

# Homeschool Hub

## Northwest Cary YMCA



**2026/2027 Course Catalog**

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## Homeschool Hub - Program Overview

Here at the Homeschool Hub, we partner with you to support your child's homeschool education. We provide engaging courses that enrich your homeschool student's development through opportunities to learn and grow in collaborative, hands-on classes. Our classes are capped at 15 students, with the exception of our Explorers classes, which have a capacity of 10.

Official registration as a homeschooling student with the North Carolina Department of Education is required to participate in this program for all students 7 years old or older. We are unable to provide classes for students enrolled in public or private schools. If you are registering for our program prior to enrollment with the NCDOA, please put "pending" for your Homeschool ID Number when registering.

Our program aims to be an inclusive environment where all students can feel welcome and thrive. We train all of our teachers in meeting the needs of all types of learners, and we value parent partnerships to help meet the unique needs of each student.

Additionally, while the Y is a Christian organization, we utilize secular curriculum in our classes and serve families from a variety of faith traditions and cultural backgrounds.

Our program operates from the Northwest Cary YMCA/Crosspointe Church building at 6903 Carpenter Fire Station Rd, Cary, NC 27519. Most of our classes are held in the Crosspointe Church building, but we are also fortunate to have access to many shared spaces of the YMCA when needed.

### The Y Mission

Our Mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Our Mission compels us to embrace, reflect and celebrate the richness of diversity within each other and the many communities we serve. In that Christian principles are caring and inclusive, we are respectful of various expressions of faith and serve families and individuals from all traditions, backgrounds and perspectives. Together, we work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity at our YMCA.

### The Y's Diversity and Inclusion Statement

To fulfill our Mission and purpose of strengthening our community for all, the YMCA of the Triangle is committed to being a multicultural, anti-racist and inclusive organization, fully leveraging our collective resources and impact to address social inequities.

## Types of Classes

### Semester-Long Enrichment Classes

These classes are designed to build understanding of the course topic throughout the semester. Each class operates for approximately 14 weeks, 2 hours per week. Classes are 1 hour long on Monday/Wednesday and 2 hours long on Tuesday and Thursdays. Monday/Wednesday classes meet two days per week and cannot be separated. Tuesday and Thursday classes meet one day per week.

Students must be enrolled in half-day blocks, and therefore on Monday/Wednesday students must choose either two classes (AM half-day or PM half-day) or 4 classes (full-day). Any registrations that do not align with these schedule requirements may be dropped two weeks prior to the start of the semester. Navigators (ages 13+) are exempt from this rule if their parent/guardian allows them to sign themselves in and out of the program.

### Lunch/Recess

Students who attend for a full day program have a supervised hour of Lunch/Recess included free of charge as part of their day. These students do not need to register for this product separately.

Half-Day students who would like to participate in Lunch/Recess can register for the waitlist. We will hold a lottery for these spots based on the number of spaces we have available at the beginning of the semester. There is a small fee for this add on registration.

### High School Hybrid Classes

These academic classes provide rigorous high-school level content, and are designed to provide the equivalent of year-long high-school courses. Courses have both an in-person and an online component, and students will be expected to attend class regularly and complete work outside of class.

### Age Cohorts

Our classes are multi-age, divided among 4 different age cohorts. We do have some flexibility for students at the border between groups (age 7, 9 and 13). These students may take classes in either of the cohorts appropriate for their age, depending on what is in their best interest both socially and academically. If you have a question about what cohort is best for your student, feel free to reach out to Megan Runion to discuss.

There are no age exceptions for our High School Hybrid classes. Additionally, some classes are restricted to a narrower grade or age range to best meet the developmental needs of our students. **Please pay close attention to the class descriptions for more information.**

- Explorers - Ages 4-7
- Pathfinders - Ages 7-9
- Trailblazers - Ages 9-13
- Navigators - Ages 13-18

## 2026/2027 Calendar

Fall Semester	
Tues., Aug. 25	Fall Family Open House
Wed., Aug. 26	First Day of Fall Semester
Fri., Sept. 4	End of Fall Drop/Add Window
Mon., Sept. 7	Closed for Labor Day
Wed., Oct. 7 - Fri., Oct. 16	Fall Break
Mon., Nov. 23 - Fri., Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Break
Wed., Dec. 16	Fall Student Showcase (All Classes)
Thurs., Dec. 17	Last Day of Fall Semester
Spring Semester	
Tues., Jan. 19	Spring Family Orientation
Wed., Jan. 20	First Day of Spring Semester
Fri., Jan. 29	End of Spring Drop/Add Window
Mon., Feb. 15	Closed for Presidents' Day
Wed., March 24 - Fri., April 9	Spring Break
Wed., May 12	Spring Student Showcase (All Classes)
Thurs., May 13	Last Day of Spring Semester

## Daily Schedule

### Monday/Wednesday Class Schedule

	Explorers	Pathfinders, Trailblazers, and Navigators
8:15-8:50	Rides-In	Rides-In
8:50-9:00	Transition to Classroom	Transition to Classes
9:00-9:55	Morning Session	Period 1
10:00-10:55		Period 2
10:55-11:00	Half Day AM Dismissal	Half Day AM Dismissal
11:00-11:55	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
11:55-12:00	Half Day PM Arrival	Half Day PM Arrival
12:00-12:55	Afternoon Session	Period 3
1:00-1:55		Period 4
1:55-2:15	Rides-Out	Rides-Out

### Tuesday/Thursday Class Schedule

	All Classes
8:15-8:50	Rides-In
8:50-9:00	Transition to Classroom
9:00-10:55	AM Class
10:55-11:00	Half Day AM Dismissal
11:00-11:55	Lunch/Recess
11:55-12:00	Half Day PM Arrival
12:00-1:55	PM Class
1:55-2:15	Rides Out

# Fall 2026 Schedule

## Monday/Wednesday

	Explorers Ages 4-7	Pathfinders Ages 7-9				Trailblazers Ages 9-13				Navigators Ages 13+			Ages 7+
9:00 - 9:55	Tori Walker, Anita Hayes, Laura Waddey	Rhythm of Math  Cameron Tripp	US Geography  Renee Banko	STEM  Jagriti Sachania	Physical Education  Dan Taylor	Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature  Tabitha Gowland	Visual Journaling  Laura Peleschak	Performance Theater  Chelsea Knapp	Fractions, Decimals & Percents *Ages 11-14*  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Project Based Government & Civics  Kemai McClain	Music Workshop  Stephanie Curri		Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti
10:00 - 10:55		Physical Education  Dan Taylor	Visual Journaling  Laura Peleschak	Fundamentals of Music  Cameron Tripp	Imagine, Build, Discover.  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	The Human Body  Renee Banko	Writer's Workshop  Kemai McClain	<b>The Modern Maker</b>  <b>Andrea Diagonale</b>	Creative Crochet *Ages 11-14*  Tabitha Gowland	Forensic Science  Jagriti Sachania	<i>Hybrid Spanish 1</i>  Chelsea Knapp	Public Speaking  Stephanie Curri	Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti
12:00 - 12:55	Anita Hayes, Laura Waddey, TBD	Numbers and Imagination Math Lab  Jagriti Sachania	Stories Around the World - Part 1  Lauren Johnson	Eco Art  Laura Peleschak	<b>Early Kitchen Skills</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Ocean Explorers  Tabitha Gowland	US Geography  Renee Banko	Theater Games/ Improv  Chelsea Knapp	Physical Education  Dan Taylor	<b>Fresh Paint</b>  <b>Andrea Diagonale</b>	Writer's Workshop  Kemai McClain	Personal Finance  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti
1:00 - 1:55		Force & Motion  Jagriti Sachania	Stories Around the World - Part 2  Lauren Johnson	<b>Art Smart</b>  <b>Andrea Diagonale</b>	<b>Early Kitchen Skills</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Earth & Environmental Science  Renee Banko	The Green Ember Adventure  Tabitha Gowland	<b>Printmaking</b>  <b>Laura Peleschak</b>	Hands on Equations *Ages 11-14*  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Performance Theater  Chelsea Knapp	Physical Education  Dan Taylor	Songwriting  Cameron Tripp	Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti

**Bold** classes are priced as Specialty Classes

Classes in *Italics* are year-long High School Hybrid classes

## Tuesday

	Explorers Ages 4-7	Pathfinders Ages 7-9			Trailblazers Ages 9-13				Navigators Ages 13+			Ages 7+
9:00 - 10:55	Stephanie Curri, Anita Hayes	Beginner Mandarin Chinese 1  Jade Cao	Reading & Writing Clubhouse  Kemai McClain	<b>Animal Kingdom Art</b>  <b>Andrea Diagonale</b>	Science of Mystery & Magic  Jagriti Sachania	Fundamentals of Music  Cameron Tripp	Eco Art  Laura Peleschak	Energy & Electricity  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	<b>Teen Art</b>  <b>Aimee Walker</b>	<i>Hybrid Contemporary Literature</i>  Nancy Walters	The Science of Nature & Human Wellbeing  Laurina Sigmon	Discovery Labs  TBD
12:00 - 1:55	Anita Hayes, TBD	Rhythm of Math  Cameron Tripp	Stories Around the World - Part 2  Jade Cao	Eco Art  Laura Peleschak	Paper Engineering  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	No Rules Sewing  Aimee Walker	<b>Advanced Coding &amp; Robotics</b>  <b>Jagriti Sachania</b>	Women Who Made History  Kasey Davidson	<b>Exploring Italian Cuisine &amp; Culture</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Adventures in Journaling  Nancy Walters	<i>Hybrid Biology</i>  Laurina Sigmon	Discovery Labs  TBD

## Thursday

	Explorers Ages 4-7	Pathfinders Ages 7-9			Trailblazers Ages 9-13				Navigators Ages 13+			Ages 7+
9:00- 10:55	Stephanie Curri, Anita Hayes	Fluency Fun  TBD	Garden Science  TBD	Nature Exploration  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Beginner Mandarin Chinese 1  Jade Cao	Same Time, Different Place  Kemai McClain	<b>Intermediate Cooking</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Songwriting  Cameron Tripp	Tech Theater  Chelsea Knapp	<i>Hybrid US History</i>  Nancy Walters	Enrichment Geometry  Laurina Sigmon	Discovery Labs  TBD
12:00 -1:55	Anita Hayes, TBD	But Why Science  TBD	Stories Around the World - Part 1  Jade Cao	Fundamentals of Music  Cameron Tripp	Roots, Shoots, & Leaves  Laurina Sigmon	History Spotlight - Japan  Kasey Davidson	<b>Beginner Cooking</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Mastering Multiplication & Division  Annie Polashock	<b>Teen Craft Club</b>  <b>Aimee Walker</b>	<i>Hybrid Spanish 2</i>  Chelsea Knapp	<b>Electronics &amp; Coding</b>  <b>Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram</b>	Discovery Labs  TBD

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# Spring 2027 Schedule

## Monday/Wednesday

	Explorers Ages 4-7	Pathfinders Ages 7-9				Trailblazers Ages 9-13				Navigators Ages 13+			Ages 7+
9:00 - 9:55	Tori Walker, Anita Hayes, Laura Waddey	Rhythm of Math  Cameron Tripp	US Geography  Renee Banko	Design & Discover  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Physical Education  Dan Taylor	Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature  Tabitha Gowland	Visual Journaling  Laura Peleschak	Performance Theater  Chelsea Knapp	Artistic Math *Ages 11-14*  Jagriti Sachania	Cultural Exploration & World History  Kemai McClain	Music Workshop  Stephanie Curri		Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti
10:00 - 10:55		Physical Education  Dan Taylor	Visual Journaling  Laura Peleschak	Fundamentals of Music  Cameron Tripp	Scientific Expression  Jagriti Sachania	Physical Science  Renee Banko	Persuasive Writing  Kemai McClain	<b>Art Through the Ages</b>  <b>Andrea Diagonale</b>	Exploring America's National Parks *Ages 11-14*  Tabitha Gowland	Fundamentals of Electronics  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	<i>Hybrid Spanish 1</i>  Chelsea Knapp	Public Speaking  Stephanie Curri	Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti
12:00 - 12:55	Anita Hayes, Laura Waddey, TBD	Coding Unplugged  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Stories Around the World - Part 1  Lauren Johnson	Fairytale Fun  Laura Peleschak	<b>Early Kitchen Skills</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Ocean Explorers  Tabitha Gowland	US Geography  Renee Banko	Theater Games/ Improv  Chelsea Knapp	Physical Education  Dan Taylor	Drawing Plus  Andrea Diagonale	Debate Writing  Kemai McClain	<b>Advanced Coding &amp; Robotics</b>  <b>Jagriti Sachania</b>	Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti
1:00 - 1:55		Bubbles & Potions  Jagriti Sachania	Stories Around the World - Part 2  Lauren Johnson	<b>Art Smart</b>  <b>Andrea Diagonale</b>	<b>Early Kitchen Skills</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Life Science- Plants & Animals  Renee Banko	Stop Motion Animation  Tabitha Gowland	<b>Printmaking</b>  <b>Laura Peleschak</b>	Coding with Ozobots  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Performance Theater  Chelsea Knapp	Physical Education  Dan Taylor	Songwriting  Cameron Tripp	Discovery Labs  Princess Bernard-Oti

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## Tuesday

	Explorers Ages 4-7	Pathfinders Ages 7-9			Trailblazers Ages 9-13				Navigators Ages 13+			Ages 7+
9:00 - 10:55	Stephanie Curri, Anita Hayes	Garden Science  TBD	Reading & Writing Clubhouse  Kemai McClain	Eco Art  Laura Peleschak	<b>Creative Innovators</b>  <b>Jagriti Sachania</b>	Fundamentals of Music  Cameron Tripp	Energy & Electricity  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	<b>BUILT 2.0: dream, build, make</b> <b>*Ages 11-14*</b>  <b>Andrea Diagonale</b>	<b>Fiber Arts</b>  <b>Aimee Walker</b>	<i>Hybrid Contemporary Literature</i>  Nancy Walters	Essential Tech for High School & Beyond  Laurina Sigmon	Discovery Labs  TBD
12:00 - 1:55	Anita Hayes, TBD	Rhythm of Math  Cameron Tripp	Stories Around the World - Part 1  TBD	No Rules Sewing <b>*Ages 8-12*</b>  Aimee Walker	Paper Engineering  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Crime Scene Science  Jagriti Sachania	Eco Art  Laura Peleschak	Women Who Made History  Kasey Davidson	<b>Exploring Italian Cuisine &amp; Culture</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Adventures in Journaling  Nancy Walters	<i>Hybrid Biology</i>  Laurina Sigmon	Discovery Labs  TBD

## Thursday

	Explorers Ages 4-7	Pathfinders Ages 7-9		Trailblazers Ages 9-13				Navigators Ages 13+			Ages 7+
9:00- 10:55	Stephanie Curri, Anita Hayes	Beginner Mandarin Chinese Part 2  Jade Cao	Coding Unplugged  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	Fractions, Decimals, & Percents  Annie Polashock	Big Ideas of US History  Kemai McClain	<b>Intermediate Cooking</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Songwriting  Cameron Tripp	Tech Theater  Chelsea Knapp	<i>Hybrid US History</i>  Nancy Walters	Enrichment Geometry  Laurina Sigmon	Discovery Labs  TBD
12:00 -1:55	Anita Hayes, TBD	Stories Around the World - Part 2  TBD	Fundamentals of Music  Cameron Tripp	History Spotlight- Egypt  Kasey Davidson	The Human Body STEAM Lab  Laurina Sigmon	<b>Beginner Cooking</b>  <b>Marlene Mitaly</b>	Coding with Ozobots  Laxmi Priya Anna Gokul Ram	<b>All Things Paper</b>  <b>Aimee Walker</b>	<i>Hybrid Spanish 2</i>  Chelsea Knapp	Beginner Mandarin Chinese  Jade Cao	Discovery Labs  TBD

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## Explorers Program - Ages 4-7

Our Explorers program is a multi-age, homeschool enrichment program designed for children ages 4–7, **supporting learners working at the Pre-K through 2nd grade levels**. Explorers provides an engaging, hands-on academic environment where students learn through themed inquiry units, rich discussion, and meaningful exploration. Our curriculum is intentionally designed to extend and enrich homeschool education, with activities and expectations appropriate for early elementary learners.

Students are placed into homeroom groups based on approximate grade level. Each child has a primary teacher and homeroom where they begin their day, ensuring consistency, connection, and individualized attention. The student-to-teacher ratio is kept low so that instruction can be adapted for every learner.

### Daily Schedule:

Each day begins with Circle Time in the homeroom, where students participate in read-alouds, academic mini-lessons, vocabulary building, and themed discussions tailored to their developmental level. Learners rotate through literacy, math, science, art, and exploration activities with both their primary teacher and other Explorers teachers.

### Daily Schedule Example

8:15-8:50	Morning Arrival/Rides In
8:50-9:00	Transition to Classrooms
9:00-9:20	Morning Circle Time
9:20-9:50	AM Activity 1
9:50-10:20	Centers Play
10:20-10:50	AM Activity 2
10:50-11:00	Return to Primary Classroom - Transition to Lunch/Recess or Mid-Day Dismissal
11:00-12:00	Lunch/Recess - All Explorers
12:00-12:20	Afternoon Circle Time
12:20-12:50	PM Activity 1
12:50-1:20	Centers Play
1:20-1:50	PM Activity 2
1:50-2:00	Return to Primary Classroom - Transition to Afternoon Dismissal
2:00-2:15	Afternoon Dismissal

## Daily Learning Experiences Include:

### **Literacy Experiences:**

Read-alouds, phonological awareness games, vocabulary building, early writing, storytelling, and age-appropriate reading activities.

### **Math Investigations:**

Number sense, counting, early operations, patterning, sorting, graphing, measuring, and problem-solving through hands-on games and manipulatives.

### **Science & STEM Exploration:**

Observations, simple experiments, engineering challenges, sensory investigations, and theme-related scientific inquiry.

### **Art & Creative Expression:**

Open-ended and guided art experiences connected to weekly themes, supporting creativity, fine motor development, and self-expression.

### **Centers / Student Choice Time:**

Opportunities for cooperative play, social skill-building, imaginative exploration, and independent hands-on learning.

### **Outdoor Play & Movement:**

Daily recess and gross motor activities that support physical development, teamwork, and confidence.

## Weekly Themes

Our weekly themes are designed to engage children through hands-on exploration, creativity, and inquiry. Every theme includes activities that can be adapted in complexity so that each child participates at the right level for their individual learning needs and allow teachers to adjust:

- the depth of discussion
- the vocabulary introduced
- the complexity of problem-solving tasks
- the level of independence expected
- the type of writing, drawing, or building students do

### Examples of our weekly themes:

#### Earth, Rocks, & Geology:

Children investigate the natural world by observing rocks, classifying materials, exploring textures, and learning **Earth science** concepts. Through guided discovery, students make predictions, compare observations, and use language to describe what they find.

#### Things That Fly (Planes, Balloons, Birds):

This theme encourages students to explore motion, invention, adaptation, and design. Activities may include creating simple flying models, testing what helps objects move through the air, studying birds, or conducting experiments. Children learn to ask questions, try ideas, and build understanding through hands-on testing.

#### Gardening & Plants:

Students explore the basic needs of living things and early **biology** concepts by planting seeds, caring for growing plants, and observing changes over time. They compare and contrast the needs of plants and animals, notice and discuss changes, and record their observations in developmentally appropriate ways. This theme promotes strong observation skills, a sense of responsibility, and a foundational understanding of **life science**.

#### Ocean & Ocean Animals:

Children dive into ocean habitats, exploring different animals, how they survive, and the environments they live in. Activities may include sensory exploration, sorting creatures, reading informational texts, experimenting with "sink and float," or creating simple habitat models. Students build curiosity, vocabulary, and scientific awareness.

#### Post Office/ Writing and Mailing Letters:

Children explore how mail moves through a post office and the roles of postal workers. Activities may include writing and decorating letters, sorting and delivering mail, reading address labels, "buying" stamps, and role-playing postal tasks. Students build literacy, communication, problem-solving, and social-emotional skills.

## Pathfinders (Ages 7-9) - Course Descriptions and Supply Lists

If your child is age 7 and you are deciding between Explorers or Pathfinders, please consider factors such as fine motor skills development and social/emotional development that will help your child be prepared for the independent tasks associated with Pathfinders classes. (Examples: independent scissor usage; comfort using a pencil; ability to follow teacher-led activities; etc.) Please refer to each class description to help you make the best choice based on your child's readiness. If your age 7 child would thrive in classes with shorter activities, a nurturing pace, and a bit more teacher guidance, Explorers can be an excellent fit. It provides a supportive setting where children can build confidence and skills while still enjoying engaging, age-appropriate challenges.

Class Name	Semester	Core Subject	Can a student repeat this class?	Description	Required Supplies
Animal Kingdom Art	Fall	Science	No	Dive into the wilds of the Animal Kingdom in this exciting course that blends a little biology and creative art! Each week, students will explore a different animal, learning fascinating facts about its habitat, diet, and unique characteristics. After learning about an animal, students will create a unique, hands-on art project inspired by its appearance or environment using a variety of art materials— such as paint, paper, and clay—to capture the texture of a polar bear's fur, the colors of a rainforest bird, or the shape of a deep-sea fish. A perfect class for students who love animals and want to express their knowledge through exciting and colorful projects.	
Art Smart	Fall and Spring	Elective	Yes	This course is designed to spark creativity and build confidence in young artists. Students will engage in weekly projects that teach them the Elements of Art (like line, shape, and color) while simultaneously giving them hands-on experience with a wide array of art materials and how to use them effectively. Students will learn effective art habits such as planning, studio organization, and supply care—that they can put into practice when they create art on their own time. This class is perfect for budding creators who want to build a strong foundation in art while having fun!	
Beginner Mandarin Chinese 1	Fall	Foreign Language	No	This course introduces young learners to Mandarin Chinese in an engaging and developmentally appropriate way. Students learn Mandarin through interactive activities such as songs, games, crafts-making, movement, and visuals. Lessons are structured yet flexible, allowing students to learn at a comfortable pace while building confidence in listening and speaking. Instruction focuses on foundational vocabulary, simple phrases, and accurate pronunciation. Cultural elements—such as traditions, holidays, and daily life—are woven into lessons to enrich learning and broaden global awareness.	
Beginner Mandarin Chinese 2	Spring	Foreign Language	No	This course is the continuation of Mandarin Chinese 1 and lessons are structured and age-appropriate, helping students build confidence while enjoying the language-learning process. Students expand their vocabulary and learn to speak in short sentences about familiar topics such as family, school, food, numbers and daily routines. Through songs, games, stories, movement activities, and simple conversations, students practice correct pronunciation and tones in a natural and engaging way. Students are gently introduced to more Chinese characters and pinyin, focusing on recognition and basic writing. Cultural elements—such as holidays, traditions, Chinese art and crafts and everyday life in Chinese-speaking communities—are woven into each lesson to spark curiosity and cultural appreciation.  This class is the second class in our Mandarin Chinese series. Students must take Beginner	

				Mandarin Chinese 1 prior to signing up for this class. Students who have not taken the prior class will be cancelled from part 2.	
Bubbles & Potions	Spring	Science	No	From fizzing potions to creative experiments, children bring science to life through imaginative projects and interactive challenges. This class encourages problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity, making science both fun and memorable. Perfect for curious minds who love discovery, experimentation, and a little bit of magic!	
But Why Science	Fall	Science	No	<p>This inquiry-based science class is designed for curious young learners who are always asking "But why?" Each week, students explore real-world science topics through hands-on experiments, demonstrations, and guided questioning. We will investigate everyday phenomena such as floating and sinking, forces, weather, simple machines, plants, energy, and more. Students learn to make observations, think like scientists, and develop the confidence to explore how the world works.</p> <p>For safety, students must be able to follow simple multi-step directions. Beginning writing and drawing skills (for science journals) are required. No previous science knowledge required</p>	
Coding Unplugged	Spring	Science, Math	No	When we talk about coding, what we really mean is giving clear, logical instructions that can only be interpreted one way in order to accomplish a task or reach a goal. In this class, students will learn to put together these types of step-by-step instructions in various formats, such as board games, hands-on learning tasks, and even physical body movements. While this class does NOT involve students sitting in front of a screen writing computer language, it will prepare them for these types of tasks in the future, should they choose to pursue further computer coding activities later on.	
Design & Discover	Spring	Science, Math	No	<p>A creative, hands-on engineering class where students design, build, test, and improve projects each week. Students learn the basics of engineering through real challenges such as building bridges, towers, simple machines, sail cars, catapults, and more. Lessons focus on problem-solving, teamwork, trial and error, and discovering how things work through play and experimentation. Writing is minimal—students record ideas using simple sketches, labels, and verbal explanations.</p> <p>For safety, students must be able to follow simple multi-step directions. Grade appropriate fine motor skills for building, cutting and assembling are required. No prior engineering or STEM experience required.</p>	
Discovery Labs *Ages 7-13*	Fall and Spring	Math, Science, English Language Arts	Yes	<p>Our Discovery Labs serve as spaces to inspire creativity, imagination, and collaboration (if desired). This is an ideal environment for students with lots of big ideas, who thrive when following their own curiosity outside of the structure of a traditional classroom. Students will have the opportunity to engage in teacher-planned activities in each of our labs, in the content areas of Science, STEM, Math, Literacy, or in their own student-led projects. Each lab space is set up with activities and materials that students are free to use and explore. Additionally, quiet rooms for independent homeschool work or projects will also be available. Some materials will be provided, but students may also bring the materials they need for their projects.</p> <p>If students need support, our Discovery Labs teacher works with each individual student to develop a plan for their time each day, to help them stay engaged and learning within this flexible environment. Students may sign up for as many of these hours as they would like to attend and are not limited to one session per day.</p>	

Eco Art	Fall and Spring	Science	No	Students will become eco-artists by transforming recycled paper, cardboard, fabric, and found objects into 2D mixed media artworks. We will also explore professional recycled-materials artists to learn their process and purpose. This class emphasizes creative problem-solving, craftsmanship, and the elements of art while promoting sustainability through artistic expression.	
Early Kitchen Skills	Fall and Spring	Elective		This hands-on class is designed to introduce younger students to basic kitchen skills and equipment, which will lay the groundwork for future cooking success.  *This class is not suited for students with food allergies.	apron (optional), hair tie (for long hair)
Fairytale Fun	Spring	English Language Arts	No	Step into a world of enchanted forests, brave heroes, and clever creatures! In this arts integration course, students will build their own storybook worlds by exploring classic fairytale and literature elements. While discovering fairytale history, origins, and versions from around the world, students will create illustrated story scenes, design original characters, make mini books, write fairytale mashups, and more.  Must be able to write at least 2-3 sentences.	
Fluency Fun	Fall	Math	Yes	In this game-based math class, students will participate in fun activities and challenges that are geared towards increasing mathematical fluency in addition and subtraction. When students are given repeated opportunities to utilize specific number combinations in different fun and engaging scenarios, the result can be a better ingrained understanding of those math facts and an increased level of confidence in that knowledge.	
Force & Motion	Fall	Science	No	Race, roll, push, pull! Young scientists explore how objects move through exciting hands-on experiments. Students test ramps, build mini vehicles, launch objects, and discover how speed, friction, and gravity work in real life. This energetic class turns curiosity into learning as kids investigate what makes things go, stop, and zoom!  Students should be able to copy writing	Notebook
Fundamentals of Music	Fall and Spring	Elective	No	This course introduces students to the building blocks of music through singing, rhythm games, movement, and creative play. Students will learn how to read basic notation, understand rhythm and pitch, and perform simple melodies using their voices and instruments (like xylophones, recorders, or percussion).	Drumsticks
Garden Science	Fall and Spring	Science	No	In this class, students will explore horticulture through observation and hands-on learning in our Community Garden. Students will learn about what plants need to grow and thrive, as well as develop their understanding of interdependent relationships within ecosystems.	
Imagine, Build, Discover	Fall	Science, Math	No	This hands-on STEM class introduces students to real science through fun experiments, building challenges, and creative discoveries. Each week, students explore a new topic—such as magnets, weather, simple machines, electricity, geology, and space—using simple materials and guided activities. Instead of heavy writing, learners record their observations through drawing, discussion, and simple labeling. The class is designed to spark curiosity, encourage scientific thinking, and build confidence through learning by doing.  For safety, students must be able to follow simple multi-step directions. Grade appropriate fine motor skills for building, cutting and assembling are required. No prior engineering or STEM experience required.	

Nature Exploration	Fall	Science	No	<p>This hands-on science class invites young learners to explore the natural world around them. Students will investigate plants, insects, soil, weather, ecosystems, and wildlife through outdoor observations, simple experiments, and engaging activities. Each week encourages curiosity, scientific thinking, and respect for nature. Students will learn to make observations, record findings in a nature journal, and understand how living and nonliving things interact in the environment.</p> <p>Students should come to class with curiosity and willingness to explore outdoors and be able to follow teacher instructions for safety, especially when outdoors. Students should have grade appropriate writing/drawing skills for journaling. No prior science or nature study experience required.</p>	
No Rules Sewing  *Ages 8-12*	Spring	Elective	Yes	<p>This hand sewing class is all about fun. Students will learn hand sewing skills while working on the projects they want to sew. There will be examples to ignite their creativity and some small projects they can choose from, but they will also have the opportunity to design their own project. Some potential projects students may choose: needle book, bag, small quilt, pillow, etc. There will be needles and scissors, so students should be ready to work with tools safely.</p>	
Numbers & Imagination Math Lab	Fall	Math	No	<p>A playful math-and-art class where students explore number sense, patterns, and geometry through interactive activities and creative artwork. Perfect for young learners who love combining imagination with learning.</p>	
Physical Education	Fall and Spring	Elective	Yes	<p>This class will teach body weight exercises, plyometrics, stretching and some high intensity training. Students will gain confidence and skill while learning new sports and games.</p>	Water bottle, appropriate attire
Reading & Writing Clubhouse	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts		<p>This class is designed to turn avid readers into thoughtful writers! Participants will dive into engaging books and learn essential reading comprehension skills. For every book we read, we move beyond simple summaries and focus on responding creatively to the text. We will learn to identify the main idea, characters, setting, and plot. Then students will use simple prompts and formats to write about what they've read (e.g., writing an alternate ending, describing their favorite character, or explaining a book's central message) Building confidence in articulating their opinions and interpretations of stories. Join us to build strong readers and thoughtful communicators!</p> <p>Students should be comfortable sounding out words and writing sentences with assistance.</p>	
Rhythm of Math	Fall and Spring	Math	No	<p>Rhythm of Math is an engaging class that teaches mathematics through methods of music. By exploring rhythm, patterns, tempo, and musical structure, students discover core math concepts like fractions, ratios, sequencing, and problem-solving in a creative, hands-on way. Through clapping patterns, composing beats, and analyzing songs, learners experience how math isn't just numbers on a page, it's the heartbeat of music itself. Perfect for curious minds who learn best by doing, this class turns equations into rhythms.</p>	
STEM	Fall	Science, Math	Yes	<p>This introductory STEM course provides students with an engaging foundation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through guided investigations, simple engineering builds, and beginner-level coding activities, students develop critical thinking, collaboration, and early design-thinking skills. The curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning and age-appropriate problem solving, supporting both independent exploration and teamwork.</p>	

Scientific Exploration	Spring	Science	Yes	Dive into the exciting world of science! In this hands-on class, young learners explore materials, simple chemical reactions, energy, and the natural world through fun experiments and creative projects. Students ask questions, test ideas, make observations, and bring their discoveries to life with drawings, models, and imaginative projects. Perfect for curious minds who love to explore, experiment, and see science in action.	
Stories Around the World - Part 1	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	No	Asia, Antarctica, Australia, and Africa Students will travel to different countries within the continents of Asia, Antarctica, Australia, and Africa! They will learn about a variety of places through the experiences of characters featured in children's literature. Students will create art and journal about their experiences as they learn more about the cultures and geography of the countries they visit. Students will also develop their understanding of literary analysis by discussing the books they read, including the characters' traits, as well as the plot and setting of each story.  Prerequisite skills: Able to copy words into a journal	
Stories Around the World - Part 2	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	No	South America and Europe Students will travel to different countries within the continents of North America, South America, and Europe! They will learn about a variety of places through the experiences of characters featured in children's literature. Students will create art and journal about their experiences as they learn more about the cultures and geography of the countries they visit. Students will also develop their understanding of literary analysis by discussing the books they read, including the characters' traits, as well as the plot and setting of each story.  Prerequisite skills: Able to copy words into a journal	
US Geography	Fall and Spring	Social Studies	Part 1: Fall Part 2: Spring	This class will cover all 50 States of the United States. We will also learn about different regions of our country, landmarks, state capitals and historical facts. The class will have 2 parts. Class 1 in the fall will cover the first 25 states, and class 2 in the spring will cover the remaining 25 states.  Students will need to be able to read and write at the age level of the class.	Composition notebook
Visual Journaling	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	No	Students will create their own illustrated journals that blend writing and art. Each week they will explore prompts that inspire drawing, collage, and creative writing to build expression, reflection, and storytelling skills.	Strathmore Mixed Media Paper Pad <a href="https://a.co/d/629MeNJ">https://a.co/d/629MeNJ</a>

## Trailblazers (Ages 9-13) - Course Descriptions and Supply Lists

If your child is age 9 and you are deciding between Pathfinders or Trailblazers, please consider factors such as whether the child is ready for a higher degree of independence in their learning tasks. Depending upon the individual class, more advanced skills in reading or writing may be required. Please refer to each class description to help you make the best choice based on your child's readiness.

Class Name	Semester	Core Subject	Can a student repeat this class?	Description	Required Supplies
Advanced Coding & Robotics	Fall	Science, Math	Yes	In this class, students will utilize LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime materials and curriculum to stretch their problem solving and critical thinking skills as they explore a variety of STEM concepts and experiences.	
Artistic Math *Ages 11-14*	Spring	Math	No	Discover the art in numbers! This hands-on class explores mathematical concepts through creative projects, patterns, and visual design. Students use geometry, symmetry, fractions, and problem-solving to create artwork, puzzles, and designs that make math tangible and fun. Perfect for young creators who love blending creativity and logic and want to see how math shapes the world around them.	
Art Through the Ages	Spring	Social Studies	No	A creative and engaging approach to art history! This course explores the most impactful art movements and masterpieces from around the world. Students will discover how art has evolved and reflected human history, from ancient civilizations to modern-day movements. Students will travel through major artistic periods, including Ancient Egyptian Art, the Renaissance, Impressionism, and Pop Art. For each period studied, students will complete a hands-on art project, experimenting with the materials and techniques specific to that age. This class is perfect for students interested in history, culture, and connecting the stories of the past with their own artistic expression.	
Beginner Cooking	Fall and Spring	Elective	No	Students will be introduced to and become familiarized with basic kitchen equipment and tools, as well as basic cooking techniques for everyday cuisine. We will address food prep (chopping, blending, measuring, mixing, etc.), use of a skillet and stock pot, oven baking, and more. Students will create and enjoy many different types of everyday foods. This class is very teacher-guided every step of the way. Students must be able to adhere to safety requirements involving the use of knives and heat sources!  *This class is not suited for students with food allergies.	apron (optional), hair tie (for long hair)
Beginner Mandarin Chinese 1	Fall	Foreign Language	No	This course introduces young learners to Mandarin Chinese in an engaging and developmentally appropriate way. Students learn Mandarin through interactive activities such as songs, games, crafts-making, movement, and visuals. Lessons are structured yet flexible, allowing students to learn at a comfortable pace while building confidence in listening and speaking. Instruction focuses on foundational vocabulary, simple phrases, and accurate pronunciation. Cultural elements-such as traditions, holidays, and daily life-are woven into lessons to enrich learning and broaden global awareness.	

Big Ideas of US History	Spring	Social Studies	No	<p>"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..." Schoolhouse Rock may be able to teach our students the words to our Constitution's preamble, but it can't help them develop a deep understanding of what the words mean or how they are applied today. Join us for this discussion based class that will focus on reading and analyzing primary source documents and learning more about the context that surrounded the authors who crafted our founding documents. Students will examine our history from multiple perspectives and engage in "Socratic" type seminars, where respectful discourse will be both taught and required.</p> <p>Students should be able to read chapter books with minimal assistance from parents. Parents should be comfortable with students discussing potentially upsetting or controversial topics.</p>	
<p>BUILT 2.0: Dream, Build, Make</p> <p>*Ages 11-14*</p>	Spring	Elective		<p>Unleash your inner architect and designer in this hands-on course, where you will transform a 2-story wood structure kit into a vibrant, personalized miniature world. This class offers four imaginative spaces for you to design, allowing you to create a dynamic building that functions as a home, a business, an apartment complex, or a unique combination of your own design. The course is a comprehensive exploration of architectural modeling and interior design at a miniature scale. You will begin by learning the fundamentals of spatial planning and will practice drawing basic blueprints and floor plans to formalize your vision. The main project involves constructing and meticulously finishing your 2-story model. Key skills and techniques you will master include: Miniature Fabrication: Designing and crafting mini furniture and accessories to scale for each room. Interior Finishing: Learning to select and apply decorative details like wallpaper, textiles, and flooring. Color &amp; Texture: Practicing various painting and finishing techniques to apply paint to walls, trim, and exterior surfaces, bringing your structure to life. Precision Assembly: Developing fine motor skills through detailed cutting, gluing, and constructing the wooden model kit. By the end of this course, you will have a tangible, detailed architectural model that showcases your creativity, technical precision, and understanding of design principles.</p> <p>Advanced, detail oriented artists only.</p>	
Coding with Ozobots	Spring	Science, Math	No	<p>Ozobots are small, programmable robots that help teach coding, math, and science. They are designed to be used in the classroom to engage students in hands-on learning. In this class, students will learn to give different commands to the Ozobots to complete various tasks. Most activities will be screen-free, as Ozobots are designed to follow manually-drawn color-coded paths on paper. Students will also hone their fine motor skills as they practice precision when drawing these lines of code.</p>	
<p>Creative Crochet</p> <p>*Ages 11-14*</p>	Fall	Elective	Yes	<p>This fun and engaging crochet class is designed especially for students who want to learn the art of crochet! No experience is needed—just a love for creativity and hands-on crafting. Students will start with the basics, learning how to hold a crochet hook, make simple stitches, and follow beginner-friendly patterns. Through exciting projects like friendship bracelets, small plushies, and colorful beanies, participants will develop fine motor skills, patience, and creativity. What You'll Learn: Introduction to crochet tools and yarn; Basic stitches (chain, single crochet, increase, decrease, and slip stitch); Simple pattern reading and following instructions; Creating fun and easy projects to take home; Building confidence in crafting and problem-solving. Come stitch, create, and have fun!</p>	

Creative Innovators	Spring	Science, Math	No	Unlock your imagination and bring ideas to life! In this hands-on class, students explore design, invention, and creative problem-solving through fun challenges and projects. From brainstorming solutions to building prototypes and experimenting with materials, learners develop critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation skills. Perfect for curious minds who love to imagine, create, and turn ideas into reality.	
Crime Scene Science	Spring	Science		In this hands-on class, students explore how scientists solve mysteries using clues and evidence. Through fun labs and crime-scene challenges, students learn skills such as observing carefully, taking notes, identifying fingerprints, examining simple patterns, and understanding how different types of evidence can tell a story. Students also discover how real forensic scientists help investigators and why careful, honest work is important. Activities focus on teamwork, problem-solving, and using science to think like a detective.	
Discovery Labs *Ages 7-13*	Fall and Spring	Math, Science, English Language Arts	Yes	Our Discovery Labs serve as spaces to inspire creativity, imagination, and collaboration (if desired). This is an ideal environment for students with lots of big ideas, who thrive when following their own curiosity outside of the structure of a traditional classroom. Students will have the opportunity to engage in teacher-planned activities in each of our labs, in the content areas of Science, STEM, Math, Literacy, or in their own student-led projects. Each lab space is set up with activities and materials that students are free to use and explore. Additionally, quiet rooms for independent homeschool work or projects will also be available. Some materials will be provided, but students may also bring the materials they need for their projects.  If students need support, our Discovery Labs teacher works with each individual student to develop a plan for their time each day, to help them stay engaged and learning within this flexible environment. Students may sign up for as many of these hours as they would like to attend and are not limited to one session per day.	
Earth & Environmental Science	Fall	Science	No	In this class we will cover many different topics, including rocks and minerals, ecosystems, the water cycle, weather, and pollution. Will include interactive and hands-on lessons and experiments.  Students will need to be able to read and write at the age level of the class.	Composition notebook
Eco Art	Fall and Spring	Science	No	Students will become eco-artists by transforming recycled paper, cardboard, fabric, and found objects into 2D mixed media artworks. We will also explore professional recycled-materials artists to learn their process and purpose. This class emphasizes creative problem-solving, craftsmanship, and the elements of art while promoting sustainability through artistic expression.	
Energy & Electricity	Fall and Spring	Science	No	A hands-on STEM class where students explore the principles of energy and electricity. Students learn about different types of energy—such as kinetic, potential, solar, wind, and thermal—and how electricity is generated, transmitted, and distributed. Lessons include interactive demonstrations, simple experiments, and projects to illustrate energy concepts and the flow of electricity from power plants to homes. Students document their observations with drawings, diagrams, and short reflections, building both scientific understanding and critical thinking skills.  For safety, students must be able to follow simple multi-step directions. Grade appropriate fine motor skills for building, cutting and assembling are required. No prior engineering or STEM experience required.	

Exploring America's National Parks  *Ages 11-14*	Spring	Social Studies	No	Embark on an exciting journey across the United States as we explore the breathtaking landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and rich history of America's national parks! In this interactive geography course, students will travel virtually to parks like Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, the Great Smoky Mountains, and more. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students will: Learn about the unique geography, climate, and wildlife of each park Discover the history and cultural significance of these protected lands Participate in creative projects like park brochures By the end of the course, students will have a deeper appreciation for America's natural wonders and the importance of preserving them for future generations. Join us for this adventure into the wild!	
Fractions, Decimals, & Percents  *Fall class: Ages 11-14* (Spring class: standard Trailblazers ages)	Fall and Spring	Math		Fractions, Decimals, and Percents is an engaging and practical math course designed to help students understand and confidently work with three major representations of rational numbers. Through clear instruction, visual models, real-world examples, and plenty of guided practice, learners will discover how these forms connect—and how to use them fluently in everyday situations. In this course, students will explore what fractions, decimals, and percents represent, learn how to convert between them, and apply their understanding to solve meaningful problems. Lessons build progressively, starting with foundational concepts and advancing to operations, comparisons, and multi-step applications. By the end of the course, students will be able to: Interpret and model fractions, decimals, and percents Convert seamlessly between the three forms Compare and order rational numbers Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals Solve real-world problems involving discounts, interest, probability, and data Build strong number sense essential for higher-level math Ideal for upper-elementary and middle school learners, homeschool students, or anyone seeking a solid grasp of rational numbers, Fractions, Decimals, and Percents empowers students with skills they'll use across math, science, finance, and daily life.  Students should be comfortable with Multiplication and Division	
The Green Ember Adventure	Fall	English Language Arts	No	Step into a world of bravery, friendship, and talking rabbits in The Green Ember by S.D. Smith! In this literary adventure, students will journey alongside Heather and Picket as they face danger, courage, and hope in a land on the brink of war. Together, we'll read and discuss the novel, explore its rich themes of loyalty and sacrifice, and bring scenes to life through creative activities such as art, journaling, and group discussions. This class will include in-class reading and some at-home chapters to keep the story moving. Students will strengthen their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills—all while immersing themselves in a story that celebrates light, courage, and the power of family.  Students should be able to read independently at an upper-elementary to middle-school level and write short responses or reflections about the story.	A personal copy of The Green Ember by S.D. Smith
Hands on Equations  *Ages 11-14*	Fall	Math	No	The Hands-On Equations Learning System is a manipulatives-based instructional system that provides young children with an introduction to algebraic linear equations. In this class, students will explore the balanced relationship between two sides of an equation and how equations can help us solve real world problems.	
History Spotlight: Egypt	Spring	Social Studies	No	Deep dive into the history, culture, art, music of ancient and modern day society! Each semester we will focus on a different country.	

History Spotlight: Japan	Fall	Social Studies	No	Deep dive into the history, culture, art, music of ancient and modern day society! Each semester we will focus on a different country.	
The Human Body	Fall	Science	No	Learn all about the human body from cells to body systems, including nutrition and how to keep our bodies healthy. Will include hands-on activities and experiments.  Students will need to be able to read and write at the age level of the class.	
The Human Body STEM Lab	Spring	Science	No	In this hands-on, activity-packed class, students explore how the human body works through the lens of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Each week focuses on a different body system—such as the heart, lungs, brain, muscles, or senses—and includes creative projects, simple experiments, models, and real-world applications. From building working “lungs” to modeling neurons or designing skeleton structures, students will discover the amazing systems that keep us alive while building curiosity, problem-solving skills, and a love of biology. Perfect for curious 9–12-year-olds who enjoy learning by doing!	
Intermediate Cooking	Fall and Spring	Elective	No	Students who have either completed the Beginner Cooking class or who have prior cooking experience and feel pretty comfortable in the kitchen will be a good fit for this class. While the beginner class is teacher-guided every step of the way, this intermediate class is designed to allow students to move a little more at their own pace, rather than having to wait on the whole group to move on to each step. Because of this, students must have the ability to read a recipe independently. We will utilize a variety of kitchen skills to prepare and enjoy many different snacks, treats, and meals. Students will also practice individual responsibility by keeping their cooking stations tidy during the cooking process and by helping to clean at the end of the cooking time.  Students who have completed the Beginner Cooking class or who have prior cooking experience and feel pretty comfortable in the kitchen will be a good fit for this class.  *This class is not suited for students with food allergies.	apron (optional), hair tie (for long hair)
Life Science: Plants & Animals	Spring	Science	No	Starting from the cell, we will learn about the characteristics of plants and animals, classification of living things, life cycles, and the diversity of life. Will include interactive and hands-on lessons and experiments.  Students will need to be able to read and write at the age level of the class.	
Mastering Multiplication & Division	Fall	Math	No	Mastering Multiplication and Division is a comprehensive, skills-focused math course designed to build confidence and fluency with two of the most essential operations in mathematics. Through clear explanations, hands-on practice, and real-world applications, students will develop a deep understanding of how multiplication and division work—and why they matter. Throughout the course, learners will explore multiple strategies for solving problems, including arrays, number lines, fact families, place-value reasoning, and long-form algorithms. The course gradually progresses from foundational concepts to more complex, multi-step problems, ensuring that students build both accuracy and speed. By the end of the course, students will be able to: Understand the relationship between multiplication and division, Efficiently recall and apply multiplication and division facts, Use visual models and mathematical reasoning to solve problems, Apply operations to real-world scenarios, word problems, and multi-digit equations, Build confidence and readiness for more advanced math topics. Perfect for upper-elementary students, or anyone seeking to strengthen their core math skills, Mastering Multiplication and Division	

				<p>makes essential math concepts accessible, engaging, and empowering.</p> <p>Students should already have fluency with Addition and Subtraction</p>	
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature	Fall and Spring	Social Studies, Science	No	<p>Get ready to explore the awesome—and sometimes terrifying—power of our planet! In Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature, students will investigate how earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and floods form, what causes them, and how humans prepare for and respond to these events. Through hands-on experiments, creative projects, and interactive simulations, students will discover the science behind nature's most powerful phenomena while developing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.</p>	
No Rules Sewing	Fall	Elective	Yes	<p>This hand sewing class is all about fun. Students will learn hand sewing skills while working on the projects they want to sew. There will be examples to ignite their creativity and some small projects they can choose from, but they will also have the opportunity to design their own project. Some potential projects students may choose: needle book, bag, small quilt, pillow, etc. There will be needles and scissors, so students should be ready to work with tools safely.</p>	
Ocean Explorers	Fall and Spring	Science	No	<p>Dive into the wonders of the deep blue sea! In this hands-on science and discovery class, students will explore Earth's oceans from the sunlit surface to the mysterious deep. Each week, we'll uncover a new part of the marine world — from coral reefs and tide pools to sharks, whales, and the tiniest plankton that keep our planet alive. Through creative experiments, art projects, and interactive activities, students will learn about ocean zones, currents, marine life adaptations, and the vital role the ocean plays in Earth's ecosystems.</p>	
Paper Engineering	Fall and Spring	Science	No	<p>A hands-on design class where students focus on creating pop-up cards using paper engineering techniques. Each week, students explore different styles and mechanisms for pop-ups, learning to plan, cut, fold, and assemble cards that move and transform. Lessons emphasize problem-solving, creativity, precision, and iterative design. Students document ideas and design steps with sketches and simple notes to develop both artistic and engineering thinking skills.</p> <p>Students should be able to follow multi-step directions. Basic fine motor skills for cutting, folding, and assembling are required. No prior experience with pop-up cards or paper engineering required.</p>	
Performance Theater	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	Yes	<p>This is for students who LOVE theater! Students will be developing their understanding of character development and story elements while also learning how to audition, rehearse and perform a full play. Every student is guaranteed a role. There will be a performance on the last day of class.</p> <p>Prerequisite skills: Reading Fundamentals Recommended</p>	
Persuasive Writing	Spring	English Language Arts	No	<p>Students will develop their persuasive writing skills by exploring a variety of topics from multiple perspectives, and using the writing process to craft essays that are focused, organized, and well elaborated, citing evidence to support their ideas. Students will also learn about the ways persuasive writing is utilized in both business and government, and will have opportunities for real life experiences writing for an authentic audience.</p> <p>Students should be able to write at least 4-5 sentences at one time and should be comfortable reading up to a paragraph of text independently</p>	

Physical Education	Fall and Spring	Elective	Yes	This class will teach body weight exercises, plyometrics, stretching and some high intensity training. Students will gain confidence and skill while learning new sports and games.	Water bottle and appropriate attire
Physical Science	Spring	Science	No	In this class students will learn the basic concepts of Physics and Chemistry, with interactive and hands-on lessons and experiments. Topics will include states of matter, forces and motion, energy, and the scientific method.  Students will need to be able to read and write at the age level of the class.	Composition notebook
Printmaking	Fall and Spring	Elective	No	Students will explore the magic of making multiple images from a single design. They will examine how artists throughout history used printmaking to share their ideas, tell stories, and make patterns. Students will strengthen fine motor, design, and craftsmanship skills through making stamps, monoprints, collagraphs, and more.	
Roots, Shoots, & Leaves	Fall	Science	No	In this hands-on botany and tree science class, students explore the amazing world of plants from the ground up. Each week, we dive into how plants live, grow, and reproduce—learning about roots, stems, leaves, flowers, seeds, and the incredible processes that keep plants alive. Students will conduct simple experiments, build models, and explore plant structures through creative, age-appropriate activities. A key part of this course takes place outdoors, where students become young dendrologists. They'll learn to identify local trees by their leaves, bark, seeds, and shape, keeping a weekly nature journal as they observe seasonal changes in the plant world around them. Perfect for curious 9–12-year-olds, this class blends science, nature exploration, and hands-on discovery to help students connect with the living world in a meaningful way.	Nature Journal with space for drawing and writing
Same Time, Different Place	Fall	Social Studies	Yes	The course will look at history around the globe. Each week will cover a different time period and look at the major events or movements that took place during that period in different countries. Students learn about the different movements that took place simultaneously and how they all intertwined. Creative projects and interactive lessons will make history come alive as we study what happened here , there and everywhere at the same time but in different places.  Students should have a willingness to work in groups and some level of comfort with public speaking.	
Science of Mystery & Magic	Fall	Science	No	Unlock the secrets behind amazing “magic” and mysterious phenomena! In this hands-on class, students explore optical illusions, chemical reactions, disappearing inks, magnetic tricks, and surprising scientific principles that seem like magic—until you discover the science behind them. Students will create their own mystery demonstrations, build confidence in critical thinking, and become scientific “magicians” who know how the world really works.	
Songwriting	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	No	Songwriting is a course designed to teach students how to effectively write lyrics. This class covers all popular genres of music. Students will learn to implement concepts such as Melody, Hooks, Notation, Music Reading, Cadence, Pocket, Delivery, Storytelling, Form and more. While this is a writing class it also doubles as a music class. Students will not only be learning new literary devices, but applying them through musical performance.	Notebook

Stop Motion Animation	Spring	English Language Arts	No	Lights, camera, action! In Stop Motion Animation, young creators will bring their imaginations to life one frame at a time. Using clay, legos, paper cutouts, and everyday objects, students will learn how to tell stories through stop motion animation. Each week, students will explore new techniques—from designing characters and building sets to capturing smooth motion and adding sound effects. They'll work both independently and in small groups to create short animated films full of creativity and personality. Along the way, students will: Learn how stop motion animation works Practice storyboarding and sequencing Experiment with different animation materials and styles Develop teamwork, patience, and creative problem-solving skills	A device (phone or tablet) with the app Stop Motion Studio installed and tested (Optional, but recommended to purchase the premium pack for access to features like green screen and better audio)
The Modern Maker	Fall	Elective	No	Art isn't just history—it's happening right now! In this high-energy course, students will step into the shoes of the world's most influential living artists. We're moving beyond the museum walls to explore how today's creators are using their voices, their cultures, and even new technologies to redefine what art can be.  Each session features a "Spotlight Artist" making waves in the current art scene. We will dissect their unique styles, experiment with their preferred mediums, and uncover the "secret ingredients" that make their work work—from the influence of Old Masters to the impact of modern-day social media and global events.	
Theater Games/Improv	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	Yes	This theater class will focus on building skills through games and improv. We will work on articulation, blocking, characterization and motives all while having fun. This class will not have a performance at the end of the semester.	
US Geography	Fall and Spring	Social Studies	Part 1: Fall Part 2: Spring	This class will cover all 50 States of the United States. We will also learn about different regions of our country, landmarks, state capitals and historical facts. The class will have 2 parts. Class 1 in the fall will cover the first 25 states, and class 2 in the spring will cover the remaining 25 states.  Students will need to be able to read and write at the age level of the class.	Composition notebook
Visual Journaling	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	No	Students will create their own illustrated journals that blend writing and art. Each week they will explore prompts that inspire drawing, collage, and creative writing to build expression, reflection, and storytelling skills.	Strathmore Mixed Media Paper Pad <a href="https://a.co/d/629MeNJ">https://a.co/d/629MeNJ</a>
Women Who Made History	Fall and Spring	Social Studies	Yes	Explore and celebrate Women who made history! From code breakers, scientists, famous authors, poets, pilots and everything in between this course focuses on the accomplishments of women who made history.  Students will need to be able to read and write at the age level of the class.	
Writer's Workshop	Fall	English Language Arts	Yes	Explore all the different types of writing. In this class we will explore technical and creative writing using rich writing prompts and projects. We will have plenty of opportunities to hone our writing skills and discover new approaches to written communication. Each class will have time to edit and brainstorm collaboratively as well as work on our own pieces. We are sure to have a great time. Research shows that creative writing sharpens writing skills across the curriculum, so this class is time well spent. Let's have a good time and enjoy the magic of words together.  Students should be able to write 5-7 complete sentences.	

## Navigators (Ages 13+)- Course Descriptions and Supply Lists

Enrichment Classes Only - [Hybrid classes below](#)

Class Name	Semester	Core Subject	Can a student repeat this class?	Description	Required Supplies
Advanced Coding & Robotics	Spring	Science, Math	Yes	In this class, students will utilize LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime materials and curriculum to stretch their problem solving and critical thinking skills as they explore a variety of STEM concepts and experiences.	
Adventures in Journaling	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	Yes	Journaling is a tool for expressing yourself creatively, processing ideas, and formulating questions. This workshop-style class offers space and time for journaling. Expect writing prompts to get your pen moving, along with cool supplies for creating. We'll explore junk journaling, diary writing, poetry, and borrow ideas from <i>Wreck This Journal</i> by Keri Smith. "Journal writing is not only life-changing but life-expanding." – Jen Williamson.	
Artistic Math *Ages 11-14*	Spring	Math	No	Discover the art in numbers! This hands-on class explores mathematical concepts through creative projects, patterns, and visual design. Students use geometry, symmetry, fractions, and problem-solving to create artwork, puzzles, and designs that make math tangible and fun. Perfect for young creators who love blending creativity and logic and want to see how math shapes the world around them.	
All Things Paper	Spring	Elective	Yes	In All Things Paper, we will learn all about the paper arts by creating mixed media art with paper. Some examples of projects: collage, paper making, printing, gel printing, book binding. Throughout the semester, students will learn the skills needed to create pieces such as collages, journals, and art books.	
Beginner Mandarin Chinese 1	Spring	Foreign Language	No	Over the course of the semester, students build a solid foundation in Mandarin through structured instruction that emphasizes listening, speaking, and accurate pronunciation. The class balances academic rigor with interactive learning to keep students engaged and confident. Students will learn essential vocabulary, basic sentence structures, and Mandarin tones through guided practice, dialogues, and real-life communication activities. Pinyin is introduced to support pronunciation, followed by recognition and writing of selected high-frequency Chinese characters. Cultural topics-such as daily life, traditions,and holidays-are integrated throughout the semester to deepen understanding and global awareness.	
Creative Crochet *Ages 11-14*	Fall	Elective	Yes	This fun and engaging crochet class is designed especially for students who want to learn the art of crochet! No experience is needed—just a love for creativity and hands-on crafting. Students will start with the basics, learning how to hold a crochet hook, make simple stitches, and follow beginner-friendly patterns. Through exciting projects like friendship bracelets, small plushies, and colorful beanies, participants will develop fine motor skills, patience, and creativity. What You'll Learn: Introduction to crochet tools and yarn Basic stitches: chain, single crochet, increase, decrease, and slip stitch -Simple pattern reading and following instructions- Creating fun and easy projects to take home -Building confidence in crafting and problem-solving. Come stitch, create, and have fun!	
Cultural Exploration & World History	Spring	Social Studies	No	This class will take students on a trip to explore the communities and cultures that exist in our world. Starting in Asia and working our way back around the globe to the USA we will discuss how the people live in different countries including their religion, customs, language, art, and food. Then we will look at the history that led to the vibrant society around us. Students will be encouraged to explore the different similarities and differences between the cultures and to use their critical thinking to assess how culture is created and passed down.	

Debate Writing	Spring	English Language Arts	No	<p>This course is designed to equip students with essential persuasive writing and public speaking skills through the exciting world of debate. Students will learn the fundamentals of crafting strong, evidence-based arguments and presenting them confidently and clearly. We will cover argument structure, research, evidence, persuasive techniques, effective refutation and public speaking delivery.</p> <p>Students need to be comfortable engaging in a larger group and should have the ability to read an article and summarize its contents in a paragraph.</p>	
Drawing Plus	Spring	Elective	No	<p>Designed for older students ready to build a serious foundation in visual art, Art Lab is a skill-building intensive focused on the fundamentals of drawing. Students will engage in focused practice to master core concepts, developing their eye and technique. Course Highlights: Drawing Fundamentals: Master the essentials of line, shape, light, and perspective necessary to translate 3D objects onto 2D surfaces. Dry Media Practice: Build practical skills using a variety of dry media, including pencil, charcoal, and pastels, to explore texture, shading, and form. Dedicated Practice: Skill growth is reinforced through structured learning, including worksheets and consistent sketchbook practices. Process-Based Projects: Apply learned techniques to longer-term, process-based projects designed to challenge and expand students' abilities. Watercolor Enhancement: Learn how to use controlled washes of watercolor paint to professionally embellish and enhance finished dry media compositions, adding depth and vibrant color. This course is perfect for dedicated students looking to significantly advance their technical drawing ability and establish a strong portfolio of fundamental skills.</p>	Pencil set with different hardnesses, drawing sketchbook 9x12, waterproof pens
Electronics & Coding	Fall	Science	No	<p>A hands-on STEM class where students design, build, and program interactive projects using Arduino microcontrollers. Students explore circuits, sensors, LEDs, motors, and other components while writing their own code to control them. Lessons emphasize problem-solving, creativity, and iterative design. Students document their process with sketches, diagrams, and short written reflections, strengthening both coding and engineering skills.</p> <p>Prerequisite Skills: Ability to follow multi-step directions. Basic computer literacy (using a mouse, keyboard, and navigating software). Basic familiarity with typing and logical thinking is helpful. No prior electronics or coding experience required</p>	Laptop or computer capable of running Arduino IDE
Enrichment Geometry	Fall and Spring	Math	Yes	<p>This hands-on, project-based course is designed to bring high school Geometry to life through 28 major concepts explored in meaningful, real-world ways. Students may follow their own geometry curriculum at home, while this class provides the practical applications, creative projects, and deeper understanding that make the math truly stick. Each week, students will learn a short, focused lesson on a core geometry topic—such as triangles, transformations, circles, similarity, trigonometry, area &amp; volume, or coordinate geometry—followed by an engaging, real-world application. Class activities may include building scale models, analyzing sports angles, designing artwork with transformations, measuring with trigonometry, exploring architectural structures, or completing woodworking and design challenges. The goal of Real World Geometry is to help students see how geometric thinking shapes the world around them. By connecting classroom concepts to architecture, engineering, art, technology, navigation, nature, and everyday problem-solving, students gain a deeper appreciation for the subject and build confidence applying math outside of a textbook.</p> <p>Students should be in high school level math. This is an adaptable level math class, but basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are necessary.</p>	protractor, compass, basic art supplies
Essential Tech for High School & Beyond	Spring	Elective	No	<p>This hands-on class teaches teens the practical computer skills they need for school and everyday life. Students learn how to format documents in Word, create graphs in Excel, design simple PowerPoints, manage files, use email effectively, and produce clean, professional-looking work. Perfect for any high schooler who wants to feel more confident with essential tech tools.</p>	laptop or tablet that is able to access basic programs used in high school and beyond.

Exploring America's National Parks  *Ages 11-14*	Spring	Social Studies	No	Embark on an exciting journey across the United States as we explore the breathtaking landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and rich history of America's national parks! In this interactive geography course, students will travel virtually to parks like Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, the Great Smoky Mountains, and more. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students will: Learn about the unique geography, climate, and wildlife of each park Discover the history and cultural significance of these protected lands Participate in creative projects like park brochures By the end of the course, students will have a deeper appreciation for America's natural wonders and the importance of preserving them for future generations. Join us for this adventure into the wild!	
Exploring Italian Cuisine & Culture	Fall and Spring	Social Studies	Yes	This hands-on class will help students develop their cooking skills while exploring recipes that represent various Italian food and culture. Students will also learn how Italian culture influences cuisine. Specific skills and techniques will vary based on the recipes that are selected. Students who have either completed another Homeschool Hub cooking class or who have prior cooking experience and feel pretty comfortable in the kitchen will be a good fit for this class. Prerequisite skills: Students should be comfortable with basic cooking skills. Students should be comfortable with basic cooking skills.  *This class is not suited for students with food allergies.	apron (optional), hair tie (for long hair)
Fiber Arts	Spring	Elective	Yes	In this class we will explore all types of fiber based creative work, such as weaving, felting, dyeing, sewing. We will use many different types of fibers, such as yarn, roving, fabric, paper. We will explore beading our own designs and surface design on fabric. The only prerequisite skills are the excitement to be creative and the ability to be safe with tools such as sharp scissors.	
Forensic Science	Fall	Science	No	This course provides an in-depth exploration of the scientific principles and laboratory techniques used in modern forensic investigation. Students examine physical and biological evidence through fingerprint analysis, DNA profiling, bloodstain pattern examination, toxicology testing, fiber and hair microscopy, and crime-scene documentation. Emphasis is placed on the scientific method, data interpretation, proper evidence handling, and critical thinking. Students will complete lab reports, case analyses, and practical investigations that mirror real-world forensic procedures.	Notebook
Fractions, Decimals, & Percents  Ages 11-14*	Fall and Spring	Math		Fractions, Decimals, and Percents is an engaging and practical math course designed to help students understand and confidently work with three major representations of rational numbers. Through clear instruction, visual models, real-world examples, and plenty of guided practice, learners will discover how these forms connect—and how to use them fluently in everyday situations. In this course, students will explore what fractions, decimals, and percents represent, learn how to convert between them, and apply their understanding to solve meaningful problems. Lessons build progressively, starting with foundational concepts and advancing to operations, comparisons, and multi-step applications. By the end of the course, students will be able to: Interpret and model fractions, decimals, and percents Convert seamlessly between the three forms Compare and order rational numbers Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals Solve real-world problems involving discounts, interest, probability, and data Build strong number sense essential for higher-level math Ideal for upper-elementary and middle school learners, homeschool students, or anyone seeking a solid grasp of rational numbers, Fractions, Decimals, and Percents empowers students with skills they'll use across math, science, finance, and daily life. Students should be comfortable with Multiplication and Division	

Fresh Paint	Fall	Elective	No	Dive into the vibrant and fluid world of wet media! This hands-on high school art course, "Fresh Paint," is designed to build foundational skills and confidence using both watercolor and acrylic painting. Through a variety of engaging projects, students will gain a deep understanding of essential painting fundamentals, including: Color Mastery: Learning the principles of color mixing to create rich palettes, subtle tones, and harmonious color schemes. Technical Skills: Mastering critical techniques such as smooth blending, layering, washes, and various brushwork to achieve different textures and effects. This course emphasizes a fun, experimental approach, encouraging students to become more confident in painting by exploring and experimenting with different painting styles, from realism to abstraction. By the end of the semester, every student will have a portfolio of expressive paintings and the technical knowledge to continue their artistic journey.	Set of watercolor brushes and an acrylic brush set.
Fundamentals of Electronics	Spring	Science	No	A hands-on STEM class where students explore the core principles of electronics through building and experimenting with basic circuits. Students work with components such as resistors, LEDs, motors, switches, buzzers, and batteries to understand electricity, current, and circuit design. Lessons focus on problem-solving, critical thinking, and iterative design. Students document their work with sketches, diagrams, and short written reflections to reinforce their understanding of electronic concepts.	
Hands on Equations *Ages 11-14*	Fall	Math	No	The Hands-On Equations Learning System is a manipulatives-based instructional system that provides young children with an introduction to algebraic linear equations. In this class, students will explore the balanced relationship between two sides of an equation and how equations can help us solve real world problems.	
Music Workshop	Fall and Spring	Elective	Yes	Music Workshop students will start by learning the fundamentals of music using pianos, guitars, and their voices. After that, the class will be student-led and follow their interests. We will work as a large group, in small groups and pairs, and one-on-one with the teacher. All students will have the option of performing something of their choice at the Student Showcase. This class is open to musicians of all levels, including complete beginners! Students do not need their own instruments.	1 inch binder
Performance Theater	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	Yes	This is for students who LOVE theater! Students will be developing their understanding of character development and story elements while also learning how to audition, rehearse and perform a full play. Every student is guaranteed a role. There will be a performance on the last day of class.  Prerequisite skills: Reading Fundamentals Recommended	
Personal Finance	Fall	Math	No	This course will prepare students for decisions they will make in the real world as they navigate their own personal finances. Class content will be based on the National Standards for Personal Finance Education.	
Physical Education	Fall and Spring	Elective	Yes	This class will teach body weight exercises, plyometrics, stretching and some high intensity training. Students will gain confidence and skill while learning new sports and games.	Water bottle and appropriate attire
Project Based Government & Civics	Fall	Social Studies	No	Welcome to Project-Based Government & Civics, where learning about our country isn't just reading from a book—it's about doing! This interactive course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of U.S. government, civics, and responsible citizenship through engaging, hands-on projects and activities. We'll Explore the Many areas like. The Foundations of American Democracy, The Three Branches of Government at Federal, State and Local Levels, what it means to be an Active Citizen : Exploring the rights and responsibilities of citizens, including voting, community service, advocating for change, learning how laws are created and how citizens influence policy decisions. Students will get actual experience when they participate in a mock congress and work together to design a community action plan.  Students should have the ability to read and comprehend articles as well as write 1-2 paragraphs at a time. It's also important that they are comfortable working in groups and speaking in front of the class.	

Public Speaking	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	No	In this class we will work in groups to practice our communication skills by working through tricky public speaking exercises (can you speak for 3 minutes about a surprise topic without saying "um"?), doing the basic research needed to speak persuasively, and practicing speaking about engaging topics to our peers.  Students must have a willingness to speak in front of others	
The Science of Nature & Human Wellbeing	Fall	Science	No	This enrichment course gives high school students a practical, science-based understanding of how their bodies and minds work—and how to support both. Through weekly activities, discussions, and lots of time spent outdoors, students explore topics such as stress and the nervous system, sleep and circadian rhythms, nutrition and energy balance, exercise physiology, emotional regulation, and the science of habits. Learners will build real-world skills for managing overwhelm, increasing focus, and improving overall health.	Nature Journal with space for drawing and writing
Songwriting	Fall and Spring	English Language Arts	No	Songwriting is a course designed to teach students how to effectively write lyrics. This class covers all popular genres of music. Students will learn to implement concepts such as Melody, Hooks, Notation, Music Reading, Cadence, Pocket, Delivery, Storytelling, Form and more. While this is a writing class it also doubles as a music class. Students will not only be learning new literary devices, but applying them through musical performance.	Notebook and pen
Tech Theater	Fall and Spring	Elective	Yes	This stage class craft allows students to dabble in many different behind the scenes factors that go into putting a show together. For the first half of the semester, we will construct set pieces and build props. The second half of the semester will be used to create lighting cues, sound effects and projects for the show. Students from the tech class who are available to attend the shows will have the opportunity to run the light and sound board.	Safety glasses and gloves
Teen Art	Fall	Elective	Yes	A process oriented fun art class to explore fine art materials, mediums, and skills, while introducing art concepts, art, and artists from around the world and throughout history. In this class we draw, paint and sculpt with lots of different materials. Some materials we have available: ink, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay, paper, cardboard, wood, paper mache . This is a class for anyone, no experience is needed. Each student is supported where they are in their own creative process.	
Teen Craft Club	Fall	Elective	Yes	Do you love to craft? Are you interested in spending time each week making a new fun project with a variety of interesting materials? Are you brand new to crafting, but excited to learn? In Teen Crafting Club, there will be new craft projects available each week. Throughout the semester we will learn new skills, while making crafts. This class is all about fun and crafting!	A good pair of sharp (adult) scissors for fabric only.
Writer's Workshop	Fall	English Language Arts	Yes	Explore all the different types of writing. In this class we will explore technical and creative writing using rich writing prompts and projects. We will have plenty of opportunities to hone our writing skills and discover new approaches to written communication. Each class will have time to edit and brainstorm collaboratively as well as work on our own pieces. We are sure to have a great time. Research shows that creative writing sharpens writing skills across the curriculum, so this class is time well spent. Let's have a good time and enjoy the magic of words together.  Students should be able to write 5-7 complete sentences.	

## High School Hybrid Classes

Our High School Hybrid classes are designed to provide your student with a more thorough exploration of a given course than a 2 hour/week class can provide. These classes are year-long and will meet during both Fall and Spring semesters.

These classes are hybrid, meaning they will have both an in-person component and additional required work outside of class, approximately 5 hours per class meeting. Students will be expected to keep up with their assignments, submit them on time, and communicate with their teachers through Canvas, our online learning platform. **All students must have use of a computer or tablet with internet access that they can use to access Canvas and electronic course resources.**

Grades will not be provided, but teachers will provide students and families with feedback on their assignments and learning that families can choose to include in their own assessment and awarding of High School class credit. Additionally, the Homeschool Hub will provide each student enrolled in any of our High School Hybrid classes opportunities for social engagement, college or career planning, and more.

Students can take a combination of High School Hybrid classes and our Navigators Enrichment classes, so both types of classes should be considered as you build your student's schedule.

## High School Hybrid Class Descriptions

Class Name	Core Subject	Teacher	Description	Pre-requisites	Required Text/Supplies
Hybrid Biology	Science	Laurina Sigmon	This hands-on, interactive Biology course meets 2 hours per week on campus with a few hours of at-home work. Students explore major biology topics—cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, plants, animals, and human systems—through labs, demonstrations, and engaging activities. The hybrid structure provides both structured instruction and independent learning, giving students a full, high-school Biology credit in an active and supportive environment.	None	None
Hybrid Contemporary Literature	English Language Arts	Nancy Walters	Contemporary literature focuses on the here and now. It's set in the present time, dealing with current events, issues, and modern technology. It is engaging because it's relevant, relatable, diverse, and expands your worldview. Through discussions and writing exercises, we'll explore and respond to literature. Students will read books, short stories, and poetry. Engaging and entertaining writing exercises will be part of every class, along with essay-length assignments. Expect both solo and group work and an environment of delight in the written word. We'll read six to eight books over the year. Emphasis placed on growing as readers and writers and thinkers together. Book list to be finalized. Books will be provided for student use during the year. Titles may include: Warrior Girl Unearthed by Boulley / Station Eleven by Mandel / The Martian by Weir / Born a Crime by Noah / Scythe by Shusterman.	Expect high school reading content, which will include complex themes, nuanced characters, mature language, real-world issues, and coming-of-age narratives.	Notebook Folder for handouts
Hybrid US History	Social Studies		2026 is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence! What a year to study American history! The class will touch on major events and turning points in US history into the 21st century, beginning with North America's rich native culture. Our aim will be developing critical thinking skills by studying multiple viewpoints of events, analyzing primary sources, and asking questions. We'll also work on geography through mapping exercises. Expect reading and writing assignments, as well as building class community through weekly work in pairs and teams. Count on this class as a space to		Laptop/tablet Notebook Folder for handouts  The textbook is selected readings from Students of History online textbook. Completely free online. Supplemented with primary source readings and articles. <a href="https://www.studentsofhistory.com/us-history-textbook">https://www.studentsofhistory.com/us-history-textbook</a>

			embrace curiosity and explore the American experiment.		
Hybrid Spanish 1	Foreign Language	Chelsea Knapp	Spanish 1 will follow the NC World Language Essential Standards. We will cover beginning grammar and vocabulary. Students will work on basic reading, listening and conversation skills.		
Hybrid Spanish 2	Foreign Language	Chelsea Knapp	Spanish 2 builds upon the vocabulary and grammar learned in Spanish 1. Students will expand their ability to communicate in the present and past tenses, improve listening and reading comprehension, and engage in more complex conversations.	Spanish 1	

## Teacher Bios

Teacher Name	Bio
Aimee Walker	Aimee Walker received her BFA in Fiber Arts, taught art to children, and taught preschool, before homeschooling her own children for the last 21 years. When Aimee isn't coaching her son's robotics team, she is busy creating and sewing art quilts and working on a mixed media collaboration with another artist. Aimee believes everyone is creative and should have the opportunity to make art that feels good to them.
Andrea Diagonale	Andrea Diagonale is a long time educator who has dedicated her career to student development since 1991. She is a former public school classroom teacher, reading specialist, and librarian. Andrea has been in her current (and most favorite) role as art teacher for the past 10 years, teaching both elementary and middle school art. Andrea brings a deep commitment to fostering creativity and confidence in young artists. Her goal is to ensure every child finds their voice through hands-on artistic exploration. Andrea is the mother of 3 grown children, a wife, and a small business owner. She enjoys gardening, baking, spending time with her family, and continuing to develop her pickleball and disc golf skills.
Anita Hayes	Anita Hayes has a lifelong passion for working with youth, previously with organizations like the Boys and Girls Club and different track-out camps. She has been teaching Explorers in the homeschooling program for 3 going on 4 years now. She is loving every minute of it!
Annie Polashock	Annie Polashock has a Bachelor's Degree in Middle Grades Education from East Carolina University and a Bachelor's Degree in Data Analytics from Southern New Hampshire University. She has taught middle and high school Mathematics for 12 years. Some of her hobbies include: birding, soccer, dancing, and walking. Annie believes that everyone can learn Mathematics and make it fun too!
Cameron Tripp	Cameron Tripp is a professional musician, recording artist, songwriter and teacher with a performing career of over 13 years. He studied trumpet performance at North Carolina Central University and has taught applied trumpet lessons with children at all levels for over a decade. Cameron is also a personal trainer and basketball coach for Eastern Guilford Middle School Girls Basketball Team. In his spare time this teacher enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, writing, playing video games, watching anime and going outside to break a sweat.
Chelsea Knapp	Chelsea Knapp graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2012 with a degree in Music Education. She worked at Barriskill Dance Theater as the Vocal and Theater Instructor for 8 years. In 2015, she started working with the Chapel Hill/Durham Homeschoolers teaching theater and music classes through Friday Enrichment. In 2017, she founded Piper's Players Homeschool Theater Company.
Dan Taylor	I was an international professional chef for 25 years and retired to spend more time with my family. I began coaching youth sports 7 years ago, leading basketball, football, baseball, soccer and ultimate frisbee. I became a PE teacher for 3 years before deciding to be a homeschool teacher for my family. I love animals, playing sports and being a lifetime learner.

Diana Stojda	Diana Stojda is a lifelong learner who realized that her passion was to make education enjoyable and engaging for school-age learners. In addition to having degrees in pathobiology, clinical laboratory science, and public health, she is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching for Secondary Science at NC State. After leaving a career in molecular assay development for a clinical research organization in 2024, Dr. Stojda has worked primarily in elementary schools with special education students in the Wake County Public School System. She takes pride in working with all types of learners and is very experienced with neurodivergent children. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and 6 year old son, doing hot yoga, and strength training.
Holly Tewell	I've had the privilege of teaching and developing curriculum for students (K - 12) for over 25 years. With a bachelors in Kinesiology and masters in Applied Developmental Psychology, I've enjoyed teaching Physical Education, Social Health, Life Sciences, Writing, and Executive Functioning Skills. Driven by curiosity and creativity, I thrive in environments where I can help students own their journey in learning. I love encouraging each learner to see their value and understand how to pursue a growth mindset with great character and confidence. My favorite teaching job was homeschooling our four children as we moved all over the US and abroad with the US military.
Jade Cao	Hello! 你好! (nǐ hǎo)! I am Jade Cao. Since 2010 when I went from Beijing, China to New York to pursue my graduate studies at St. Johns University, I have had extensive experience teaching Mandarin Chinese to students of all ages. My lessons are designed to strengthen speaking, listening, reading, and writing while incorporating cultural insight and make the language meaningful and relevant. I have taught in public schools, private schools, enrichment programs, and one-on-one settings, helping learners build strong communication skills and confidence.  I believe that when you are learning a foreign language, you are getting to know its culture as well. It is definitely a privilege to be multilingual nowadays. As an English major at a college in Beijing, I chose to take Japanese as my second foreign language. Therefore, when I lived in Beijing, I had good teaching experience trilingually (English, Chinese and Japanese).
Jagriti Sachania	Mrs. Sachania began her passion for education at a private elementary school as a math teacher in 1993. She continued on to volunteer and tutor students in the same public school that her two children were attending at the time. Most recently, Mrs. Sachania joined the Y learning program as a site coordinator. She loves to see the excitement on her students' faces when they have a breakthrough learning moment. Outside of teaching, she enjoys gardening, reading, traveling, and spending time with her family. Mrs. Sachania is eagerly looking forward to getting to know your students, collaborating with them, and crafting a year full of fun and memorable experiences that foster both growth and enjoyment!
Kasey Davidson	My name is Kasey Davidson. I completed my BA at St. Andrews University, in Laurinberg, NC in educational psychology. I love learning and learning how others learn! When I'm not teaching at the homeschool hub, you can find me serving my community as a medical assistant for a physician in Cary! The medical field is near and dear to me and I have been working in this field for 15 years. In my free time, you can find me at one of the local parks or museums with my 2 kids, walking one of my dogs or at the barn with my horse. I am looking forward to meeting new faces and an exciting semester!
Kemai McClain	Kemai McClain is a recent transplant to North Carolina, originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She studied psychology at Howard University and has worked in youth enrichment, literacy, and education for over 10 years. She also has extensive experience in behavioral intervention and crisis management for students. Her passion is inspiring youth to explore the world around them and empowering them to advocate for the world they would like to see. She is a self-described bookworm and museum hopper. When she isn't working with youth she spends her free time watching anime, trying new recipes, crafting, watching plays, and exploring North Carolina's many trails with her family.
Laura Waddey	Laura Waddey has been teaching and learning with children since 2005 as an early childhood educator and then as a homeschooling mom. Laura's love of nature and science inspired her to major in Biology at Mount Holyoke College. After college, her passion for working with young children led her to work in the field of early childhood education as a teacher and then as a certified director. Laura enjoys gardening, hiking and camping, painting, cooking, and spending time with family. She believes that all children are natural born scientists, artists, and inventors and that we only need to provide them with the right environment and care to thrive.

<p>Laura Peleschak</p>	<p>Laura Peleschak has a BFA in Visual Communications and an MS in Early Child Development. She worked in family programming for the Chicago Children’s Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago. She also consulted and conducted research in Chicago Public Schools, Head Start Programs, and private early childcare settings. Laura is passionate about art education, and how it can support a variety of learners in their cognitive development. She enjoys reading, writing, art, North Carolina outdoors, visiting libraries, and spending time with her husband and children.</p>
<p>Lauren Johnson</p>	<p>Lauren Johnson has a Master’s in Special Education and a BS in Family and Child Development. She worked as a special education teacher until she became a mom and started homeschooling her own kiddos. Lauren has always loved sharing her joy of the arts and culture with others. She enjoys the performing arts, thrifting, interior design, remodeling homes, true crime and spending time with her family and Bernese Mountain dog, Moose.</p>
<p>Laurina Sigmon</p>	<p>Laurina Sigmon specializes in teaching science and math courses for late elementary to high school students. She has taught in various settings across NC, including the public schools, environmental education centers, and homeschool environments. She has a BS in Biology and an MS in Zoology with primary studies focusing on environmental education. Laurina's favorite ways to teach include experiential learning and gameschooling. She also spends her free time reading up on educating those with learning differences - particularly autism and dyslexia. Laurina has homeschooled for ten years and just graduated her eldest. She gets most passionate when discussing with others strategies for homeschooling your neurodivergent middle and high schoolers.</p>
<p>Laxmi Priya</p>	<p>I am an experienced educator with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and a Master's degree in Power System Engineering. I have worked as a lecturer in engineering colleges, where I taught undergraduate students, fostering a deep understanding of technical concepts and a passion for learning. Additionally, I have experience working in a preschool setting, where I developed my skills in early childhood education and created a nurturing environment for young learners.</p>
<p>Marlene Mitaly</p>	<p>I am a certified teacher with over 20 years of experience in the classroom. I have a BA in English and a Master’s Degree in Education. I have worked in both middle and high schools as an English Language Arts teacher. As a recent retiree, I was thrilled to discover the YMCA homeschool hub where I could continue my career. Teaching has always been a fulfilling and inspirational part of my life. I truly enjoy seeing students learn, grow and thrive. I am looking forward to teaching cooking classes and sharing exciting experiences with students.</p>
<p>Meg Stone</p>	<p>Meg Stone is a Florida native who transplanted to the Triangle in 2021. She is a graduate of Flagler College (Saint Augustine, FL), and holds both a degree and teaching certificate in Elementary Education, as well as additional endorsements in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), Reading Instruction, and Gifted Education. Meg taught in elementary schools for 15 years, with the final 5 of those years as a gifted education specialist, focusing on the social and emotional needs of intellectually gifted students. Meg joined the Homeschool Hub in the spring of 2022 and enjoys the freedom and creativity that the format of this program affords, both to teachers and students alike. Meg is passionate about teaching through games and other hands-on methods to make learning as engaging and effective as possible. The 2026-2027 school year marks Meg’s 20th year in education.</p>
<p>Megan Runion</p>	<p>Megan Runion is a National Board Certified teacher with 11 years of experience teaching upper elementary school in public schools. She is also licensed in Middle School Math and Gifted Education. Megan is passionate about finding and meeting the individual needs of students and making sure that all students get what they need in order to learn and grow. She believes students learn best when they are engaged in project-based tasks that relate to the real world, and she enjoys providing authentic opportunities for students to have ownership of their learning.</p>

Nancy Walters	Nancy emphasizes fun and delight in her teaching. She previously worked in public relations at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and as an editor and writer for a marketing company. She loves teaching and helping students grow as thinkers through literature and history. Nancy homeschooled her two children through high school and believes deeply in the freedom and wonder of homeschooling. She has a BA in English from the University of New Hampshire and an MA in museum studies from NCSU. If you're in a hurry, do not ask Nancy about her dog Hazel – she will go on and on and only embarrass herself.
Princess Bernard-Oti	Princess Bernard-Oti holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sport Business Management and Sports Medicine/Exercise Physiology from Rice University in Houston, TX. Her passion for education and youth development has guided much of her professional journey. She has worked with students from kindergarten through middle school as a Teaching Assistant, helping children strengthen their math and reading skills through individualized instruction. As a mentor with Girls Inc., she supported middle school girls in building confidence, leadership, and curiosity through engaging, hands-on activities. She also served as an Education Specialist with St. Joseph's Mother and Infant Program, leading group learning sessions focused on health, wellness, and personal development. Princess loves creating inclusive, exploratory learning environments where students feel empowered to ask questions, think creatively, and discover new ways to learn and grow.
Renee Banko	Renee Banko has a BS in Chemistry from Campbell University. Renee worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 10+ years, before deciding to stay home after the birth of her first child. She has 8 years of teaching experience, which began when she started homeschooling her own children, and she has been teaching at the Homeschool Hub since 2022. When not at the Hub, Renee stays busy with her own two kids and enjoys watching both of them compete in competitive swimming.
Stephanie Curri	Stephanie discovered her love of teaching at age 14 when she first began teaching private music lessons to the kids in her neighborhood. She began her more rigorous music education in high school, where she studied classical guitar, music composition, music theory, and recording technology under Dr. Alan Hirsh. She has performed at several music festivals and is the example singing voice featured in several music e-textbooks. She was honored to receive further choral music training on scholarship at the NC Governor's School. Since then, Stephanie has broadened the scope of her teaching by completing her bachelor's degree at NC State in Biomedical STS with minors in biology and psychology. Following the completion of her degree, she received the Bob Patterson Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Teaching. In the spirit of interdisciplinary learning, she looks forward to teaching music and philosophy of science, in addition to having all sorts of learning fun with the Explorers, for years to come!
Tabitha Gowland	Tabitha Gowland has a BA in English and a Master's Degree in Teaching Secondary English. She has worked as a high school and middle school English teacher for 12 years before leaving public education to homeschool her own children (all students at the Homeschool Hub). What she loved most about the classroom was sharing her love of literature and inspiring students to find their own voice in writing. She enjoys reading, hiking with her two dogs, baking, crocheting, and playing board games with her family.
Tori Walker	Tori Walker is a Michigan native, wife, and mom of three. She has spent the past 15 years working with children in various settings and is now a devoted homeschooling mom. Teaching is her passion—she loves helping kids grow, discover their strengths, and develop a lifelong love of learning. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time outdoors.

# Policies and Procedures

## Registration Policies

### Registration

All registration must take place through the YMCA of the Triangle Website. You will need to create an online account to register.

Please make sure you carefully read the descriptions for each of the classes you register for, paying special attention to course content, recommended age ranges, homework expectations, and supply requirements before choosing classes for your child. **All class withdrawals will result in the loss of the \$25 deposit/administrative fee paid at registration.** Please be mindful of this when registering. Transfers that take place due to a waitlist spot opening or a canceled class will not be charged an additional administrative fee.

### Using ESA + Funding

If your child is an NCSEAA grant recipient, the YMCA of the Triangle is an official vendor and can be paid through ClassWallet for some of our classes. Please contact us if this applies to your family for details on how to utilize these funds to pay for Homeschool Hub classes!

### Class Changes

We hope your children will love their classes, but in case something isn't a good fit, our program will have a two week Drop/Add window, beginning on the first day of class. During this time, class changes can be made as long as there is an open spot.

To request a cancellation of a class please contact customer service at 919-719-9622 or [Customer.Service@ymcatriangle.org](mailto:Customer.Service@ymcatriangle.org).

**All class withdrawals will result in the loss of the \$25 deposit/administrative fee paid at registration, even if requested prior to the first day of program.**

After the drop/add window ends we will not be able to accommodate any cancellations. Families will be responsible for the total cost of the classes their students are enrolled in, and we will be unable to issue refunds after this time.

## 2026/2027 Pricing

	YMCA Member	Participant
Explorers Half Day MW	\$607 per class per semester	\$760 per class per semester
Explorers Half Day Tues or Thurs	\$304 per class per semester	\$381 per class per semester
Standard Enrichment Class	\$242 per class per semester	\$303, per class per semester
Specialty Enrichment Class	\$304 per class per semester	\$381 per class per semester
High School Hybrid Class	\$878 per class per year	\$1,096 per class per year

## What to Bring

All students ages 6+ should bring the following basic supplies. Please make sure items are labeled with your child's name. It is very important that students bring these materials every day so that they are able to participate fully in the activities their teachers have planned. Explorers will have a separate list to keep things easier for your youngest students.

- Backpack
- Water Bottle
- Pencil Box with the following: Sharpened Pencils, Colored Pencils or Crayons, Markers, Glue Stick, Scissors
- Clipboard
- 2 Pocket Folder

Students who will be participating in Lunch/Recess should also bring a lunch each day. We are unable to provide lunches for students.

Some classes will have additional required supplies. Please see our Class Descriptions and Supplies sections for more details.

Students should have all materials, including textbooks/workbooks by the first day of class. If this will not be possible for your family, please let us know as soon as possible.

## Family Involvement

### Communication

Our program will use the ClassDojo app to connect families directly to our teachers. You will receive an invitation via email to join ClassDojo. Once you have accepted the invitation, you will be connected to each one of your child(ren)'s classes/teachers. Teachers will use Class Dojo to share pictures and updates about what is happening in the classroom. They may also use this to message you directly.

If questions or concerns about an individual class arise during the course of the semester, please reach out to the teacher via the direct messaging option in ClassDojo. This is often the fastest way to get to a resolution.

Additionally, you will receive a Homeschool Hub monthly newsletter with program related updates. These will be delivered to your email.

### Parent Involvement Opportunities

If you are interested in being more involved in our Homeschool Hub Community, please let us know! Opportunities include subbing for classes (paid position), volunteering in classrooms or at lunch/recess, planning field trips/outings, or joining our Parent Advisory Committee!

## Arrival/Dismissal

Arrival and Dismissal will primarily take place in our Rides In/Out loop, on the right side of the NWC building. Parents should drive through the loop and drop their child off with a staff member.

*Please do not park and send children unaccompanied from the parking lot.* Even our older students must be accompanied and checked in with a staff member before they join our program.

Rides In: 8:20-8:50

Rides Out: 2:00-2:15

**Rides In will end promptly at 8:50 to ensure that all students are able to get to their classrooms before class begins at 9:00.**

Parents who drop off or pick up children outside of these scheduled Rides In/Out times should park, enter the Crosspointe Building through the front doors, and come to our Homeschool Office to sign their child in or out.

If the gym doors are closed, that means there is not a staff member there to check your child in. Please do not drop children off at the gym door or front door without ensuring they have been checked in with a staff member.

### Pickup Procedures

At pickup time, children will only be released to parents, legal guardians and those designated as emergency contacts with pickup on your child's account. Drivers must display YMCA pickup cards or photo identification. If you plan to have anyone else pick up your child, you must notify us in advance.

Severe weather may affect the pickup process. In cases of driving rain and/or lightning, staff will keep children sheltered until conditions improve. This may slow down the pickup process, requiring drivers to wait. The safety of YMCA children and staff is our first priority. The YMCA staff/volunteers do not buckle children of any age into their car seats or fasten seatbelts, even when requested by the parents. We make every effort to be efficient in the Rides Out line. We provide parking spaces or space for a parent to pull up so they can secure their own child.

### Pickup Cards

To ensure the safety of all participants, parents will receive pickup cards on the first day of program. Please clearly print your child's first and last name on the card and display it on the car windshield at pickup time (you may use one card for multiple children). YMCA staff will request a picture ID from anyone who attempts to pick up a child without displaying a card. If you need additional cards for sitters, grandparents, etc., please ask at the program office. If a questionable situation arises, staff will hold the child until a parent has been contacted. A driver's license may be requested for identification.

### Upper School Students

Students who are 13 years old or older and who plan to remain on the NWC Y Site after program ends must be a Y member. Students who have signed themselves out can only be in common Y spaces, and cannot remain in our Homeschool Hub program space. In order for a student to sign themselves out, we must have a signed permission form from their parent/guardian. If this applies to your student, please complete this form and return to Megan Runion.

### Pickup Late Fee

A late fee is charged for children picked up after the last pickup time (2:15 pm). The late fee is \$5 for the first 10 minutes past pickup time and \$1 for each additional minute thereafter. Two staff members will remain with the child until a parent arrives.

# Health and Safety

## Safety at the Homeschool Hub

We want to remind you of YMCA policies and practices that help keep our YMCA youth programs secure for your child.

Parents, family members and any other authorized adult must show their photo I.D. or pick-up card in order to pick up children in our care. Please make sure your emergency contacts are up to date in your online portal and that you've checked the box for "allowed to pick up." Please also confirm that we have the most up-to-date phone numbers for you and your family.

All YMCA staff must complete a variety of trainings that include child abuse prevention, bullying prevention and a variety of other topics on how to keep children safe in a variety of situations.

## When to Stay Home

Please do not send your child to YMCA programs with any of the following symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Excessive coughing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Fever
- Head lice
- Undiagnosed rash, sore, or other skin condition
- Any other contagious disease or symptom

A child must be diarrhea-, vomiting- and fever-free for a full 24 hours before returning to the program.

## Medication Procedures

Please do not pack medication with your child's belongings. Parents (not the child) must bring necessary medications to the program office. Medications must be in their original containers with written instructions for dispensing. A Medication Distribution Form must be provided for staff to dispense all prescription or over the counter medications.

Generally, children are prohibited from having medication with them, unless the medication is dispensed on their person (such as an insulin pump) or a doctor has specifically indicated in writing that the child may self-administer and safety precautions are met for the safe handling of the medication. If a doctor has given this written permission, a copy must be provided to the YMCA. A parent or guardian must give the medication to the program staff. For safety reasons, all medications are stored and locked in the program office.

## ADA Policy

We're committed to providing equal opportunity and access to all children.

YMCA of the Triangle does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of disability or on the basis of any individual's association or relationship with an individual with a disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations offered at any of its locations.

Everyone who attends YMCA programs has unique needs. We are better when we take time to find out what those needs are, build empathy and understanding, and respond to individuals appropriately. The YMCA offers inclusive, welcoming programs dedicated to serving those needs in the best way possible.

Because every person is unique, we address each request individually. Your child's success and safety in our programs are our top priorities; therefore, we respectfully ask parents and caregivers to inform the YMCA, prior to the start of the program, of any special needs which may require special accommodations, so we can work together to support your child in reaching their full potential.

If you have questions about ADA accommodations at the Homeschool Hub, please contact Megan Runion.

## Custody

Please alert the YMCA program office of child custody arrangements. It is imperative that official, current court documents are maintained in your child's file if custody or visitation is a concern. Without court orders, we cannot

withhold a child from his/her parent. Based on the information that you share with us, we will tell you if additional documentation is required. If additional information is required, you may send it to [risk@ymcatriangle.org](mailto:risk@ymcatriangle.org).

The parent(s) who registers the child for the program is responsible for payments. We cannot sub-divide fees.

If parents are separated or divorced with joint custody, both parents must provide written consent for all names on the Emergency Contacts & Authorized Pick-ups list.

#### Volunteers/Visitors

Y Programs do not allow for parent observation or participation, except in rare circumstances when there is a documented student medical need.

Occasionally volunteer opportunities are available. In these cases, all volunteers must register as a volunteer with the Y. Volunteers must receive a background check and complete student safety training prior to volunteering.

## Behavior Expectations

At the YMCA of the Triangle, our behavior expectations and discipline procedures are based on our core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and faith. We believe in creating a safe, secure and fun environment where all youth have the opportunity to learn the importance of demonstrating good character. We believe that in order to do this, all youth need to know and understand the rules and expectations for appropriate behavior. We also believe that when youth do not follow the rules or when they demonstrate inappropriate behavior, we have an opportunity to help youth learn from their mistakes.

The YMCA promotes behavior guidance and discipline through creating a positive environment, developing structure and clear limits, promoting social and emotional learning, reinforcing our core values and addressing challenging behaviors.

All youth are expected to follow the rules established by the YMCA for the safety of all youth in the program. Your cooperation and support ensure that all youth have a safe and fun experience.

### The YMCA does not allow the following behaviors:

Any action that could threaten the physical or emotional safety of the youth, other youth or staff. Prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to:

- Abusive jokes, insults, slurs, threats, name-calling or intimidation
- Destructive behavior
- Behavior that is a violation of personal boundaries or is of a habitual nature and negatively impacts the program, and/or safety and enjoyment of others
- Behavior that is of a sexual nature

The YMCA uses positive discipline, which means staff members promote desired behaviors through teaching and reinforcement. Staff will redirect or problem-solve with youth when they are not displaying desired behaviors, rather than restrict behaviors by taking away opportunities or controlling youth with fear of punishment. We believe this approach focuses on the needs of the youth and contributes positively to the youth's overall development. Staff shall use positive discipline, which shall include the following:

- Communicate to youth using positive statements
- Encourage youth, with adult support, to use their own words and solutions in order to resolve interpersonal conflicts
- Communicate with youth by getting on their level and talking to them in a calm, quiet manner about the behavior that is expected

There are times when restrictions may be necessary and will most likely be directly linked to the health, safety or well-being of the youth or others. The YMCA staff does not use corporal punishment under any circumstance. In the event of a youth harming themselves, another youth, or an adult, staff may physically restrain the youth to ensure safety.

### YMCA Discipline Procedures

The YMCA staff desire to partner with families of the youth in our care. If at any time you have concerns about your child's behavior or success in our program, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Youth Director to set up a conference.

If a youth is unable to meet established behavior expectations, YMCA staff will follow these disciplinary procedures below given that the nature of the behaviors does not require immediate suspension or dismissal.

- Conversation between staff and youth to discuss behavior and reset expectations.
- Staff will first use positive reinforcement and redirection to redirect a youth's behavior. If this is ineffective, staff may use a timeout as an opportunity for the youth to take a break from the behavior before rejoining the group.
- Staff will communicate with parents/guardians if/when youth is not following established YMCA rules. This communication may be at Rides Out, over the phone or via a parent conference.

- If positive discipline and redirection are ineffective in changing the youth's behavior, the Youth Director may suspend the youth. The length of suspension will be determined based on each individual situation. Factors such as type/severity of behavior, behavior history, age of youth, etc. will be considered when determining the length of the suspension.
- If the youth continues to have challenges after a suspension, the Youth Director may set up a conference with the parent/guardian to develop a behavior plan for the youth.
- If suspensions nor a behavior plan are effective in changing the child's behavior, the child may be dismissed from the program. Dismissal from the program for disciplinary reasons could result in permanent removal from all YMCA programs.

### Special Circumstances

The goal of the YMCA of the Triangle is to meaningfully include all youth and provide accommodations in our programs when needed. To help us achieve this goal, we respectfully ask parents or guardians to inform the YMCA, prior to the start of the program, of any special circumstances which may affect your child's ability to participate. By providing information regarding the strengths and needs of your child, the staff can prepare helpful accommodations that will better serve all children in our programs.

Upon being informed of such circumstances, the Program Director or other staff member may request a meeting to gather more information and discuss the accommodations that can be created to successfully include your child.

While we aim to be as inclusive as possible within our classes and we are able to provide some accommodations, students must be able to adhere to our behavior expectations and participate in each class as they are explained in the class descriptions. We provide a variety of teacher-led and student-led environments so that we are able to match students to the appropriate environment for their current needs. Not all classes will be appropriate for all students.

### Bullying and Conflict Resolution

Bullying is any unwanted behavior that involves a power imbalance. Here at the Y, our goal is to stop bullying, and we encourage our participants, parents, and staff to be Upstanders. An Upstander is one who recognizes when something is wrong and acts to make it right. If there is disclosure, discovery, or suspicion of bullying we will handle each instance case by case and with care. At the Y we are building a caring, respectful, honest, and responsible community for all; the safety of our program participants is our main concern.

Conversely, we define conflict as a disagreement or argument in which both sides express their views and there is an equal power balance. We believe conflict with resolution is a natural and important part of Youth Development. Conflict can be constructive if managed in the right way. We will identify and resolve conflicts in a healthy and proactive fashion. The conflict resolution skills we learn and practice will make a positive impact on our Y programs and in every child's future.

## Homeschool Administration

The Homeschool Hub is not a school, and therefore you will remain the administrator of your child's homeschool. Our teachers will provide students with feedback about their progress in class, but will not provide students with graded assignments. We also do not provide attendance records, credits, or transcripts. All state required homeschool documentation should be maintained by each child's homeschool administrator. If you have any questions about what your child is learning, please reach out to the individual teacher for more information.

## Contact Information:

### Address

Northwest Cary YMCA/Crosspointe Church  
6903 Carpenter Fire Station Rd  
Cary, NC 27519

Homeschool Lead Teachers - Megan Runion [Megan.Runion@YMCATriangle.org](mailto:Megan.Runion@YMCATriangle.org)  
Meg Stone [Megan.Stone@YMCATriangle.org](mailto:Megan.Stone@YMCATriangle.org)

## Financial Assistance:

Thanks to funds from our **Annual We Build People Campaign**, the YMCA of the Triangle provides financial assistance for children, teens, adults and families who cannot afford the full cost of YMCA programs. All are welcome to **apply for financial assistance**.

# Schedule Planning Template

Feel free to print this page and use it to plan out your child's schedule.

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Monday/Wednesday P1 - 9:00-9:55		
Monday/Wednesday P2 - 10:00-10:55		
Monday/Wednesday P3 - 12:00-12:55		
Monday/Wednesday P4 - 1:00-1:55		
Tuesday AM 9:00-10:55		
Tuesday PM 12:00-1:55		
Thursday AM 9:00-10:55		
Thursday PM 12:00-1:55		