

2023-2024 Session 3

January 16- March 22, 2024



Inspiring curiosity through a personalized, project-based learning experience

2023/24 Session 3 – Tuesday, January 16 to Friday, March 22, 2024

310.707.8538 | 500 CENTER STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245

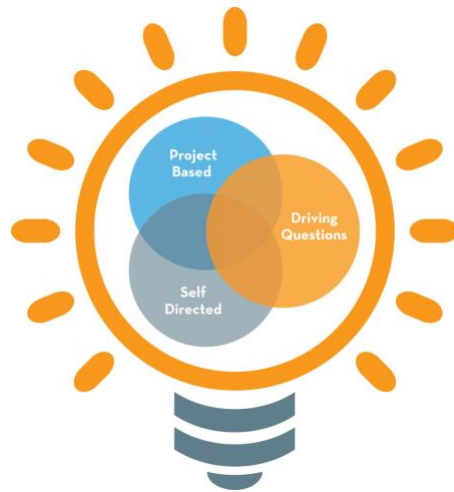
Nonprofit 501(c)(3) 81-4353194

Welcome to the LOFT!

Our mission is to inspire curiosity in students through a personalized, hands-on, project-based 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.



The LOFT Information Outline

Welcome to the LOFT!	2
Price and Billing	5
Donations	6
Schedule At-A-Glance	7
Monday	7
Tuesday	8
Wednesday	9
Thursday	10
Friday	11
The COHORT	12
The Cohort (age target: early teens)	12
Application for The Cohort	13
SCIENCE LAB DESCRIPTIONS	14
Introduction to Biology	14
Whoa, Science!	14
Introduction to Chemistry	14
The Cohort: Believing is Seeing	15
MATH LABS DESCRIPTIONS	16
Foundational Math	16
Art Architecture and Design	16
Beast Academy Math Workshop	16
Algebra I	17
So, You're In CPM 1 or 2?	17
CPM Math Upper-Levels, 2/3	17
Math Foundational Skills, Level 3	17
Tutoring, Math – Levels 1, 2, and 3	18
ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS DESCRIPTIONS	19
Here Comes the Song: Exploring the Art of Songwriting	19
The Beauty of the Short Story	19
We the People: Introduction to Civics	19
Big History Project, Level 2 & 3	20

Raise the Bar: building writing skills (IEW) *Check calendar for levels	20
Stories from the Shadowlands	20
Creative Writing Intensive	21
The LOFT Angeles Times, Research Topics	21
The Hamilton Education Project	21
History Alive! The Medieval World	22
History Alive! Early Troublemakers	22
Culture Club	22
Tutoring, Reading and Writing – Levels 1, 2, and 3	23
SPANISH DESCRIPTIONS	24
Spanish Immersion for Beginners + - Level 1, 2, and 3	24
TUTORING & SMALL GROUPS	25
ONE to One Tutoring – Private	25
TWO to One Tutoring – 2 learners	25
Small Group	25

2023-2024 Session 3 Schedule

The Loft is available for parent meet-ups and other pre-approved rental needs from our community. Please reach out to the David 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: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Last Day: Friday, March 22, 2024

Duration:

- 10 Weeks of instruction for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday Labs
- 8 weeks of instruction for Monday Labs due to holiday(s):
 - No Monday Labs on: Martin Luther King Day- Monday, January 15, 2024
 - No Monday Lab on: President's Day- Monday, February 19th, 2024

Price and Billing

Type	Number of Meetings Per week/ Session	Hours Per Week	Hours Per Session	Session Price
Labs	1 per week 10 per session	2	20	\$400
The Cohort – learning group for early teens	2 x per week 20 per session	8	80	\$1,600
Labs on Monday – less days due to Holiday	1 per week per session	2	16	\$320
Tutoring – 2 learners for one hour - each				\$50
Tutoring – private 1 learner for one hour				\$85
Culture Club *food supplies	1 per week 10 per session	2	20	\$450

- 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.
- Please bring a check to the Loft for payment.
- 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.

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 th -5 th	Raise the Bar, level 3 (continuation)	David	\$320
9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 th -8 th	Foundational Math	Brad	\$320
11:30 to 1:20					
11:30 to 1:20	HS /ELA/PS	4 th -6 th	History Alive! Troublemakers of Early America	Trevor	\$320
11:30 to 1:20	ELA	6 th -8 th	Creative Writing	Brad	\$320
1:30 to 3:20					
1:30 to 3:20	HS/ELA	6 th -8 th	Big History Project, Level 5 *must have had level 3	David	\$320
1:30 to 3:20	Math	4 th -5 th	Beast Academy Math Workshop, level 2 (continuation)	Trevor	\$320
3:30 to 4:30					
3:30 to 4:30	ELA	1 th -12 th	Tutor	David	tutor
3:30 to 4:30	Math	1 th -12 th	Tutor	Brad	tutor

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

Tuesday

Time	Subject	Grades	Title	Facilitator(s)	Cost
9:00 to 11:00					
9:00 to 11:00	HS/CT	6 th -8 th	Research Topics– LOFT Angeles Times *library card	David	\$400
9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 th -8 th	Algebra I	Brad	\$400
9:00 to 11:00	HS/ELA	6 th -8 th	We the People: Civics 101 (*continuation)	Trevor	\$400
11:30 to 1:20					
11:30 to 1:20	ELA	3 rd -5 th	Whoa, Science! (*new)	Trevor	\$400
	Math	6 th -8 th	Math Fundamentals	Brad	\$400
11:30 to 1:20	Cooking/ELA	5 th -8 th	Culture Club	David	\$450
11:30 to 3:20*	CT/SC/PS/ ELA/SEL/HS	7 th -8 th	*Cohort – Believing is Seeing	Rick/Dilette	\$1,600
1:30 to 3:20					
1:30 to 3:20	HS	6 th -8 th	History Alive! The Medieval World	Trevor	\$400
1:30 to 3:20	ELA/PF/HS	6 th -8 th	The Hamilton Education Project (*new)	David	\$400
1:30 to 3:20	Math	4 th /5 th	Art Architecture and Design	Brad	\$400
11:30 to 3:20*	CT/SC/PS/ ELA/SEL/HS	7 th -8 th	Cohort – Believing is Seeing	Rick/Dilette	-
3:30 to 5:20					
3:30 to 4:30	ELA	1 th -12 th	Tutor	David	Tutor
3:30 to 4:30	Math	1 th -12 th	Tutor	Brad	Tutor

Subject Key:			
ELA	English Language Arts	SEL	Social & Emotional Learning
Math	Math	HS	History and Social Science
CT	Critical Thinking	PF	Arts/Performance
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 th , 6 th	Raise the Bar- Writing *beginners welcome	David	\$400
9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 th -8 th	CPM 2, 3 Upper level CPM review	Brad	\$400
9:00 to 11:00	SC/CT	6 th -8 th	Introduction to Biology (*continuation from chemistry)	Trevor	\$400
	11:30 to 1:20				
11:30 to 1:20	ELA	6 th -8 th	Creative Writing Intensive	Brad	\$400
11:30 to 1:20	ELA/PF	3rd/4 th	Stories from the Shadowlands	David	\$400
11:30 to 1:20	Math	5 th -6 th	CPM 1 & 2, So You're entering CPM?	Trevor	\$400
11:30 to 3:20*	CT/SC/PS/ ELA/SEL/HS	7 th -8 th	Cohort* – Believing is Seeing	Rick/Dilette	-
	1:30 to 3:20				
1:30 to 3:20	HIS/ELA	6 th -8 th	Big History Project Level 3, *must have taken levels 1 & 2	David	\$400
1:30 to 3:20	HIS/CT/ELA	4 th -6 th	History Alive! (Not So) Ancient Civilizations	Trevor	\$400
1:30 to 3:20	Math	4 th -5 th	Art, Architecture and Design (continuation)	Brad	\$400
11:30 to 3:20*	CT/SC/PS/ ELA/SEL/HS	7 th -8 th	Cohort – Believing is Seeing	Rick/Dilette	-
	3:30-5:20				
3:30 to 5:30	LAN	5 th -8 th	Immersion Spanish (continuation)	Carlos	\$400
3:30 to 4:30	ELA	1 th -12 th	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 th -8 th	Raise the Bar, Summarizing Multiple References, level 4	David	\$400
9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 th -8 th	Foundations in Mathematics	Brad	\$400
9:00-11:00	SC/CT	5 th -8 th	Introduction to Chemistry	Trevor	\$400
	11:30 to 1:20				
11:30 to 1:20	HIS	6 th -8 th	History Alive! The Medieval World	Trevor/David	\$400
11:30 to 1:20	ELA	6 th -8 th	Creative Writing (*continuation)	Brad	\$400
11:30 to 1:20	LAN	4 th -8 th	Immersion Spanish	Carlos/Majo	\$400
	1:30 to 3:20				
1:30 to 3:20	PF/HS	6 th -8 th	Raise the Bar/ The Art of Persuasion (level 5)	David	\$400
1:30 to 3:20	ELA	4 th -5 th	Mega-Manga Graphic Novel Lab	Brad	\$400
1:30 to 3:20	Math	6 th	CPM 1 & 2, So You're entering CPM?	Trevor	\$400
	3:45 to 5:20				
3:30 to 4:30	Mus/ELA	4 th -8 th	Here Comes the Song: Exploring the Art of Songwriting (*new)	Danny	\$400
3:30 to 4:30	Math	4 th -5 th	Tutor	Brad	Tutor

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

Friday

Time	Subject	Grades	Title	Facilitator(s)	Cost
	9:00 to 11:00				
9:00 to 11:00	ELA	6 th -8 th	Raise the Bar, Level 2 & 3	David	\$400
9:00 to 11:00	Math	6 th -8 th	Algebra I	Brad	\$400
	11:30 to 1:20				
11:30-1:20	PF/ELA	3rd/ 4 th	Stories from the Shadowlands	David	\$400
11:30-1:20	Math	4 th /5 th	Foundational Math and the Mathlete	Brad	\$400
11:30-1:20	SCI	6 th -8 th	Introduction to Biology (*continuation from chemistry)	Trevor	\$400
	1:30 to 3:20				
1:30 to 3:20	ELA	All	Tutoring	David	\$85/Hr
1:30 to 3:20	Math/ELA	4 th , 5 th , 6 th	Geography101	Brad	\$400
1:30 to 3:20	HIS/ELA	6th-8 th	We the People: Introduction to Civics (new)	Trevor	\$400
	4:30 to 5:30				
3:30 to 4:30	ELA	4 th -5 th	Tutor- Reading Comprehension (1-1)	David	Tutor
3:30 to 4:30	Math	4 th -5 th	Tutor- Math Fundamentals (1-1)	Brad	Tutor

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

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, social-emotional 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)

Session 3: Seeing is Believing (Cohort is full for the year- email for waitlist 2024)

Grade Target:	early teens
Meeting frequency:	TWO times per week on Tuesday AND Wednesday
Time:	11:30am - 3:20pm
Number of meetings	18 meetings spanning 9 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

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, self-awareness, 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 attendance	Due to the nature of hands-on projects and the lively discussion, 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-MS.pdf>

SCIENCE LAB DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to Biology

Grade Target: 6th-8th

Facilitator: Trevor

Materials: Included

Description: Bust out your scalpel, microscope, and strawberry juice – it’s time to take a closer look at how this “life” thing really works! Biology is the study of life and living organisms, from one-celled creatures to the most complex living organism of all — the human being. In this class, we will investigate how living things work and what makes our world so diverse. Hands-on labs and real-life connections will allow each student to explore foundational topics like plant and animals’ cells, genetics, botany and anatomy. So, come along and look at the fibers of life to find how we are all connected but also all one-of-a-kind.

Whoa, Science!

Grade Target: 3rd-5th

Facilitator: Trevor

Materials: Included

Description: Unicorn noodles? Gliding rings? Potato jackhammers? Yes, yes, and yes. In this class, two words will rule each day — “whoa!” and “why?”. Using our senses and the scientific method, we will perform experiments designed to surprise and delight us as we learn about the science that explains each phenomenon. Topics will include magnetism, water molecules, sound waves, static electricity, acidity, density, and (of course) chemical reactions. Get ready to gape and gather knowledge on this odyssey through science oddities.

Introduction to Chemistry

Grade Target: 6th-8th

Facilitator: Trevor

Materials: Included

Description: Chemistry is probably what we all imagine when we think of science. Lab coats, fancy glassware, overheating gauges, and explosions galore! What a lot of us don't know is that we can study chemistry anywhere we want—not just in a fancy laboratory. In this course, students will learn about the types of substances that make up the world around them. They will study the types of matter and learn how that matter can change by interacting and reacting with other types of matter. Suddenly, ordinary items that we take for granted will become exciting as we uncover their hidden abilities and phenomena! Each class has been hand-designed to keep students engaged in the hands-on activities and lab experiments. They will gain an introductory high school level of understanding of chemistry by learning how to measure using the scientific standard and scientific equipment, experimenting with acids and bases and learning what drives chemical reactions (KABOOM!). They will study the physical properties of matter and the types of changes it can undergo- while also learning how to make candy!

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, self-awareness, 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 re-discovery 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.

MATH LABS DESCRIPTIONS

Foundational Math

Grade Target: 4th/5th

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: 4th/5th

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: 4th, 5th

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.

Geography 101

Grade Target: 4th/5th

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.

Algebra I

Grade Target: 7th/ 8th

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 in CPM 1 or 2?

Grade Target: 6th/7th

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 current 6th or 7th 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: 7th -8th

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: 6th -8th

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 1st- 12th 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 & HISTORY DESCRIPTIONS

Here Comes the Song: Exploring the Art of Songwriting

Grade Target: 4th-8th

Facilitator: Danny

Materials: Optional: bring any instrument of interest, even if a beginner.

Description: Under the mentorship of award-winning singer-songwriter, Danny Hamilton, students will embark on a multifaceted journey into songwriting, blending musical arts with literature, history, and technology. Through literary analysis, they'll dissect classic and modern tracks to understand their thematic underpinnings and narrative techniques, differentiating between verses, choruses, bridges, and pre-choruses. As they explore historical contexts of genres and artists, a project-based learning model will allow participants to draft and refine lyrics, melodies, and rhythms, culminating in their own original class-composition. Beyond music, the class dives into technological education, offering insights into the recording process, from the physics of sound to digital production tools. Embracing flexibility, the curriculum evolves based on student interests. Beginners to advanced alike are welcome!

History Alive! (Not So) Ancient Civilizations

Grade Target: 4th-6th

Facilitator: Trevor

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?

We the People: Introduction to Civics

Grade Target: 6th-8th

Facilitator: Trevor

Materials: Included

Description: As they say in all the superhero movies: "With great power comes great responsibility." Being a U.S. citizen can be our superpower when we understand what it means! "Civics" is all about the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen, and that's

what we will try to unlock. Why do we have two houses of Congress? How is a community garden a form of activism? Why should I sit and listen to someone that I disagree with? We will dive into the core concepts and principles underlying our democracy, examine the structure and limits of the national government as set forth in the U.S. Constitution, evaluate how well we have met our democratic ideals, and the role of the citizen in a democratic society.

Big History Project, Level 2 & 3

Grade Target: 6th -8th

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: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th 7th

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

Stories from the Shadowlands

Grade Target: 3rd, 4th

Facilitator: David

Materials: None

Description: What is the nature of true bravery? Is bravery always the best choice? Is being cunning an example of bravery or cowardice? Which is more important, honor or survival? How can we know the reasons for someone's behavior? This class will revolve around the history and building of shadow puppets through the ancient world of folktales. We'll practice sequencing skills, engage in lively discussion around the stories as we collaboratively design and build our own puppets.

Creative Writing Intensive

Grade Target: 4th- 8th

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: 5th -8th

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.

The Hamilton Education Project

Grade target: 5th -8th

Facilitator: David C.

Materials: none

Description: The Hamilton Education Program Online is a primer for studying Alexander Hamilton and the Founding Era. When the students have completed the activities in the Hamilton Education Program Online, they will have a greater knowledge of the Founding Era, familiarity with reading and understanding primary sources, and experience using primary sources to create their own interpretations of Founding Era events, as Lin-Manuel Miranda did in the musical Hamilton. The foundation of studying history is the analysis of primary source documents, but 18th-century texts can be difficult for young secondary students. The study of primary sources in this guide will start with the analysis of an image and then move on to the analysis of two texts. The class will culminate in either a student created project or virtual performance.

History Alive! The Medieval World

Grade Target: 6th-8th (4th/5th with approval)

Facilitator: Trevor/David

Materials: Included

Description: When we think about the Middle Ages (500-1500 C.E.), we might think of catapults, crusades, and rotten meat. While we can easily gasp and giggle at life in “Dark Ages” Europe, there is so much more to these 1,000 years of human history. In this class, we will zoom in on the bizarre and beautiful of 13th century England while also introducing students to the vibrant cultures that emerged around the world, in places like West Africa, Japan, and the Islamic world. To put their learning into practice, students will have the opportunity to develop a board game as the class rolls along. So, roll the dice and find out what awaits when we travel back to the time of Samauri warriors and leech collectors!

History Alive! Troublemakers of Early America

Grade Target: 4th, 5th (3rd with approval)

Facilitator: Trevor/ David

Materials: Included

Description: Why does making trouble feel like an American tradition? Let’s find out how it all started! From the start, Americans have been willing to think differently, take risks, and speak up. Whether it’s the saucy activist Thomas Paine, Puritan rebel Anne Hutchinson, or the crafty double agent James Armistead, colonial times produced some seriously bold and daring characters. But what can their stories teach us about the nature of life in the American Colonies and early American ideals? In this class, we will use stories of individuality and rebellion as gateways to big topics like enslavement, religious freedom, and class struggle. Role-play, debate, and art will help us to bring this history to life.

Culture Club

Grade target: 4th -8th (3rd with approval)

Facilitator: David C.

Materials: Additional \$50 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 1st-12th 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: 1st to 12th

Schedule: Monday to Friday available

Price: \$85

Time: per hour

Description: We offer comprehensive, one-to-one tutoring in all subject areas from 1st-12th 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: 1st to 12th

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: 1st to 12th

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.
