

Curriculum Options

Information on curriculum and resource suggestions.

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Getting Started With Selecting Curriculum

Curriculum Picks

Curriculum Picks provide just one suggestion for each of the core subjects for each grade, meeting the needs of most typical home-educating students. The trick to finding the Curriculum Picks quickly is to filter Curriculum Options ONLY by GRADE and the Feature “HCOS Pick.”

The screenshot shows a filter interface for Curriculum Picks. At the top, there are four filter sections: 'Grades' with a dropdown set to '8', 'Level of Depth' with a dropdown set to 'Moderate', 'Features' with a dropdown set to 'HCOS Pick', and 'Subject' with a dropdown set to 'Math'. A 'Remove filters' button is to the right. Below the filters are four curriculum pick cards, each with a red header 'Curriculum Pick' and a book cover image. The cards are: 1. 'BC Science Connections 8 Textbook and Workbook' with features: Moderate, Rigorous; Science; 8; HCOS Pick, Core Curriculum. 2. 'Lightning Literature Level Storm' with features: Rigorous; English Language Arts; 8; Multi-Grade Instruction, Written for Home Educators, HCOS Pick, Core Curriculum. 3. 'Romans, Reformers, Revolutionaries Essentials Pack' with features: Rigorous; Social Studies; 8; Multi-Grade Instruction, Written for Home Educators, Christian Perspective, HCOS Pick, Core Curriculum. 4. 'Theory and Problems for Mathematics 8' with features: Moderate; Math; 8; HCOS Pick, Core Curriculum.

Curriculum Options

If you would like more choices than our Curriculum Picks offer, the **Curriculum Options** page on our website provides a searchable selection of resources.

Curriculum Selection Tools and Tips Webinar

This webinar provides an overview of the curriculum selection process and references many curriculum options that may work for your situation.

Slide deck: bit.ly/Curriculum-Selection-23

Curriculum Consultations

If you need assistance selecting curriculum, please be in touch with your support teacher. Our Curriculum Consultant, Cynthia Duncalfe is also available for consultations with HCOS enrolled or registered families via her **online calendar**.

Educational Apps for Tablets & Phones

This page contains free and paid app suggestions in a variety of subject areas and grade levels.

HCOS + Flex Apps

These are the app versions of tools and platforms available to enrolled students through HCOS + Flex. Please search **SOPHIE** to learn more about accessing the Resources and visit the Learning Commons website to find passwords for our Subscriptions.

Resources

Name	Description	Links
Canva for Education	Graphic design	Apple App Store Google Play
Google Workspace	Calendar, Docs, Drive, Gmail	Apple App Store Google Play
Grammarly	Writing and proofreading	Apple App Store Google Play
Read&Write	Reading and assistive technology	Apple App Store Chrome Webstore

Subscriptions

Name	Description	Links
BrainPOP and BrainPOP Jr	Movies and quizzes from the BrainPOP website	BrainPOP Apps (Apple App Store and Google Play)
Matific	Skill-building numeracy games	Apple App Store Google Play

Reading Eggs	Skill-based literacy games	Apple App Store Google Play
RightNow Media	Bible study video resources	Apple App Store Google Play
Sora	eBooks and audiobooks library	Apple App Store Google Play
Tynker	Coding-based math games	Apple App Store Google Play

Teacher Recommended Apps

Parents are encouraged to do their own research on these recommended apps to determine alignment with family values and learning goals. Reviews can be found on the links for the Apple App and Google Play Stores or by searching apps on [Common Sense Education](#).

Arts Education			
Name	Description	Cost	Links
Adult Colouring Book	Digital colouring book	Free	Apple App Store
DMD Panorama	Photo and video 3D camera app	\$12.99 (Apple) Free (Google)	Apple App Store Google Play
GarageBand	Music recording and editing app	Free	Apple App Store
iMovie	Movie editing app	Free	Apple App Store
Lapse It	Time-lapse and stop motion video creator	Free	Apple App Store
Paper	Digital sketchbook	Free	Apple App Store
PicCollage EDU	Photo editor and collage creator	\$2.99	Apple App Store

Pixlr	Photo Editor	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Procreate	Digital art creator and editor	\$17.99	Apple App Store
Stop Motion Studio	Stop motion video creator	Free	Apple App Store Google Play

Assistive Technology

Name	Description	Cost	Links
Articulation Essentials 2.0	Speech therapy support	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Articulation Station	Speech therapy support	Free	Apple App Store
Audio Notebook	Voice recorder	Free	Apple App Store
Mod Math	Adaptive math notation	Free	Apple App Store
SnapType	Worksheet digitization and editing	Free	Apple App Store Google Play

Christian Studies

Name	Description	Cost	Links
Bible App for Kids	Interactive Bible stories for children	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
BibleProject	Interactive Bible resources and classes	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Keys for Kids Ministries	Daily devotionals	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Superbook Kids Bible	Interactive Bible stories and resources	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
YouVersion Bible	Digital Bible resource	Free	Apple App Store Google Play

Executive Functioning and Organization

Name	Description	Cost	Links
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Be Focused (Apple) Focus To-Do (Google)	Time management support	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
CamScanner	Document scanner	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Evernote	Notes and task organizer	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Genius Scan	Document scanner	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Noteability	Notes organizer	Free	Apple App Store
Time Timer	Visual time management	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Vantage	Scheduling and calendar tool	Free	Apple App Store

Learning Support and Inclusive Education			
Name	Description	Cost	Links
Blending Sounds 1	Skill-building phonics games	\$19.99	Apple App Store
Brain Works	Sensory breaks	\$11.99	Apple App Store
Choiceworks Calendar	Visual calendar and time management	\$17.99	Apple App Store
Conversation Builder Teen	Skill-building conversation tools	\$39.99	Apple App Store
Exploring Emotions	Social emotional learning	\$9.99 (Apple) \$12.99 (Google)	Apple App Store Google Play
First Then Visual Schedule	Visual calendar and time management	\$19.99	Apple App Store
Keedogo Plus	Simplified keyboard layout	\$3.99	Apple App Store
Letter Sounds 1	Skill-building letter sounds games	\$19.99	Apple App Store
School of Multi-Step Directions	Auditory comprehension and listening skills	\$24.99	Apple App Store
Sight Words 1	Skill-building sight words games	\$19.99	Apple App Store
The Sounding Out Machine	Assistive reading tools	\$3.99	Apple App Store
The Zones of Regulation	Social emotional learning	\$7.99	Apple App Store Google Play

Literacy

Name	Description	Cost	Links
Book Creator	eBooks creator	\$3.99	Apple App Store
IXL	Skill-building literacy games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
LetterSchool	Handwriting skills	\$12.99 (Apple) Free (Google)	Apple App Store Google Play
Me: A Kid's Story	Digital diary creator	\$4.99	Apple App Store
Storybird	eBooks creator	Free	Apple App Store
Strip Designer	eComics creator	\$4.99	Apple App Store
Tell About This	Photo prompt caption creator	\$3.99	Apple App Store
Text Twist	Letter games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play

Numeracy

Name	Description	Cost	Links
Doctor Lowhigh	Ordering values	\$0.99	Apple App Store
Equilibrans	Balancing equations	\$2.99 (Apple) Free (Google)	Apple App Store Google Play
Euclidean Lands	Puzzle-based math games	\$6.99	Apple App Store
IXL	Skill-building numeracy games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
King of Math	Skill-building numeracy games	Free (Apple) \$4.09 (Google)	Apple App Store Google Play
King of Math 2	Skill-building numeracy games	\$3.99 (Apple) \$4.09 (Google)	Apple App Store Google Play
Lightbot	Coding-based math games	Free	Apple App Store
Math Slide	Multiplication and division	Free	Apple App Store
Monument Valley	Geometry-based math games	\$4.99 (Apple) \$6.99 (Google)	Apple App Store Google Play
Odd Bot Out	Puzzle-based math games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Prodigy	Puzzle-based math games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
ReflexMath	Skill-building numeracy games	Free	Apple App Store

ScratchJr	Coding-based math games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
SET Pro HD	Puzzle-based math games	\$6.99	Apple App Store
Swift Playgrounds	Coding-based math games	Free	Apple App Store

Science

Name	Description	Cost	Links
Biodigital Human	3D anatomy virtual model	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Frog Dissection	Virtual dissection lab	\$4.99	Apple App Store
IXL	Skill-building science games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
NASA Visualization Explorer	Space research and exploration	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
The Explorer's Library by Tinybop	Skill-building science games	\$2.99-\$4.99	Tinybop Apps (Apple Play Store)

Social Studies

Name	Description	Cost	Links
Agents of Discovery	Exploration-based social studies games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
GeoGuessr	Map-based social studies games	Free	Apple App Store Google Play
Google Earth	Map Exploration	Free	Apple App Store Google Play

External Online Resources

Overview

We’ve curated dozens of educational resources available for free online. These sites offer valuable and engaging articles, instructional videos, interactive games, and much more to supplement learning at home.

Benefits

Parents, students, and teachers can access a wealth of information and interactive learning experiences for research and inquiry, as well as to supplement coursework, deepen understanding, and foster further exploration.

Using External Resources

Many of these resources are available without an account. Sometimes, parents must set up a free account to use the resource.

Parents should preview resources to ensure suitability for their students.

Accessing External Resources

Kindergarten to Grade 5

Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies: Design Thinking and Making	
Curiosity Machine	Design challenges across various subject areas
Design Squad Global	Compete to create solutions to engineering challenges
Instructables	Learn how to make anything, one step at a time.
Makers Empire	3D design tool to create, download, and print original or community-based objects
The Tech at Home	STEM and design challenge activities for K-12 learners
The Young Inventors	Challenges designed to demonstrate how inventions can improve people’s lives
Tinkercad	Three workspaces where students can design: 3D Design, Codeblocks, and Circuits

Arts Education

<u>8notes.com</u>	Sheet music and resources for musicians, including tuners, chord charts, and lessons
<u>Blob Opera</u>	Create your opera-inspired song; no music skills required
<u>GarageBand</u>	Music creation studio with a complete sound library
<u>Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM</u>	Arts-integrated online learning experiences for students that include videos and lesson plans
<u>MetKids</u>	Whimsical, kid-friendly intro to the wide art world with videos and interactive activities
<u>PBS Learning Media's Arts Education</u>	Resources, videos, and interactive lessons in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts
<u>TedEd Visual Arts</u>	Instructional videos with comprehension and guided discussion questions
<u>Yo Kidz</u>	YouTube channel featuring dozens of drawing tutorials

Bible and Christian Studies

<u>Calvary Curriculum</u>	Bible lessons for grades 1 – 6
<u>Discover God 4 Kids</u>	Learn about God's character through family activities and Bible study
<u>Douglas Talks</u>	Douglas, the puppet, uses stories from his life to explain God's plan for him and you
<u>Elevate Kids</u>	Bible-based videos to show your child how to become the leader God designed them to be
<u>Keys for Kids</u>	A daily audio devotional based on scripture passages
<u>Kids Corner</u>	Audio adventures, Bible stories and activities for kids
<u>Kids of Integrity</u>	Downloadable lesson plans that help parents instil Christ-honouring character traits in their kids
<u>Kids World</u>	Easy-to-read Bible lessons
<u>Superbook</u>	Engaging kids' games, radio, interactive questions about God, and more.

Career Education

<u>Bankaroo</u>	A virtual bank for kids where you can teach them about the value of money in a safe environment
<u>EVERFI</u>	Standards-aligned, research-based digital lessons to teach students to thrive in an ever-changing world.
<u>Thrively</u>	Guides students through a student-centred journey to discover their strengths, increase their self-awareness, set goals and track progress, build skills, and learn real-world problem-solving

Communication & Collaboration

<u>Lino</u>	A sticky-note tool to organize and collect information and can be shared with parents and teachers
<u>Screencastify</u>	Empowering students to demonstrate and share their learning
<u>Seesaw</u>	Students share their learning with others through digital portfolios
<u>Wakelet</u>	Save, organize, and share any content from across the web

Computer Science

<u>Code.org</u>	Hundreds of computer science activities and tutorials
<u>Codeable Crafts</u>	Animate stories with accessible drawing tools and coding blocks
<u>CS First</u>	Makes coding easy to teach and fun to use
<u>Scratch</u>	Code, share, and remix stories, games, and animations
<u>ScratchJr</u>	As above, for ages 5-7

English Language Arts

<u>National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)</u>	Draft an entire novel in just one month in motivational virtual spaces
<u>Quill</u>	Free writing and grammar activities and tools
<u>ReadWorks</u>	Differentiated reading passages designed to improve comprehension

StoryJumper	an easy way for students to write, narrate, and illustrate their stories. Find informative, expository, collaborative, narrative, and creative writing project ideas, suggestions on topics to write about and digital storytelling ideas. Your students can then use our tools to create and narrate a book, print it on-demand, and publish a book they can hold and hear
Storyline Online	read-along books read via video by actors and authors. Each book includes a supplemental curriculum a credentialed elementary educator developed to strengthen comprehension and verbal and written skills for English-language learners
Whooo's Reading	a website with a clear mission: to help students think more critically about whatever they read through open-ended rather than multiple-choice reading quizzes.

Indigenous Education

[**Canada's Original Place Names**](#) – Indigenous Peoples named many places in present-day Canada.

[**Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada**](#) – Four books: Truth and Reconciliation, First Nations, Inuit, Metis

[**The Great Bear Sea**](#) – Curriculum resources based on the film The Great Bear Sea: Reflecting on the Past, Planning for the Future by Green Fire Productions can be used to engage students in an inquiry-based, educational journey through the Great Bear Sea exploring a variety of themes such as Indigenous Knowledge, collaborative science, marine planning, biodiversity, sustainable resource management and marine stewardship.

Mathematics

[**Didax**](#) – virtual manipulatives and downloadable activities for PreK – Grade 12.

[**Khan Academy**](#) – provides interactive lessons and instructional videos; students practice at their own pace, first filling in gaps in their understanding and then accelerating their learning.

[**Legends of Learning**](#) – provides an engaging educational experience for at-home learning. Kids will love the educational games on the platform, and parents will love the data that comes out as they automatically progress.

[**MathAntics**](#) – FREE math videos and additional subscription-based content!

[**Math Learning Centre**](#) – easy-to-use math apps for web browsers, Apple devices or Chromebooks.

[**Math Snacks**](#) – educational animations, games, and interactive tools that help learners in grades 3 – 8 better understand math concepts.

[**Zearn**](#) – an online math curriculum with supplemental skills practice activities for K – 5. Parents and teachers must set up their own accounts and assign lessons to their students.

Multi-Subject

Choosito – a smart search engine that safely searches the web for resources based on your student's reading level.

CK-12 – free Math, Science, Social Studies, English and more courses for grades 1-12.

Collabrify Productivity Tool Suite – educational productivity Apps. In real-time, two or more students, each on their own computing device, co-constructing text documents, drawings & animations, KWL charts, and spreadsheets.

Easy Peasy All-In-One Homeschool – a free online Christian homeschool curriculum.

Khan Academy Kids – a free, award-winning app for children ages 2 – 7 that engages kids in core subjects like early literacy, reading, writing, language, and math, while encouraging creativity and building social-emotional skills.

Learning Hero Roadmap – an interactive guide with videos/tools to help parents support grade-level math and reading as well as social-emotional development. Informed by what parents need, developed by leading content experts.

Newsela – great nonfiction articles with 5 options for levelled reading.

NOVA – compelling videos, simulations, teacher guides, and other activities.

PBS Kids – a wealth of educational content and valuable learning resources covering various topics.

PBS LearningMedia – PreK-12 digital media service. Search and browse thousands of learning materials, including videos, interactive lesson plans, media galleries, and more.

Quarto Classroom is a free video library on **YouTube** of Quarto's creators using their books as teaching tools in educational spaces.

Smithsonian Learning Lab – an interactive platform for discovering millions of authentic digital resources, creating content with online tools, and sharing in the Smithsonian's expansive community of knowledge and learning.

TED-Ed – supports kids' sense of wonder with outstanding short video lessons.

Wonderopolis – short, interesting informational texts. Each text has vocabulary practice, a comprehension quiz, and activities for further learning. The Immersive Reader tool increases text accessibility with read-aloud, picture dictionary, translation, and more.

Physical and Health Education

GoNoodle – movement and mindfulness videos created by child development experts.

KidsHealth – easy-to-follow articles, slideshows, videos, and health tools designed to help kids and teens learn, grow, and be their best.

PBS Learning Media's Health & Physical Education – resources that provide essential lessons on physical, mental, and emotional health.

Science

100 Fun Science Experiments / Science Fair Projects for Kids – amazing collection of science experiments and science fair projects that you can try with your kids and students at home or school.

Climate Kids – this kid-friendly, expert site by Nasa explores key climate issues through videos, games and activities.

Google Earth – search for specific locations or quickly manually manoeuvre across the globe, zooming in to show detail to the level of parked cars and even pedestrians. Many world areas can be viewed in 3D, allowing students to see cities, the countryside, and famous landmarks in three dimensions.

Inquiry in Action – K-5 science lessons about physical science and chemistry in everyday life

Legends of Learning – provides an engaging educational experience for at-home learning. Kids will love the educational games on the platform, and parents will love the data that comes out as they automatically progress.

Nasa STEM @ Home – videos, interactive multimedia, hands-on activities and more categorized by grade range.

National Geographic Kids – stunning photos, in-depth stories of Earth's peoples and wildlife, and a large collection of multimedia resources that teach students about animals, habitats, countries, and cultures.

Ocean School by the National Film Board of Canada. It's bilingual, free and has aboriginal content! A YouTube channel and an app on iOS. It uses video, virtual reality, interactive and 360-degree video, augmented reality, newsreels, toolkits and assessments. Brings powerful storytelling techniques, immersive technologies and interactive media to your home. Explore the ocean with documentary footage of real scientists, 360 videos, AR, and VR.

Science Buddies – K-12 STEM resources, including 160+ hands-on STEM activities and videos. Our activities cover different STEM concepts, can be done in an hour or less, and use materials easily found at home.

Smithsonian Science Education Center – curriculum & resources searchable by type, grade and topic.

The San Diego Zoo – An interactive site featuring videos, games and activities.

Second Language

The ASL App – Learn American Sign Language right from your phone.

ASL Kids – ASL learning app for Beginners & Kids.

Boukili – Help your students and children love reading in French.

Curious Learning – apps for learning to read in 48 languages.

Duolingo – a science-based language education platform that has organically become the most popular way to learn languages online.

Fingerspelling – Learn the ABCs in ASL with machine learning.

HandsOnASL – Learn to fingerspell with sign language.

Oh Noah! – offers students a multi-pronged approach to learning Spanish vocabulary. With its funny, story-based interface, kids are encouraged to take an easygoing, just-try-it approach to learning languages.

OnlineFreeSpanish – dozens of games, colouring pages, and interactive activities by level can be accessed anytime on tablets or desktops.

Sign School – Learn American Sign Language

Social Studies

Canada's Museum of History – videos, activities and online resources.

Canada's War Museum – videos, activities and online resources.

Canadian Museum For Human Rights – Join our guides on video tours of the Museum's galleries and architecture. Check out Museum exhibits and stories about human rights defenders and history. Discover our many special online experiences.

DOGO News – a diverse, kid-friendly news site enriched by visual and bilingual elements. Articles are separated into various subjects and reading levels.

Google Earth – search for specific locations or quickly manually manoeuvre across the globe, zooming in to show detail to the level of parked cars and even pedestrians. Many world areas can be viewed in 3D, allowing students to see cities, the countryside, and famous landmarks in three dimensions.

Historica Canada – Programs you can use to explore, learn and reflect on our history and what it means to be Canadian.

National Geographic Kids – stunning photos, in-depth stories of Earth's peoples and wildlife, and a large collection of multimedia resources that teach students about animals, habitats, countries, and cultures.

Our Country, Our Parliament – Learn about the Canadian Parliament through a downloadable book and interactive resources.

Parliament: An Overview – Learn about the Parliament of Canada

Smithsonian's History Explorer – Lessons, activities, interactives, engaging media and more. Resources can be filtered by grade range, resource type, historical era and cross-curricular connections.

Teachers Zone: Canadian History In Your Classroom

Time for Kids – a digital news magazine for kids with age-appropriate stories kids are excited about and information just for kids that explains the world around them.

Touchable Earth – experience the world in the first person and access 25 communities worldwide.

Virtual Field Trips and Tours

British Natural History Museum – Virtual Museum: 14 ways to explore from home

Canadian Farm Food Virtual Tours – Learn how things are made and how animals are raised.

Discovery Education Virtual Field Trips – Promising amazing places and remarkable experiences, Discovery Education has many different cost-free tours available.

Great Lakes Virtual Field Trip – Learn about the science, diversity, and ecology of these large freshwater lakes.

Hall of North American Mammals (Grades 3-5) – Explore habitat dioramas to learn how animals must be adapted to an environment in order to survive in it.

Royal Tyrrell Museum Park – Visit Canada's only museum dedicated exclusively to the study of ancient life from home.

Slime in Space – This video field trip shows how slime acts in space. Watch astronauts play ping pong with it!

Smithsonian: National Museum of Natural History – Virtual Tours

The Butterfly Conservatory (Grades K-2) – Observe butterflies and compare their patterns.

The National Aquarium – Explore one of the best aquariums in the country in this interactive self-guided tour.

Virtual Tour of the Great Wall of China

Curriculum Donations

The Learning Commons welcomes donations of gently used curriculum (e.g., no rips or marks on pages) that are not older than 7 years. Novels, DVDs, and CDs are only accepted if they are part of a curriculum package. When we receive curriculum donations, we post them in our [Used Bookstore](#) for other families to purchase at a discounted rate.

Please email Library Administrator Shandra Wiebe for more information: swiebe@onlineschool.ca