the crafts and cooking; copywork pages--or you can print out a page with all the quotes listed.

-8 days to BAAH! Today, I want to introduce you to our Art teacher, [Sara Peterson](#), who will be teaching your children to draw using the Monart method. I highly recommend picking up the *Drawing With Children* book by Mona Brookes to get a greater understanding of the vision of the method and all the wonderful benefits.

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(*Announcement cont.*) This isn't a flashy, catchy draw cute pictures course. This class teaches children to be still; to be quiet; to reflect; and to draw. Slowly.

This method is for all ages--including your preschoolers. Sara will give additional suggestions for older kids.

-7 days to BAAH! As with all new things, there will be a learning curve for this new platform, which is one big reason we are encouraging you to register early. We want you to be completely comfortable where to find everything and how to use it and to have your group set up when we start unlocking the classes in August.

None of it is difficult. There are just tools and features you need to be aware of.

But never fear! You won't have to go it alone. One of the features of the platform will be "Let's chat about...." These will be live zoom chats where you will know there will be live real people to ask your questions or work through any concerns you might have. They'll be ongoing and regular. If you can't join live, there will be recordings. And there's a place to post your question so that we're sure to answer it in the chat if you can't join us live. So there will be a chance to chat about technical questions, academic questions, forming and managing your group questions, ongoing live discussions about Catch the Vision--anything related to your Belle Ame at Home experience.

-6 days to BAAH! Although we won't open the main classes until August, we are making it worth your while to register early. We need families to come into the community and create profiles so that you can find each other and get your friendship groups set up and operating smoothly before we start unlocking all the classes. We also want you to be very comfortable with all the technology tools you will have access to.

I've been listing those benefits of early registration, including the de-clutter class and the Rock Art camp, only open to those who register between July 1st and July 15th. (Please note--you will still have a 7-day free trial. Your first payment won't come out for 7 days.)

Another benefit is your Biblioguides membership will be activated as soon as your first payment comes out. (If you already have a membership, you will get a prorated refund and will be given instructions on how to transfer over to the new one.)

This is a phenomenal resource! If you haven't tried it yet, you'll wonder how you lived without it! :)

-5 days to BAAH! Today, meet [Annie Miller](#). She is teaching our nutrition/cooking class called A Celebration of Honest Foods from Around the World. So excited to have her part of the Belle Ame at Home team.

-4 days to BAAH! Today I have something to say that will be disappointing to some of you. And will unfortunately keep some of you from being able to participate in BAAH at this time.

As a BAAH team, we have been discussing and considering and frankly, praying whether or not to offer an annual subscription for the purpose of accommodating those of you using charter funds that would pay for your membership.

Truly we understand how tight money is. And I was leaning towards allowing that option. But I always had a little nagging feeling to not do it which has kept me from coming out and saying a definite yes.

Yesterday morning our team met early. And every single one of us had an unmistakable feeling we should not open BAAH to the kind of scrutiny that may come by allowing that option. You might even call it a sense of warning. We don't ever want to do something that will make us compromise the core values of this work which are centered in faith, freedom and family. We already know that if these agencies even get a sniff of God, they will close the door. We are seeing the pressures to comply with cultural shifts that are happening all around us.

We don't want to hide Him. Nor do we want to compromise any value that we hold dear to comply in order to qualify for money. And the simple fact is that money given by government always has strings attached. It is used to

(Announcements cont.) control us and given the climate of what is happening, that is going to become even more apparent in the coming days.

Are we saying those of you who are using these funds are doing something bad? We say let Caesar pay for Caesar things. Do explore all your options with these funds. Did you know many of them will pay for your internet service? That can be \$50/month. Or they'll pay for streaming services like Disney Plus or National Geographic. They'll often pay for printers or computers or even if you buy educational games for Christmas presents, you can let them pay for those, freeing up money to pay for something like BAAH. Explore all the possibilities--so long as you do it with eyes wide open. I know these funds have opened up wonderful opportunities to many families--things they couldn't have done without them.

Maybe it's a matter of prioritizing items in your budget. Are there some things you may be able to go without?

At the heart of this work is developing faith. If your desire is to be free from controls like this, exercise faith in God to open a door. My granddaughters get paid \$10.00/an hour to babysit these days. Are there services or products you might consider offering to offset the cost of these classes?

Will your family value them more because you have sacrificed to make them a part of your life?

I know some of you are in very, very hard circumstances. There is no rearranging budget expenses. You are who I worry about. I'm not sure the solution yet, but please reach out to me. Let's see if we can figure something out if this really matters to you.

So, to be clear. There will not be an option at this time for an annual subscription for BAAH. You will still get receipts for the monthly option and you are free to use them any way you want. If your particular funding source has no issues with what we are doing, then that is up to you.

We will provide a one page summary of what Belle Ame at Home offers that you can send to them.

I am so sorry to those of you who are disappointed by this announcement. We haven't felt the same sense of warning in accepting funds to pay for the Forgotten Classics or WEH Academy classes as is felt in relation to BAAH. But if we ever get that sense, we wouldn't hesitate to stop.

It would be far easier to accept funds for BAAH than to take this course of action. But to do that would be to go against that which is our hearts are telling us.

We teach integrity is of greater value than money. How can our choice as an organization be otherwise?

-3 days to BAAH! I was talking to a friend the other day who works with a lot of business startups. She said anyone else who would have brought up an idea like BAAH would have started with saying they need to raise half a million dollars capital, spend months doing studies and focus groups and analyzing the market, etc.

She said, "But not you. Just over 2 months ago, you said, 'I have this idea that's working on me.' I have a hundred dollars. Let's do this. And you did." She was amazed that we are ready to roll this out July 1st.

And frankly, so am I.

I am amazed, but not shocked because I have walked this path of faith for a very long time and I bring my little slingshot and somehow God slays the giants.

He has brought incredible people into my path with just the right skills and knowledge that are needed--and an understanding of the vision of what we are trying to do here. So they have willingly offered their help. You've been meeting some of the teachers in this countdown. Tomorrow I'll introduce the team members working hard behind the scenes. The technology I originally thought needed to be created has already been created and we are

(*Announcement cont.*) making use of that.

What you won't get are lots bells and whistles and fancy graphics and soundtracks. What you will get are honest face-to-face heart-to-heart interactions with a lot of warm, caring people.

There will be glitches. I hope you can be patient with us as we work through them.

Our desires are all in how can we serve you and support you. Because nothing any of us on the BAAH team do matters if there aren't moms like you putting them into use in your homes.

-2 days to BAAH! There are so many wonderful people working together to bring BAAH to you. I've introduced you to a few of our teachers/mentors--you'll meet more in the days ahead. And I haven't even gotten started on introducing you to the group of professional storytellers who are retelling stories from the Forgotten Classics to stir interest.

Today I want to name the core team of ladies who have been putting all the pieces together for our new community behind the scenes. Each one of them brings a unique set of talents and skills and perspective. They have little kids and grown kids and everything in between. You know some of them if you have been in the MOI community, but you'll get to know all of them really well as we move forward. This has truly been a dream team to work with. They are so patient with me as we try and put vision into practice and use. It has required much sacrifice as we come together to create a unified whole. These are some of the most humble and faithful women I have ever known. This process of creation is amazing to watch unfold. I am so grateful for every one of these ladies who have become such dear friends as we work together.

And if any of you question if friendships and relationships can grow virtually, this is evidence that they absolutely can! There are several members on this team I have not yet met in person.

Presenting Our Belle Ame at Home Core Team: Marley Billings; Jen Goostrey; Rachel von Niederhausern; Shannon Whiteley; Lori Gabbitas; Haley Clark; Jennifer Hendricks; Meghan Leatherwood; Angie Blad; Marlene Peterson.

-Belle Ame at Home is open! To join, go to [belleameathome.com](http://belleameathome.com).

The Early Bird Registration special is available July 1 to July 15. If you register any time during that window, you will have access to the declutter/organization class as well as Patti Rokus' Rock Art Camp in addition to all the other features. The first declutter class will be held July 5th at noon mountain time.

You will have a free 7-day trial to look around before payment is taken out. Plan on taking some time to explore and become familiar with all that is built into this community. Rest assured--there are lots of friendly faces to help answer your questions and make you feel at home.

If you have friends or family you want to introduce BAAH to, this is where to send them. The landing page has the intro video as well as the [BAAH at-a-glance](#) page.

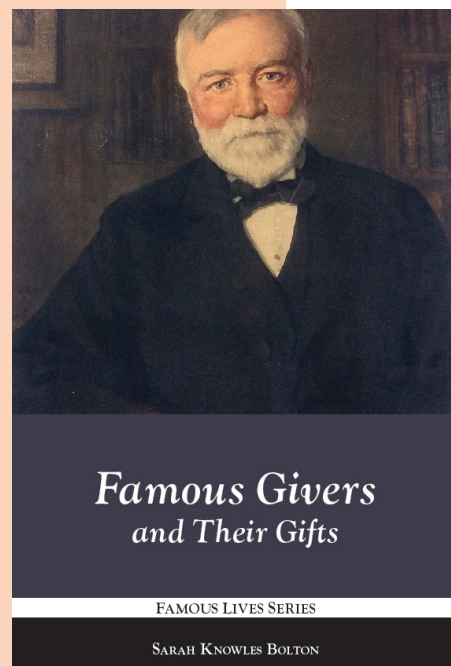
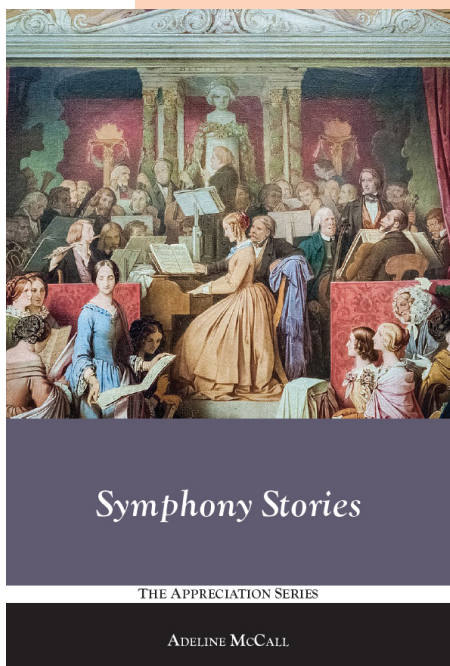
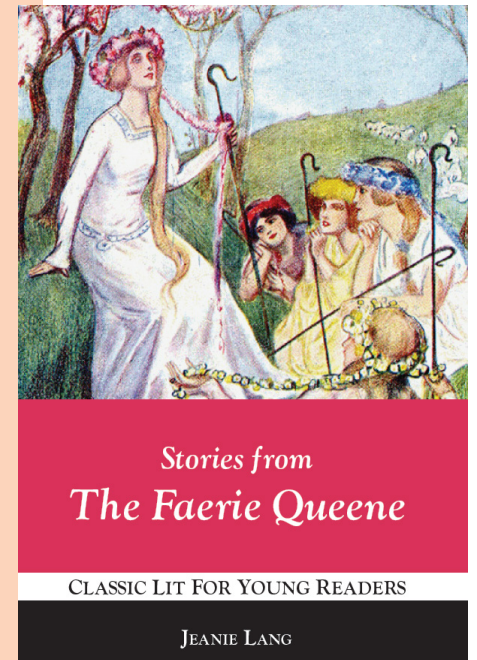
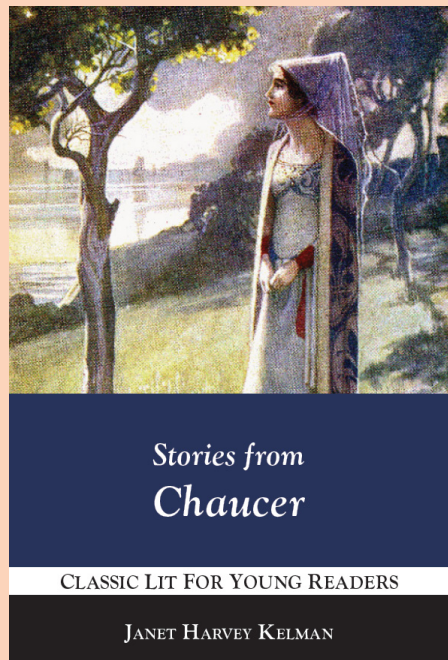
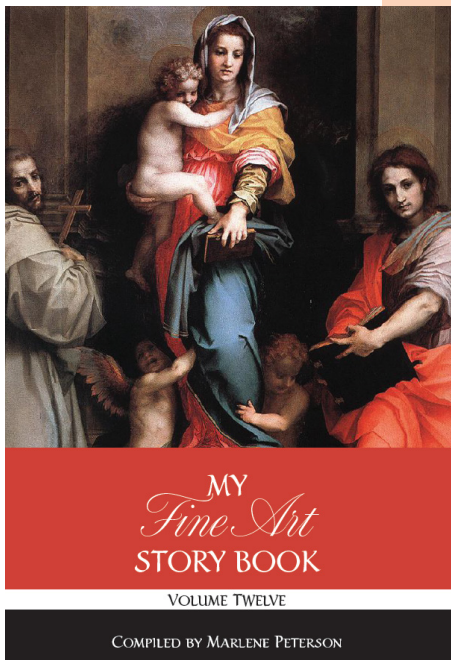
Welcome!

## --NEW MONTH 12 BOOKS

This month finishes out the four new series! Once they become available in the store (in the middle of the month), these series will also be available for purchase as complete series bundles.

My Fine Art Story Book is the third and final portion of the stories of Italian painters found in Amy Steedman's *Knights of Art*.

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(Announcements cont.) Classic Literature for Young Readers for this month is *Stories from Chaucer* by Janet Harvey Kelman and *Stories from the Faerie Queene* by Jeanie Lang.

The book for the Appreciation Series is *Symphony Stories*. It's a collection of program notes from the NC Symphony with fun stories and details about musicians and musical pieces. There is a page towards the front with a link to a Spotify playlist containing all the relevant songs so you and your children can listen along while you read. (NOTE: This is a reprint of a previously released book, we've just added it to the Appreciation series. So you may already have it. The only difference is that we changed the size from 5.5x8.5 to 6x9 to match the rest of the series.)

Sarah Bolton's Famous Lives series this month brings us stories of *Famous Givers and Their Gifts*. It will include names you'll likely recognize, like Andrew Carnegie, Leland Stanford, and John Rockefeller. And some less familiar names of people who gave back in a big way to the communities they lived in.

We will also be updating the My Reading Record to include all the new books. It will also include the lists of all the sources used in making the books, for your reference.

From July 15-August 31, you can use Promo Code: READ2023 to receive a free copy of My Reading Record with any purchase of at least \$49.

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(Announcements cont.) --**Registration is now going on** for the fall WEH Academy classes! You can find out more information and register at [wehacademy.org](http://wehacademy.org).

It's been a great first year! I am so happy that it is drawing such quality instructors and that our Academy is growing. Parents need options for academic instruction for their Middle/High Schoolers and I am happy we can provide you with another option. Available classes include:

- Algebra 1
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Biology
- Digital Art Design
- Discovering True Identity
- English Basics and Composition
- Entrepreneurship
- Geometry 1
- Innovators, Inventors, and Heroes
- Leadership - Skills for Life
- Physics
- Spanish 1
- The 5000 Year Leap
- The Story of Liberty
- World Geography

In addition, Dr. Pablo Riboldi will be making another option available to you if you want to learn from him, but your schedule doesn't allow that early morning meeting time. There will be a self-paced option that will open in August for 3 of his classes: Geometry, Physics and Biology. He is editing his classes from last year so that your student can learn from him at their own pace and schedule.

As part of this option, students are invited to schedule a one-on-one meeting with him several times during the semester so that he can give them personal feedback and answer questions. Students can even set up zoom classes with other students for support and sharing.

The cost is about half. It will be \$150 per semester.

This option is not available for registration yet. But I wanted to make you aware of it. He has talked about it in his webinars, but I know not everyone has had a chance to watch those.

Art credit: The Doll's School by Walter Frederick Osborne

