



Dear Parents,

Hello! My name is Emily Leake, and I will be teaching your child's science class this year. I am excited to study God's creation through the close observation of botany! I've spent the summer preparing our curriculum and know we will have a wonderful year together.

My desire is for this class to be as hands-on as possible. Charlotte Mason says, *"We are all meant to be naturalists, each in his own degree, and it is inexcusable to live in a world so full of the marvels of plant and animal life and to care for none of these things."* Of course, textbook reading will be necessary, but we will also utilize plenty of object lessons, individual and small group demonstrations, and nature journaling. Our class routine will typically be:

2:00-2:20 – Transition Time and Read Aloud (outside when possible)

2:20-2:45 – Textbook Learning + Object Lesson

2:45-3:15 – Hands-on Activity

3:15-3:20 – Bathroom Break

3:20-3:35 – Journal Work

3:35-3:45 – Wrap Up + Pack Up

As we begin each lesson (chapter) in the textbook, your child will bring home an assignment sheet that contains information about what we plan to complete in class and homework for that lesson, divided into weeks (usually 2-3 weeks per lesson). Homework will typically consist of reading a few pages from the textbook and orally narrating what you learned, along with a nature walk and journal entry. Some weeks will just be one or the other. Middle Tennessee is a wonderful place for nature walks/study, so I want to provide ideas to help your child observe the things we are learning about "in the wild" as much as possible! Assignments will also be posted on the 1st/2nd grade Science page under "Student Homework Helps" on the Veritas website, along with supplemental resources that apply to each lesson.

If you are new to nature study, I encourage you to check out this very short podcast/transcript from Simply Charlotte Mason: <https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/nature-walk-or-nature-study/>. If you need ideas about places to visit, materials to keep on hand, or resources for nature study that go beyond our botany curriculum, check out the "Extra Resources" tab on the science webpage.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions you have throughout the year. Email or text works best, but I can schedule a phone call during the week as well. I am looking forward to a fantastic year of learning in 1st and 2nd grade!

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