### **2023-2024 Session 1** August 21-October 13, 2023



loftacademy.org

#### Inspiring curiosity through a personalized, project-based learning experience

2023/24 Session 1 – Monday, August 21 to Friday, October 13, 2023 310.707.8538 | 500 CENTER STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) 81-4353194

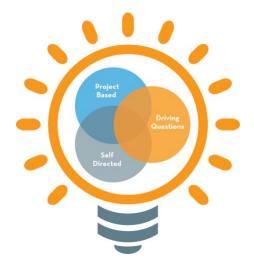
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## Welcome to the LOFT!

Our mission is to inspire curiosity in students through a personalized, hands-on, projectbased learning experience. We also strongly believe in the power of Socratic discussion and all classes are geared towards student engagement with the material through this method.

At The LOFT, our goals are to support, enhance, and develop a joy for learning. We're excited to inspire your children this year and beyond!

Our labs and one-to-one instruction are aligned with California Standards. We provide Da Vinci Connection and homeschool families with work journal documentation including quality work samples.



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Small Group	

#### 2023-2024 Session 1 Schedule

The Loft is available for parent meet-ups and other pre-approved rental needs from our community. Please reach out to the Director if interested.

The Cohort program is best-experienced in-person and the expectation is the group will participate on campus unless illness, or such, prevents attendance.

First Day: Monday, August 21, 2023

Last Day: Friday, October 13, 2023

#### **Duration:**

- o 8 Weeks of instruction for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Labs
- 7 weeks of instruction for Monday Labs due to holiday(s):
  - No Monday Labs on: Labor Day Monday, September 4, 2023

Туре	Number of Meetings Per week/ Session	Hours Per Week	Hours Per Session	Session Price
Labs	1 per week 8 per session	2	16	\$320
The Cohort – learning group for early teens	2 x per week 16 per session	8	64	\$1,280
Labs on Monday – less days due to Holiday	1 per week 7 per session	2	14	\$280
Tutoring – 2 learners for one hour - each				\$50
Tutoring – private 1 learner for one hour				\$85
Culture Club *food supplies	1 per week 8 per session	2	16	\$340

#### Price and Billing

- Invoices will be sent out this year through QuickBooks and are due by the first day of the Session. We are approved vendors for: Blueridge and ILead.
- All students will be given a LOFT email address upon enrollment/payment.
- Commitment and billing are for the full session.
- There are no refunds or make-up classes if you miss a lab.
- As a non-profit, the LOFT appreciates donations and timely payments.
- A price adjustment is provided for holidays or labs canceled by the LOFT.
- The LOFT may cancel a lab if the minimum number of students is not achieved or charge small group rates.

#### Payment

- Make checks payable to LOFT Academy US.
- The LOFT accepts credit card payments. A 4% processing fee is charged.

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#### General

- Signed acknowledgment of policies and release of liability must be submitted prior to attending The LOFT.
- For in-person classes, social and food breaks are built into the day. Each hour is approximately 50 minutes of instruction.
- ✤ For in person classes, please bring a lunch/snacks and labelled water bottle.
- The LOFT is an electronic game free zone unless approval is given. Cell phone usage for parent/child communication only, please.

#### Hardship

The LOFT is a non-profit organization and committed to offering a personalized learning experience to all. To date, we are proud to say we have helped many families with reduced tuition assistance. Unfortunately, money only goes so far, and the LOFT's scholarship fund and discounting ability has been exhausted. However, if financial hardship is preventing you from participating, please provide evidence of hardship to see if an extended payment arrangement can be made. We hope to have new donations made in the near future by generous supporters to help additional family's financial needs.

#### **Donations**

It is through the generous donation of our community we are able to keep the cost for this premium learning experience so low. **Please consider The LOFT in your charitable contributions.** Donations help fund programs and extend our reach into the community to offer scholarships.

#### 501(c)(3) 81-4355194

## **Schedule At-A-Glance**

### Monday

	Time	Subject	Grades	Title	Facilitator(s)	Cost
		9:00 to 11:00				
	9:00 to 11:00	HS	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Raise the Bar (IEW Writing)	David	\$280
~	9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Foundational Math	Brad	\$280
	11:30 to 1:20	ELA/HS	4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	History Alive! The Californians: Our History Beyond the 405	Trevor/David	\$280
	11:30 to 1:20	Math	6 <sup>th</sup> -8th	Creative Writing	Brad	\$280
		1:30 to 3:20				
	1:30 to 3:20	HS/ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Big History Project, Level 3 *must have taken levels 1 & 2	David	\$280
	1:30 to 3:20	Math	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Beast Academy Math Workshop	Trevor	\$280
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		3:30 to 4:30				
	3:30 to 4:30	ELA	1 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Tutor	David	tutor
	3:30 to 4:30	Math	1 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Tutor	Brad	tutor

Subject Key:			
ELA	English Language Arts	SEL	Social & Emotional Learning
Math	Math	HS	History and Social Science
СТ	Critical Thinking	PF	Arts/Performance
SC	Science	LAN	Foreign Language
PS	Problem Solving		

### Tuesday

Time	Subje	ect Grade	es	Title	Facilitat	or(s)	Cost
		9:00 to 11:00					
9:00 to 11:00		HS/CT	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Research Topics-LOFT Angeles Times *library ca	ard	David	\$320
9:00 to 11:00		Math	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Algebra I		Brad	\$320
		11:30 to 1:20					
11:30 to 1:20		ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Math Fundamentals		Brad	\$320
11:30 to 1:20		Cooking/ELA	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Culture Club		David	\$340
11:30 to 3:20*		CT/SC/PS/ ELA/SEL/HS	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	*Cohort – Believing is Seeing		Rick/Dilette	\$1,280
		1:30 to 3:20					
1:30 to 3:20		HS	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Feel the Power! The Science and Physics Behind I	Energy	Trevor	\$320
1:30 to 3:20		ELA/PS/CT	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare		David	\$320
1:30 to 3:20		Math	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	Art Architecture and Design		Brad	\$320
11:30 to 3:20*		CT/SC/PS/ ELA/SEL/HS	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Cohort – Believing is Seeing		Rick/Dilette	-
		3:45 to 5:30					
3:30 to 4:30		ELA	1 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Tutor		David	Tutor
3:30 to 4:30		Math	1 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Tutor		Brad	Tutor

Subject Key:			
ELA	English Language Arts	SEL	Social & Emotional Learning
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SC	Science	LAN	Foreign Language
PS	Problem Solving		

### Wednesday

	Time	Subject	Grades	Title	Facilitator(s)	Cost
		9:00 to 11:00				
	9:00 to 11:00	ELA	5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup>	Raise the Bar- Writing *beginners welcome	David	\$320
	9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	CPM 2, 3 Upper level CPM review	Brad	\$320
	9:00 to 11:00	CT/SC	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Feel the Power! The Science and Physics Behind Energy	Trevor	\$320
		11:30 to 1:20				
	11:30 to 1:20	ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Creative Writing Intensive	Brad	\$320
	11:30 to 1:20	ELA	5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	CPM 1, So You're entering CPM?	Trevor	\$320
7	11:30 to 3:20*	CT/SC/PS/	7th-8th	Cohort* – Believing is Seeing	Rick/Dilette	-
		ELA/SEL/HS				
		1:30 to 3:20				
	1:30 to 3:20	HIS/ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Big History Project Level 3, *must have taken levels 1 & 2	David	\$320
	1:30 to 3:20	Math	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Art, Architecture and Design	Brad	\$320
	11:30 to 3:20*	CT/SC/PS/	7th-8th	Cohort – Believing is Seeing	Rick/Dilette	-
		ELA/SEL/HS				
		3:30-5:30				
	3:30 to 5:30	LAN	5 <sup>th</sup> -8th	Immersion Spanish	Carlos	\$320
	3:30 to 4:30	ELA	1 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Tutoring Intervention	David	\$85/hr

### Thursday

Time	Subject	Grades	Title	Facilitator(s)	Cost
	9:00 to 11:00				
9:00 to 11:00	ELA/HS	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Raise the Bar, Summarizing Multiple References	David	\$320
9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Foundations in Mathematics	Brad	\$320
	11:30 to 1:20				
11:30 to 1:20	HIS	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	History Alive! (Not So) Ancient Civilizations	Trevor/David	\$320
11:30 to 1:20	ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Creative Writing	Brad	\$320
11:30 to 1:20	LAN	4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Immersion Spanish	Carlos/Majo	\$320
	1:30 to 3:20				
1:30 to 3:20	PF/HS	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Say What? The Art of Debate	David	\$320
1:30 to 3:20	ELA	4th-5 <sup>th</sup>	Mega-Manga Graphic Novel Lab	Brad	\$320
1:30 to 3:20	Math	6 <sup>th</sup>	CPM 1, So You're entering CPM?	Trevor	\$320
	3:45 to 5:30				
3:30 to 4:30	ELA	4th-5th	Tutor	David	Tutor
3:30 to 4:30	Math	4th-5th	Tutor	Brad	Tutor

Subject Key:			
ELA	English Language Arts	SEL	Social & Emotional Learning
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PS	Problem Solving		

### Friday

	Time	Subject	Grades	Title	Facilitator(s)	Cost
		9:00 to 11:00	)			
	9:00 to 11:00	ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Raise the Bar, Level 2 & 3	David	\$320
	9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Algebra I	Brad	\$320
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N		11:30 to 1:20	)			
	11:30-1:20	ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	The Beauty of the Short Story	David	\$320
K	11:30-1:20	Math	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	Foundational Math and the Mathlete	Brad	\$320
	11:30-1:20	SCI	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Feel The Power! The Science of Energy	Trevor	\$320
		1:30 to 3:20				
	1:30 to 3:20	ELA	All	Tutoring	David	\$85/Hr
	1:30 to 3:20	Math/ELA	4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup>	Geography101	Brad	\$320
	1:30 to 3:20	Math	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Beast Academy Math Workshop	Trevor	\$320
		4:30 to 5:30				
	3:30 to 4:30	ELA	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Tutor- Reading Comprehension (1-1)	David	Tutor
	3:30 to 4:30	Math	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Tutor- Math Fundamentals (1-1)	Brad	Tutor

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# The COHORT

The Cohort is an **engaging**, **project-based**, **academic program designed to develop critical thinkers while expanding social skills**. The program is designed for a small group of early teens to move through the yearlong curriculum together. The small group setting promotes trust within the peer-group to facilitate deep and lively conversations that stimulate critical thinking, cooperation, and social skills.

The Cohort meets twice a week for four hours and is designed to build a community of inquiry over the course of the year. 21st century skills will be developed through collaboration, research, questioning, and analyzing with peers in academic areas such as science, reading, writing, and philosophy!

As members of the Cohort pursue their studies, they will receive guidance and support from co-teachers, Rick Sharp and Dilette Chiprin. Together, Rick and Dilette bring over 45 years of experience as masters of leading constructivist style learning, socialemotional development, and problem-solving skills.

The consistency of the cohort members and the length of time they spend together builds trust and promotes deep learning and lively discussions. The topics are designed to exercise academic muscle and promote critical thinking as well as social and emotional learning.

The Cohort meets 16 times over 8 weeks, for a total of 64 hours of group instruction.

#### The Cohort (age target: early teens)

Grade Target:	early teens
Meeting frequency:	TWO times per week on Tuesday AND Wednesday
Time:	11:30am - 3:20pm
Number of meetings	16 meetings spanning 8 weeks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Facilitators:	Rick and Dilette – teaching partners
Subjects covered:	Science, neuroscience, reading, writing, social & emotional
	learning, critical thinking, and problem solving.
Commitment:	Year-long commitment strongly recommended

#### **Session 1: Seeing is Believing**

#### **Description:**

The main goals of the cohort are to build critical thinking, problem solving, and social connection. When we mix those all together we get what we call a Community of Inquiry. We are very excited that this year's course of study, "Believing is Seeing", a broad ranging investigation into illusions, will allow so many exciting possibilities for

"minds-on" and hands-on activities. Our goal is to develop critical thinking, selfawareness, social awareness, and learn about how our brains work and don't work. (Well, they always work... but sometimes they mislead us..., which doesn't mean they don't work, they work just the way they are supposed to... but they don't do what we think they are doing... Unless we learn what they do do! Wait! Did we just say do do?

Our goal is to build a Culture of Thinking from which we will investigate emergent interests, issues, and problems in a trusting environment of engaged learners that leads us forward into a sustained Community of Inquiry over the coming sessions of the year. This class meets on Tuesday and Wednesday from 11:30am to 3:20pm.

Home Practice:	Yes, approximately 1.5 – 3 hours per week
Materials:	Yes, check with Rick and Dilette
Chromebook:	The Cohort will make use of Chromebooks in their project work. If you do not have a Chromebook or access to a computer with a
	Chrome browser, we have a limited number that can be used while
	at The Loft.
Work journal support:	Work samples and description of class progress will be provided
	via Google Docs for you to fulfill DVC work journals or charter
	school proof of learning requirements.
Grade Target:	7th – 8th Cohort (6th with approval)
In-person	Due to the nature of hands-on projects and the lively discussion,
attendance	the Cohort is best delivered in-person.
Commitment:	The Cohort is designed to build a community of inquiry over the
	course of the academic year. As such, students are highly
	encouraged to attend all sessions.

#### **Application for The Cohort**

Inclusion in The Cohort is based on an application and a family interview to ensure a good fit. True to our mission statement, class size will be limited to an 8:1 teacher to student ratio.

If interested in joining The Cohort, please apply and we will schedule a family interview.

https://www.loftacademy.org/middle-school-cohort/#about

#### **Student Questionnaire**

Please have your student print and complete the "Student Questionnaire" document to bring with them during their interview.

https://www.loftacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/STUDENT-QUESTIONNAIRE-MSC.pdf

## **SCIENCE LAB DESCRIPTIONS**

Feel the Power! The Science and Physics Behind Energy

**Grade Target**: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> **Facilitator**: Trevor **Materials**: Included

**Description:** Energy is all around us, powering and changing our world relentlessly. In this class, we will identify the energy sources that fuel our community, our environment, and ourselves. We'll get hands-on in harnessing energy sources to make things move and explore questions of sustainability and efficiency. Get ready to explore what heat, height, and hummus all have in common!

#### The Cohort: Believing is Seeing

(see above for more details about the Cohort)
Grade Target: early teens
Meeting frequency: TWO times per week on Tuesday AND Wednesday
Time: 11:30am - 3:20pm
Facilitator: Rick and Dilette
Commitment: Year-long commitment strongly recommended
Description: We are very excited that this year's course of study, "Believing is Seeing",

a broad ranging investigation into illusions, will allow so many exciting possibilities for "minds-on" and hands-on activities. Our goal is to develop critical thinking, selfawareness, social awareness, and learn about how our brains work and don't work. (Well, they always work... but sometimes they mislead us..., which doesn't mean they don't work, they work just the way they are supposed to... but they don't do what we think they are doing... Unless we learn what they do do! Wait! Did we just say do do?

Through readings in primary sources, history, and historical fiction, investigations into art using the Getty's D.B.A.E (Discipline Based Art Education), hands on, personal rediscovery of major scientific discoveries, and discussion-based learning in the Enlightenment style, we will immerse ourselves in the joy, excitement, exhilaration, and connection of Enlightenment thinking. Sounds fun doesn't it?! We certainly believe it will be.

#### Geography 101

Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Brad Materials: Included

**Description:** Learn the basics of cartography, the world map controversy, the nations of the world and their capitals, the states of our nation and their capitals, as well as some of how geography and weather come together.

## **MATH LABS DESCRIPTIONS**

Foundational Math Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Brad Materials: Included

**Description:** All math simply begins with counting. Whether by counting up, down, in groups, or out, Brad will work to improve your kiddo's numeracy, and hone their dexterity with the basic algorithms. As confidence grows, fractions, decimals, percentages, and algebra will be either introduced, or worked over so that students really can stretch and grow!

Art Architecture and Design Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Brad Materials: Included

**Description:** Taking inspiration from the intersection of math and nature this class will be an immersive, hands-on lab where students design and build solid structures including: cathedrals, large indoor spaces, and other famous design monuments.

Beast Academy Math Workshop Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Trevor Materials: Beast Math book (level 3, 4, or 5 based on assessment) prior to first d

**Description:** We will journey through Beast Academy's comics and workbooks to engage all types of learners. Students will problem-solve and think critically as they deepen and advance their math skills. Puzzles, stories, and other creative entry points will help each student grasp each concept. Some online home practice will be requested.

Algebra I Grade Target: 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Brad Materials: Included

**Description:** A smaller and more purposeful class aimed at aiding students who want to move ahead in math in middle school and high school. The course will cover the material from Algebra I in a fun and different way as we work on understanding and facility with the concepts and topics from basic algebra equations to proofs and an intro to advanced topics.

#### So, You're Entering CPM 1? Grade Target: 6th

**Facilitator:** Trevor **Materials:** Students will be asked to bring their current CPM lessons, either printed or on their laptop.

**Description:** Let us help rev up those *RPM's* as we tackle first year CPM's! This lab is intended for incoming 6th grade students that are using the CPM (College Preparatory Math) curriculum. Students will work on completing and making corrections on their current assignments while receiving tutoring on the content as needed. Whether it's completing the review/preview, or doing the weekly assignment(s). We will assist in filling in the gaps and providing the confidence to move through this curriculum.

#### **CPM Math Upper-Levels**, 2/3

**Grade Target**: 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> **Facilitator:** Brad **Materials:** Students will be asked to bring their current CPM lessons, either printed or on their laptop.

**Description:** This lab is intended for 7th-8th grade students that are using the CPM 2 or 3 curriculum. Students will work on completing and making corrections on their current assignments while receiving tutoring on the content as needed. We will follow the timeline for assignments provided to DV Connect students.

Brad has tutored groups of junior high and high school students in a similar fashion and is looking forward to helping students at the LOFT with this same model.

Some of the benefits of this model include; having an intentional space and adequate block of time for students to study and complete their work, the presence of a tutor to help with challenging content, learning through working collaboratively and helping fellow students and the opportunity to practice organizational and study skills.

Math Foundational Skills, Level 3 Grade Target: 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

#### Facilitator: Brad Materials: Included

**Description:** Math is a language complete with an alphabet, punctuation, grammar, and syntax. As the concepts become more complicated, like algebra, integers, exponents, and geometry, being "fluent" in that language becomes more and more important for developing confidence and competence. This lab will focus on the fundamentals and developing key skills so that students can speak, read, and write math. Hands-on work with story problems and projects will highlight this dynamic lab.

#### Tutoring, Math – Levels 1, 2, and 3

Grade Target: All Schedule: Monday to Friday Facilitator: Varies Materials: Included

**Description:** We offer comprehensive, one-to-one tutoring in math from 1<sup>st</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Whether your young one needs a little foundational support, full intervention, or just a boost, we will provide support in a caring environment and encourage their growth.

## ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS DESCRIPTIONS

#### The Beauty of the Short Story

Grade Target: 6<sup>th</sup>,7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: David Materials: Books needed for purchase: "Flying Lessons & Other Stories" (Edited by Ellen Oh), and "Been There, Done That- Writing Stories From Real Life" (Edited by Mike Winchell)

**Description:** In this lab, we will read examples of great short stories based on the student's interests and then work on developing the student's own story ideas in an intimate, supportive, master class type environment.

Mega-Manga Graphic Novel Lab Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Brad Materials: Included

**Description:** Explore this medium that combines art and story-telling this year! We'll begin by reading famous stories that have been turned into graphic novels, and then some new material that bridges the gap like the John Lewis biography in this style. Over the course of the session we'll develop techniques on: character creation, plot evolution, conflicts and themes. With stories in hand we will storyboard and create our own graphic narratives using free-hand or computer art from *Storyboard That*. Class will culminate on a 'comic-con' inspired final day to share work with each other and others at The LOFT.

Big History Project, Level 2 & 3 Grade Target: 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: David Materials: Included

**Description:** Harness the curiosity and creativity of your students with a supercharged social studies curriculum that gets beyond facts. Following the curriculum with inspired Socratic discussion, students in this lab will draw mind-blowing connections between past, present and future.

BHP delivers a big picture look at the world, and helps students develop a framework to organize what they're learning both in and out of school. After they leave this class, students will have a better understanding of how we got here, where we're going, and how they fit in. It's a place that was 13.8 billion years in the making.

This lab will be modified to fit into the Loft's weekly time block and will continue into the next session.

Raise the Bar: building writing skills (IEW) \*Check calendar for levels Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: David Materials: Included

**Description:** Reading is language function, while writing is a motor function. This class will merge the two using key-word outlines. We will build the skills to succeed: helping students understand that research, organizing, clarifying ideas, and improving grammar and presentation are all essential to strong writing. I'm following along with Ken Pudewa's Student Writing Intensive process. It is important to note that this is a technical approach to mastery through developing and practicing a new skill in graduated steps.

Resources: Ken Pudewa IEW spelling podcast- extension

Say What?! The Art of Debate Grade Target: 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: David Materials: None

**Description:** A number of studies have reported that participation in debate increases critical thinking skills with students. Debate participation promotes problem solving and innovative thinking, and helps students to build links between words and ideas that make concepts more meaningful. Students will learn to see the value in both sides of an issue. As F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, "The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function."

Creative Writing Intensive Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>,5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Brad Materials: Included

**Description:** Students may feel reluctant and threatened by a blank piece of paper and a request to write a story about a given topic. However, with some inspiration and fun activities, reluctant writers gain confidence and eager writers gain the skills to create higher quality writing. We'll start with the six traits of writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions and see where go from there!

The LOFT Angeles Times, Research Topics Grade Target: 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Facilitators: David C. Materials: Please have an active library card from the El Segundo branch

**Description:** This class is going to switch up the traditional newspaper research and shift our emphasis to hand-writing a research paper. We'll demystify the ancient art of researching without a computer as we practice creating bibliography cards, outlines and other resources at the library to write a paper we can be truly proud of. Classes will occasionally meet at the El Segundo Library.

#### **1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare**

**Grade target**: 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> **Facilitator:** David C. **Materials**: Please purchase James Shapiro's 1599, A Year in the Life prior to class

**Description:** How did Shakespeare go from being a talented poet and playwright to become one of the greatest writers who ever lived? Join us for a read of the fabulous and accessible book: "1599 A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare" by James Shapiro as we learn some interesting tidbits about how he became the legend we know today. The second half of this class (and into session 2) will look at how actors use the text (prose vs verse) and we will 100% get up on our feet to act out short scenes or monologues ourselves!

History Alive! (Not So) Ancient Civilizations

Grade Target: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Trevor/David Materials: Included

**Description:** Is it possible that our 'ancient' past is really our present tense? What makes a civilization "civil"? What made certain ancient societies especially unique and prosperous? Students will build an understanding of how advanced civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Maya functioned. Amidst comparing and contrasting the key elements of these societies (government, economics, art, geography, religion, etc.), students will have the opportunity to develop their own thriving civilization. What will be your staple crop? Who (if anyone) do the citizens worship and why? How do they communicate? What's the meaning of that purple tower over there and perhaps most importantly, what could these civilizations teach us about our world today?

History Alive! The Californians: Our History Beyond the 405 Grade Target: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator: Trevor/ David Materials: Included

**Description:** What would it have been like to live in the South Bay 400 years ago? What might a Chinese laborer traveling 6,000 miles on a ship to San Francisco in 1855 have been pondering? California has showcased an incredible variety of human experiences. How people have interacted with the land's resources and their fellow

Californians has made our state's history complex and riveting. While the 49ers and the Spanish missions have been spotlighted for decades, this class will dive into the lives and times of the more overlooked Californians – indigenous and immigrant populations. How did the first nations of California thrive? What pushed and pulled immigrant populations to California in such historic numbers? How did these populations endure the challenging relationships with Europeans and Americans? We will discover through historical texts, primary sources, and role-play. This class will look for connections to broader U.S. history as we progress through the year.

#### **Culture Club**

**Grade target**: 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> **Facilitator:** David C. **Materials**: Additional \$20 fee included in tuition for food prep. Please advise Center Director if any allergies are present with student.

**Description:** Students will still explore and experience world cultures in this 'foodie' immersive lab. Students will build a definition of the word together by looking at geological, historical changes, as well as various fauna and flora in world regions. They will read stories from different countries, explore those cultures on a map, and cook and eat foods when we can that represent various cultural traditions. In addition, students will celebrate and write stories around various cultural traditions.

Tutoring, Reading and Writing – Levels 1, 2, and 3
Grade Target: All
Schedule: Monday to Friday
Facilitator: Varies
Materials: Included
Description: We offer comprehensive, one-to-one tutoring in language arts from 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Whether your young one needs a little foundational support, full intervention, or just a boost, we will provide support in a caring environment and encourage their growth.

## **SPANISH DESCRIPTIONS**

Spanish Immersion for Beginners + - Level 1, 2, and 3

**Grade Target**: Appropriate for anyone interested in learning Spanish **Facilitator**: Carlos/Majo

Materials: Included

**Description:** The most effective way to learn something new is to do it! Through projects such as cooking, science, board games, and other fun-filled activities, Spanish vocabulary and phrases will be heard/spoken/read/written and brought to life through the relevance of the activity.

## **TUTORING & SMALL GROUPS**

#### **ONE to One Tutoring – Private**

**Grade Target**: 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> **Schedule:** Monday to Friday available **Price:** \$85 **Time**: per hour **Description:** We offer comprehensive,

**Description:** We offer comprehensive, one-to-one tutoring in all subject areas from 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Whether your young one needs a little foundational support, full intervention, or just a boost - let us help you reach your academic goals.

#### **TWO to One Tutoring – 2 learners**

**Grade Target**: 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> **Schedule:** Monday to Friday available **Price:** \$50 per learner **Time:** per hour

**Description:** We offer comprehensive tutoring in all subject areas. Partner up with a buddy at a similar academic level and enjoy the fun of learning together. Whether your young one needs a little foundational support, full intervention, or just a boost - let us help you reach your academic goals.

#### **Small Group**

**Grade Target**: 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> **Schedule:** Monday to Friday available

**Price:** \$500 per learner for a 11-week session. A small group has 4 learners (or more at the group's request).

Time: Small groups meet for 2 hours.

**Description:** The LOFT will design a Lab to meet your specific needs for your small group.