



**K-8
GRADE**

Murrieta

Course Catalog

2026 - 2027 School Year

#BrickByBrick

Learning Labs Mission & Vision Statement

We offer homeschool families a variety of unique, year-long classes to enrich their educational experience. Our classes incorporate academics and the arts to inspire individual interests and passions. Our nurturing staff partners with parents to support educational progress in a safe environment that encourages positive social development.

Curriculum Key



After each of our class descriptions, you will see a KEY like this:

All of our classes have elective content, and many include core content. See the explanation below to help you choose classes for your child.

E - Covers **ELA CORE** Requirements

e - Supplements **ELA AT HOME** Curriculum

M - Covers **MATH CORE** Requirements

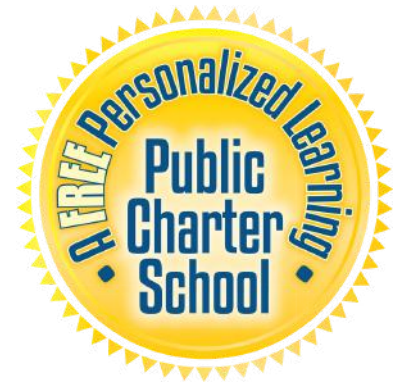
m - Supplements **MATH AT HOME** Curriculum

S - Covers **SCIENCE CORE** Requirements

s - Supplements **SCIENCE AT HOME** Curriculum

SS - Covers **SOCIAL STUDIES CORE** Requirements

ss - Supplements **SOCIAL STUDIES AT HOME** Curriculum



Learning Labs Policies

When you enroll your child in a Learning Labs class, you will be asked to agree to the following:

[Learning Labs Parent Agreement](#)

*Please read thoroughly before signing up for any classes.

Please see the [Student & Parent Handbook](#) for information about:

Cell Phone Use- Page 42

Dress Code Policy- Pages 42 & 43

Internet Use Policy- Page 44

Student Behavior Expectations and Discipline- Page 46

Student Support (Counseling & Special Education)- Pages 48-51

Parent Involvement and Volunteering- Pages 112-113

Additional Helpful Links:

[Photo Release](#)

Fontana [One Page Class Schedule & Descriptions](#)

[I CAN! Math Roles & Responsibilities](#)

[2026-27 Learning Labs Calendar](#)





Murrieta

Learning Labs Staff



TBD
Teacher



TBD
Teacher



TBD
Teacher



Carissa McIntyre
Program Facilitator



Brenda Ortega
Program Facilitator



Dylan Canal-Esteviz
Receptionist



Noreen O'Grady
Receptionist



Linda Martinez
Site Facilitator



TBD
Homeschool Director



Lori Loucks
Homeschool & LL Director



Jessica Battle
Admin. Assistant



Terri May
Learning Labs Clerk



Julia Kristel
Principal



Bridget Ayala
Vice Principal

Murrieta Learning Lab Information

Our Murrieta Learning Lab provides enrichment and core academic classes for K-8 Homeschool, Montessori Voyage, and Venture students.

The Learning Labs help families connect with other independent learning students to create a strong support system. Families enjoy the non-traditional choice of independent study while benefiting from time-honored school activities. Our Murrieta location participates in activities such as school pictures, open houses, kindergarten and 8th-grade promotions, and other fun school events. Through events, outreach, activities, and guest speakers, learning lab students use the community as the classroom throughout the year.

The Learning Lab schedule is full of classes that offer hands-on, engaging activities that make learning fun! Students can choose classes that cater to their passions and interests, and/or choose classes that meet specific academic goals.

Please continue through the pages of this book to see the class offerings and descriptions for the 2026-27 school year.

***Venture and Montessori Voyage students are limited to one block per week.**

Classes are offered for K-8th grades on Monday & Tuesday.

Morning Classes ~ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Lunch ~ 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Afternoon classes ~ 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

For more information or to register for classes, go to [Springs Marketplace](#) on your MySprings Apps page.



Located at:

41866 Kalmia Street

Murrieta, CA 92562

(951) 225-7250

The Murrieta Learning Lab is run by the Principal, who is responsible for safety, discipline, and the day-to-day operations at the student center. If you have specific questions about the school site, don't hesitate to contact the student center.

Learning Labs offerings and class schedules are created by our Homeschool Leadership team. For specific questions, you may contact:

Jessica Battle, Learning Labs

Administrative Assistant-

jessica.battle@springscs.org

Lori Loucks, K-8 Homeschool Director-

lori.loucks@springscs.org

Kindergarten-2nd Grades Class Choices



Monday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Author Adventures AND Storybook Art Studio
Monday 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Ultimate Builders Lab AND Imagination Stage
Tuesday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Building Our World: Communities & Early America AND Little Story Builders
Tuesday 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Junior Zoologists AND Math Construction Crew

Kindergarten - 2nd grade students only have ONE OPTION in each block.
You may sign up for one or two 2.5-hour blocks per day.

[One Page Schedule](#)

[Register in
Springs Marketplace](#)

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

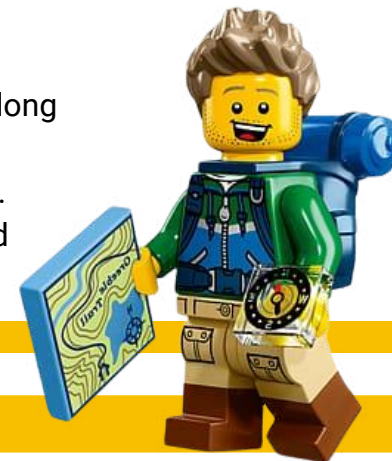
Monday AM Class Descriptions

Author Adventures

Each month, students will explore books by a beloved children's author such as Eric Carle, Kevin Henkes, Jan Brett, Tomie DePaola, Ezra Jack Keats, and Mo Willems. Students will begin by learning about the author and their unique storytelling style. Each week, a new book will be read, with a focus on building vocabulary, comprehension, and basic grammar skills. Students will also complete simple writing activities, such as comparing two books or writing about their favorite story with supporting reasons.

Projects--

- Author Portfolio: Students' work from each author study will be collected into a yearlong portfolio to share with families.
- Character Retell Activity: Students retell a story using drawings or sequencing cards.
- Favorite Author Celebration: Students share their favorite author and book at the end of the year.



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Storybook Art Studio

In this creative class students bring beloved stories to life through hands-on art projects. Each month, students will create artwork inspired by the featured authors, exploring different artistic styles, techniques, and materials. As they listen to and reflect on stories, students will "build" their understanding through painting, drawing, collage, and mixed media projects. This class encourages creativity, imagination, and fine motor skill development while deepening connections to the books they read.

Projects--

- Author Art Portfolio: Students will collect their monthly artwork into a special portfolio showcasing different authors and artistic styles to share at the end of the year.
- Scene Builder Projects: Recreate a favorite scene from a story using drawing or mixed media book at the end of the year.

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Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Monday PM Class Descriptions



Ultimate Builders Lab

In Ultimate Builders Lab, learners explore creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork through hands-on building with LEGO® bricks, Magna-Tiles, straw connectors, gears, and recycled materials. The class features rotating stations: a LEGO/Magna-Tiles design station, a straw connector engineering station, a gears and movement station, and a cardboard/recycled materials creation station. Students experiment with structured building, simple engineering, and open-ended creativity while developing fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and collaboration.

Projects--

- Vehicle Creations: Build moving cars, boats, or other vehicles using gears or wheels
- Fantasy World Builds: Create castles, space stations, or imaginary lands
- Problem-Solving Challenges: Build a structure to hold a specific weight or span a set distance
- Recycled Material Sculptures: Use cardboard, paper tubes, and caps to construct creative sculptures



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Imagination Stage

In this fun and interactive class, students explore social-emotional learning through drama, role-play, and imaginative play. Students build confidence, empathy, and communication skills as they act out different characters and real-life situations. Through skits, storytelling, and creative expression, students practice understanding emotions, solving problems, and working together in a supportive environment.

Projects--

- Emotion Skits: Act out different feelings and positive ways to respond.
- Role-Play Scenarios: Practice real-life social situations like friendship and teamwork.
- Creative Character Project: Create and perform a character showing thoughts, feelings, and actions.



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Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Tuesday AM Class Descriptions



Building Our World: Communities & Early America

Learners will explore the people, places, and cultures that make up communities near and far. Students learn about family, school, neighborhood, and local traditions, as well as the basics of early American life. Through hands-on activities, stories, and interactive projects, students develop an understanding of community roles, rules, cooperation, and how people work together to build and shape their world.

Projects--

- Community Map Project: Students create maps of their neighborhood or classroom community, highlighting important places and roles.
- Early America Mini-Book: Create a book showcasing life in early American communities, comparing past and present.

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Little Story Builders

In Little Story Builders, young learners explore the joy of storytelling through reading, imaginative play, and creative activities. Students read a variety of short stories and texts, then develop confidence in expressing ideas, creating characters, and building mini-stories using words, drawings, and simple sentences. LEGO bricks help bring their stories to life as they build scenes and retell stories in a hands-on, visual way. Through games, collaborative storytelling, and hands-on exercises, students practice sequencing, vocabulary, narrative thinking, and creative expression while having fun sharing their ideas.

Projects--

- My Storybook: Students create a mini-book with short stories or illustrated adventures.
- Character & Setting Posters: Design characters and story settings to inspire their tales.
- LEGO Story Retell: Students build a scene from a story (read in class or created by them) using LEGO bricks and then retell the story in their own words.

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Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Tuesday PM Class Descriptions

Junior Zoologists

Junior Zoologists: In this exciting, hands-on science class, students explore the animal kingdom and discover what makes animals unique. Through interactive lessons, crafts, and simple investigations, students learn about habitats, life cycles, and animal characteristics while building curiosity and observation skills.

Projects--

- Create-a-Creature: Students design their own animal and explain its habitat, diet, and special adaptations.
- Life Cycle Wheel: Students build a visual model showing the life cycle of an animal.
- Animal Classification Chart: Students sort animals into groups (mammals, reptiles, birds, etc.) with pictures and key traits.



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Math Construction Crew

In Math Construction Crew, students build essential math skills brick by brick through hands-on activities, games, and creative projects. Learners explore counting, addition, subtraction, number recognition, shapes, patterns, and problem-solving in fun, interactive ways. Students even use LEGO bricks to model math concepts, making learning visual, tactile, and fun. Students also practice math in real-world contexts like measuring, sorting, and organizing objects. By tackling math challenges with their peers, they build confidence and develop a strong foundation for future math concepts.

Projects--

- Pattern Towers: Create towers with repeating color or number patterns.
- Build a Story with Numbers: Create a short story or scene using numbers, patterns, or shapes in the design.
- Math Art Creations: Make mosaics or designs that represent patterns, symmetry, or fractions.
- LEGO City Budget Build: Students are given a set number of bricks and must “budget” and plan a small structure, practicing counting, addition, and simple problem-solving as they build.



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3rd - 5th Grade Class Choices



Monday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<i>Imagination Makers: Creative Writing AND Creative Artists Studio</i>
Monday 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM	<i>Science Explorers: Earth & Space Science AND Game On! Logic & Strategy Games</i>
Tuesday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<i>Early American Architects: Foundations of U.S. History AND Colonial Arts & Crafts</i>
Tuesday 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM	<i>Ultimate Builders Lab: Engineering & Design AND Reading Detectives: Crack the Case!</i>

**3rd - 5th grade students only have ONE OPTION in each block.
You may sign up for one or two 2.5-hour blocks per day.**

[One Page Schedule](#)

[Register in
Springs Marketplace](#)

3rd – 5th Grade Monday AM

Class Descriptions



Imagination Makers: Creative Writing

In Imagination Makers, students become master builders of stories, poems, and imaginative creations. This class encourages writers to explore original ideas, develop characters, create vivid settings, and craft compelling plots. Students experiment with storytelling techniques such as dialogue, descriptive language, and narrative structure, while also exploring fun formats like poems, comic strips, and short plays. Students also use LEGO bricks to build scenes and story elements, helping them visualize ideas and bring their writing to life in a creative, hands-on way.

Projects--

- Personal Story Collection: A mini-book of short stories, poems, or imaginative writings created throughout the class.
- Poetry & Rhyme Experiments: Explore acrostics, rhymes, free verse, or imaginative poems.
- LEGO Scene to Story: Students build a detailed LEGO scene, then write a story, poem, or short script inspired by their creation, focusing on characters, setting, and plot development.

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Creative Artists Studio

In Creative Artists Studio, students strengthen their artistic skills while exploring a variety of techniques, styles, and materials. Students will build on foundational skills such as drawing, shading, color theory, composition, and perspective, while experimenting with painting, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will also study well-known artists and art movements, using them as inspiration to create more detailed and thoughtful artwork. Emphasis is placed on creativity, craftsmanship, and developing a personal artistic style.

Projects--

- Artist Portfolio: Students compile a collection of their work showcasing growth in technique, creativity, and effort.
- Artist-Inspired Project: Students create a detailed piece inspired by a studied artist, applying specific techniques and styles.

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3rd – 5th Grade

Monday PM Class Descriptions

Science Explorers: Earth & Space

In Science Explorers: Earth & Space, upper elementary students investigate the systems of our planet and beyond through hands-on experiments and inquiry-based learning. Students explore topics such as earth materials, weather patterns, plant life cycles and ecosystems, the solar system, and basic astronomy, while developing critical thinking, observation, and scientific reasoning skills. Through experiments, data collection, and creative projects, students deepen their understanding of how Earth's systems interact—from soil, rocks, and plant growth to weather processes and planetary motion. Emphasis is placed on making observations, recording data, and explaining scientific concepts.

Projects--

- Weather Data Project: Track and analyze weather patterns, graph results, and identify trends.
- Planet & Moon Models: Build and present models explaining the solar system or lunar phases.
- Earth Materials Investigation: Test and compare properties of rocks, soil, and water.
- Plant Growth Investigation: Conduct an experiment on plant growth, record observations, and present findings.



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Game On! Logic & Strategy Games

In this fun class students sharpen their critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategic planning skills through a variety of classic and modern board games. Students learn to think ahead, analyze patterns, and make smart decisions while having fun in a collaborative environment. Students rotate through games such as chess and checkers, Qwirkle, Blokus, Quarto, Mastermind, and Battleship, practicing logic, deduction, and creative strategy. The class also emphasizes sportsmanship, focus, patience, and adaptability, helping students grow both as thinkers and team players.

Projects--

- Strategy Journals: Reflect on lessons learned, winning strategies, and ways to improve.
- Team Challenge Showcase: Students will work in small groups to create their own collaborative game! They will design the rules, set up the gameplay, and teach it to their classmates.

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3rd - 5th Grade

Tuesday AM Class Descriptions

Early American Architects: Foundations of U.S. History

In Early American Architects, students explore the foundations of U.S. history from early civilizations to the birth of the nation. The course begins with pre-European societies, including Native American groups such as the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and continues with the journeys and impact of early European explorers. Students then dive into colonial life in the Thirteen Colonies, examining daily routines, culture, and challenges faced by settlers. The class also explores the causes and key events of the American Revolution, leading to the founding of the United States. Through engaging lessons, discussions, and hands-on projects, students build an understanding of how people, ideas, and events shaped early America.

Projects--

- Map of Early America: Label colonies, regions, and important locations.
- Early America Timeline Project: Students create a visual timeline from early Native American societies through the American Revolution, highlighting key events and people.
- Explorer Research Poster: Learn about an early explorer and present their journey and impact.

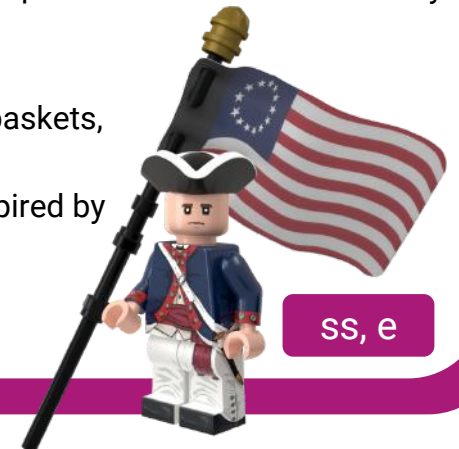
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Colonial Arts & Crafts

Students bring early American life to life through hands-on arts and crafts projects. Using simple materials and creative techniques, young learners explore the everyday objects, tools, and traditions of colonial communities. Projects help students understand history while developing fine motor skills, creativity, and problem-solving.

Projects--

- Colonial Mini Artifacts: Create paper, clay, or fabric replicas of colonial objects such as lanterns, baskets, or simple tools.
- Colonial Weaving or Braiding: Create small woven mats, friendship bracelets, or simple braids inspired by colonial techniques



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3rd – 5th Grade

Tuesday PM Class Descriptions



Ultimate Builders Lab: Engineering & Design

In Ultimate Builders Lab: Engineering & Design, students explore creativity, problem-solving, and engineering through hands-on building with LEGO® bricks, Magna-Tiles, straw connectors, gears, and recycled materials. Students tackle complex building challenges, test structural designs, and experiment with motion, stability, and mechanics. Through guided and open-ended projects, students develop critical thinking, collaboration, and engineering skills while bringing imaginative designs to life.

Projects--

- Engineering Challenge Builds: Construct a bridge, tower, or vehicle that meets specific structural or functional requirements.
- Themed Design Project: Design a cityscape, space station, or invention using multiple materials and engineering concepts.
- Recycled Material Engineering: Use cardboard, tubes, and other materials to design functional or artistic structures.

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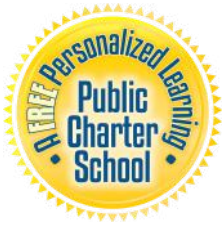
Reading Detectives: Crack the Case!

In this exciting book club, readers become junior detectives as they explore the Reading A to Z Mystery series. Students will read and discuss fun, age-appropriate mysteries, building comprehension, vocabulary, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Each session encourages students to predict, infer, and analyze clues while discussing characters, plot, and settings. Hands-on activities, games, and creative projects help students dive deeper into each story and make connections to their own thinking.

Projects--

- Mystery Case File: Students create a personalized “case file” for each book, including clues, character notes, and a summary of the mystery.
- Clue Collage: Students make a poster as a visual collection of important story details.

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6th – 8th Grade Class Choices

Monday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<i>Mastering the Writer's Blueprint AND Creative Artists Studio</i>
Monday 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM	<i>Mission Possible: STEM & Logic Lab AND Passion Project: Explore, Create, Present</i>
Tuesday 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<i>Ultimate Builders Lab: Engineering & Robotics AND Pixar in a Box</i>
Tuesday 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM	<i>Classical History & Arts Club: United States History & World Connections</i>

**6th - 8th grade students only have ONE OPTION in each block.
You may sign up for one or two 2.5-hour blocks per day.**

[One Page Schedule](#)

[Register in
Springs Marketplace](#)

6th – 8th Grade

Monday AM Class Descriptions

Mastering the Writer's Blueprint

In this reading and writing class, students refine and elevate their writing skills using WriteScore resources while engaging with a variety of texts. Emphasis is placed on developing clear, well-organized multi-paragraph essays, strong thesis statements, and effective use of evidence and reasoning. Students will practice narrative, informational, and argumentative writing while strengthening grammar, sentence variety, and academic vocabulary. Through drafting, revising, and editing, students learn to communicate ideas clearly and confidently in a variety of formats, as well as respond thoughtfully to texts through written analysis and reflection.

Projects--

- Writing Portfolio: A collection of polished pieces across multiple genres showing growth and mastery.
- Formal Essay Project: Students complete a structured essay (argumentative or informational) with a clear thesis, supporting evidence, and conclusion.

***Students taking this class will be required to bring a school-issued Chromebook to class**

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Creative Artists Studio

In Creative Art Studio, students strengthen their artistic skills while exploring a variety of techniques, styles, and materials. Students will build on foundational skills such as drawing, shading, color theory, composition, and perspective, while experimenting with painting, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will also study well-known artists and art movements, using them as inspiration to create more detailed and thoughtful artwork. Emphasis is placed on creativity, craftsmanship, and developing a personal artistic style.

Projects--

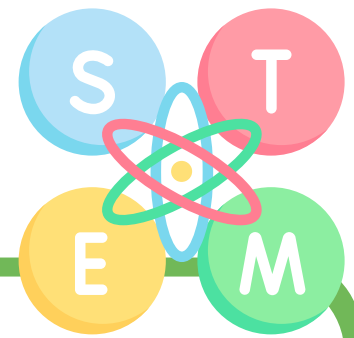
- Artist Portfolio: Students compile a collection of their work showcasing growth in technique, creativity, and effort.
- Artist-Inspired Project: Students create a detailed piece inspired by a studied artist, applying specific techniques and styles.

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6th – 8th Grade

Monday PM Class Descriptions



Mission Possible: STEM & Logic Lab

In Mission Possible: STEM & Logic Lab (Advanced), students engage in complex, team-based challenges using Mission.io, where they analyze data, think critically, and make strategic decisions in real-world scenarios. Students will also participate in advanced puzzles, brainteasers, escape room challenges, and strategy-based activities that promote logical reasoning, collaboration, and problem-solving. Emphasis is placed on evaluating multiple solutions, supporting ideas with evidence, and refining ideas through reflection.

Projects--

- Mission.io Strategic Challenges: Solve multi-step, collaborative missions.
- Escape Room & Logic Challenges: Apply reasoning and teamwork to solve complex puzzles.
- Design Your Own Mission: Students will have the opportunity to design their own Mission.io-style challenge, creating a storyline, problem, and set of clues for classmates to solve.

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***Students taking this class will be required to bring a school-issued Chromebook to class**

Passion Project: Explore, Create, Present

In Passion Project, students choose a topic that excites them and design a personalized research and creation project. They develop skills in long-term planning, problem-solving, reflection, and revision while learning that education can be personal, meaningful, and creative. Students are encouraged to present their projects using models, online presentations, videos, or other teacher-approved formats, giving them opportunities to share their work, explain their process, and showcase their learning.

Projects--

- Project Proposal & Planning: Choose a topic, outline goals, and create a timeline.
- Research & Development: Gather information, test ideas, and document findings.
- Creative Presentation: Build models, craft digital presentations, or develop other formats to share work.
- Reflection & Revision: Evaluate progress, make improvements, and problem-solve challenges.
- Final Showcase: Present projects to peers, teachers, and possibly families, demonstrating learning and creativity.

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***Students taking this class will be required to bring a school-issued Chromebook to class**

6th - 8th Grade

Tuesday AM Class Descriptions



Ultimate Builders Lab: Engineering & Design

In Ultimate Builders Lab: Engineering & Design, students explore creativity, problem-solving, and engineering through hands-on building with LEGO® bricks, Magna-Tiles, straw connectors, gears, and recycled materials. Students tackle complex building challenges, test structural designs, and experiment with motion, stability, and mechanics. Through guided and open-ended projects, students develop critical thinking, collaboration, and engineering skills while bringing imaginative designs to life.

Projects--

- Engineering Challenge Builds: Construct a bridge, tower, or vehicle that meets specific structural or functional requirements.
- Themed Design Project: Design a cityscape, space station, or invention using multiple materials and engineering concepts.
- Recycled Material Engineering: Use cardboard, tubes, and other materials to design functional or artistic structures.



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Pixar in a Box

Step into the world of animation and discover the magic behind Pixar films! Have you ever wondered how water ripples realistically or how fire flickers on screen? In this class, students will explore the science, math, and creativity that bring animated movies to life using Pixar in a Box from Khan Academy. Through hands-on projects, students will animate bouncing balls, design swarms of robots, and create virtual fireworks, applying concepts from math, science, computer science, and storytelling—just like real Pixar artists! By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of the animation pipeline and how different disciplines come together to create movie magic.

Projects--

- Animated Short Scene: Students will use what they've learned to create a short animated sequence, incorporating motion, physics, and storytelling elements.
- Behind-the-Scenes Presentation: Students will showcase their creative process, explaining how they applied animation techniques, problem-solving strategies, and real-world math and science concepts.

***Students taking this class will be required to bring a school-issued Chromebook to class every week.**

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6th - 8th Grade Tuesday PM Class Descriptions



Classical History & Arts Club: United States History & World Connections

Explore United States history and geography within the broader context of world history, from the early modern era through modern times, using Story of the World, Volumes 3 and 4. Students study major historical developments including colonization, the founding of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and powers of government, the Civil War, the Mexican-American War, industrialization, the abolition of slavery, famous leaders, global conflicts, key speeches, inventors and their inventions, and modern social and political movements. The course emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, and creative expression. Students engage with history through hands-on projects, map studies, timelines, primary source analysis, research presentations, living history, mock government, debates, and creative projects that connect historical events to geographic and cultural influences. Through these activities, students develop research skills, artistic expression, and a deeper understanding of the people, ideas, and innovations that shaped the modern United States and its place in the world.

Projects--

Map Studies & Timelines: Trace historical events and geographic influences across time.

Invention & Innovation Projects: Build models of important inventions and explore their historical impact.

Creative History Projects: Artistic, literary, or multimedia projects connecting historical events to culture and geography.

***Students taking this class will be required to bring his or her school-issued Chromebook to class every week.**

****This class is designed to be a supplement to your ELA & Social Studies curriculum.**

*****This class is part of a three-year cycle that includes the study of the Ancients and the Middle Ages.**



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