

Dear Blossom and Root Families,

I know many of you are wondering about the development of curriculum for upper grade levels, and a timeframe for when you can expect them. I thought it would be best to write a short post to let you know our plans.

First of all, I want to assure you that we absolutely do intend to develop curriculum for grades 6 and up. That has been our intention for many years now, and that has not changed. What has changed is the pace at which I can release each level.

In the past few years, we've released a new level each fall, but we will not be releasing level six in 2022. At this point, we do not have a timeline in place for level six to disclose to you. There are several reasons for this.

My daughters are getting older and I am needing to give them more of my time and energy as their interests blossom and our core academic subjects become more robust. During the past year, I've noticed our homeschooling time growing longer as they lean into more detailed written responses in their narrations and journals, confidently follow rabbit trails we encounter during lessons, navigate more complex ideas and processes in math and literature, and request more time to pursue the things that interest them. This doesn't mean I need to stop writing curriculum—far from it. It just means that developing quality curriculum will take me a bit longer than it used to.

I am also still in the process of developing the second volume of *A River of Voices* with our committee and feel it deserves my exclusive focus right now, given the complexities of the subject matter. This volume will not be released in full until mid-to-late spring of 2022, and I will be working on a revision of volume one immediately after that.

Most significantly, levels 6 and up will take a bit longer to create because I want to collaborate with a larger team in developing them. While I've worked with elementary learners for many, many years, I have relatively little experience with middle schoolers and their needs and want to work with people who know them well. Additionally, I want to consult with specialists in several areas as we build those subsequent levels. I hope to begin putting this team together in the second half of 2022, and hope to begin developing level 6 with them sometime next year.

This might mean that we release some level 6 subjects months ahead of others—I am not really certain at this time. But I will post updated information on our

“Updates and Releases” page as it becomes available. <https://blossomandroot.com/updates-and-new-releases/>

For those of you working through level 5 this year, I realize this leaves you in a bit of a bind if you were hoping to use Blossom and Root level 6 next year. For that, I apologize. I wish so much that I could give that to you. As you navigate what to use next year, please feel free to jump into our Facebook group, Blossom and Root Families, where you can ask other parents with older learners what has worked with them for those middle school levels.

Most of you are probably familiar with the other secular options available to you, but I have listed some of those options below (for grades 6 and up.) Please note that I have not used most of these myself, and cannot speak to their content from my own experience. However, Arlene Sluchak has reviewed several of them and is happy to share insight, links to her flip-throughs, etc. with anyone needing a bit of guidance. Arlene is our Blossom and Root community support director. She runs our Facebook group and provides onboarding support and assistance to our families on a daily basis. She can be reached at arleneandcompany@gmail.com, or you can DM her through our Facebook group.

- Build Your Library
- Oak Meadow Grades 6+
- Brave Writer Arrows (ages 11 - 12), Boomerangs (ages 13 - 14), and Slingshots (ages 15 - 18), as well as online classes
- Scientific Connections Through Inquiry Level 5 (recommended for grades 4 - 7)
- REAL Science Odyssey Biology Level Two
- Building Foundations of Scientific Understanding Vol. 3
- Mystery Science (video-based)
- Generation Genius (video-based)
- Core Knowledge (free!)

I will also share my own homeschool plans, progress, etc. more frequently on our blog so you can see how we are working through this, too. Right now, my oldest (a fourth grader) is just wrapping up the first third of level 4 LA. I anticipate us finishing Level 4 sometime next fall, and I think that we will take our time working through Level 5 over a year and a half. We just finished geology from Level 1 (a review for my oldest and new to my youngest) and hopped back into mammals from the end of Level 3 science, which is where we had paused toward the end of last year. We will be finishing Level 3 zoology and the prehistoric life unit before moving on to Level 4 science for Blake's fifth grade year, and Level 5 science for her sixth grade year.

The bottom line is that we fully intend to develop curriculum for levels 6 and up —it's just going to take a little longer than it has in the past. We won't have level 6 ready for fall 2022, and don't have a timeline in place for that level just yet. But we will post updates on our website as they become available. I am really excited to begin development on levels 6 and up, and I want them to be the best they can be to serve our wonderful community. We appreciate all of you so much, and we wish you the very best in the years to come.

Kristina and the Blossom and Root Team