

Summer Express Class Descriptions

Summer 2015

Summer Express is a flexible summer enrichment program offering a variety of fun and challenging classes for elementary and middle school students. Summer Express classes are grouped into five categories: Academic; Arts (Music, Visual and Performing); Special Interest; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and Sports and Fitness. Most classes are broken into two age groups: 6-9 years and 10-13 years. A few classes have different age requirements and are listed below in the class descriptions. For more information, please call (408) 730-7523.

See you this summer,
The Summer Express Staff Team

Academic Classes

Chess Skills

Chess is an excellent mental exercise that enhances logic skills and increases problem solving capacity. Lessons include fundamental rules, movement of pieces, capturing and strategies. No experience necessary.



Computer Essentials

Students learn to use applications and tools that will help them manage, present and share information using computer and internet technologies. Students learn to navigate the web safely, create presentations, play online games and more.

Reading Comprehension

(7-13 years)

This class, broken into two age groups (7-9 and 10-13 years), builds on critical reading skills that require more thought than simply recalling facts from the story. With vocabulary

instruction, students learn strategies for deciphering unknown words. Students will also receive a grade appropriate book list for better book choices.

Solve This

(7-9 years)

Students will become confident, analytical thinkers and problem solvers as they explore many options to solve problems. The course includes reviewing the problem-solving process, learning to apply problem-solving strategies and practice solving different word problems.

Solve This

(10-13 years)

Solve mathematical word problems using a variety of strategies. We shed light on the process of problem solving, so that word problems will become less intimidating and students become confident, analytical thinkers and problem solvers. Students explore options to solve problems and discuss their tactics with the group.

Study Skills

(10-13 years)

Students discover useful tools for organizing and managing their time, note taking and general study

strategies. These tools cannot be put to use until students learn how to use them.

Sum Fun

(7-9 years)

Children learn about addition and subtraction tables and improve understanding of basic math facts, while increasing speed and accuracy using this fun approach.

Write On

(10-13 years)

Your child will become a more confident writer while exploring and practicing various writing techniques, including different approaches to pre-writing, discovering a literary voice, and creating a unique piece of work that reflects style.



Writing

(7-9 years)

Students will learn to organize their ideas in effective paragraph writing. In addition, students learn appropriate writing structure in order to build more detail and connection to the topic sentence, which will make their writing stand out.



Arts: Music, Visual and Performing Classes

Drama Club

(Session 1 only)

Theater games, costuming and props set the stage for a fun-filled time as students are guided through the production and performance of a live show! We begin with the basics of acting, learning techniques in stage presence, vocal projection, character development and script analysis. Students learn about the different parts of a production, such as costume and set design, directing and stage managing. Class concludes with a live performance.



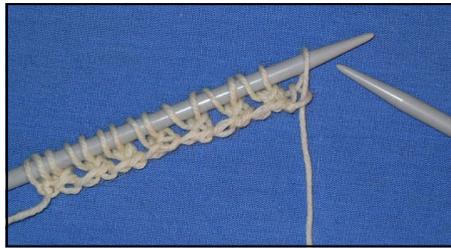
Get Up and Dance

Dance to hip hop beats and other hit pop music. This class features exciting dance moves, along with basic techniques that improve coordination, stamina and overall fitness. Dance steps are introduced slowly in an easy-to-understand language. As students sharpen their moves and refine footwork, choreography is introduced. Instruction is broken down to simplify the learning process, thereby helping to instill confidence in all dancers. Program culminates with a dance showcase.



Guitar

Come join the Summer Express class of rock! Lessons taught in the classroom are strategically planned to cover all basic guitar techniques. Students will also learn some fun popular songs along the way. **Please bring your own guitar.**



Knitting and Crochet

Come have fun exploring a whole new world of yarn crafts. Students will learn finger knitting, straw weaving, dying yarn and how to create their very own loom. No prior experience necessary.



Mixed Media Art

Students will develop new skills and techniques as they learn about artists and artist styles. Kids will experiment with charcoal pencils, pastels, watercolor and will discover their inner muse.

Origami

Discover the ancient art of paper folding. Students learn basic folding techniques used to create an endless variety of origami models. Students will decorate their own special papers and use their folding skills to create projects and games. This program is suitable for children of all

ages, as a wide range of designs are presented. Students begin with simple models and move on to more complicated levels. While origami is a fun and educational art form, it also reinforces math and science concepts.



Pottery

Pottery making can stimulate the brain and eye, and trigger artistic expression in children. Participants will learn to create from clay, with the three basic methods of hand building: Coiling, pinching and slab work. Students will create bowls, statues, mugs and more.

Singing for Fun

Students will learn basic singing techniques and vocal training. Emphasis will be on the personal improvement and individual development of the student's singing abilities. No prior experience required.



Special Interest Classes



Let's Get Cooking

Students learn basic cooking along with other culinary skills in a hands-on setting that emphasizes fun. Children prepare delicious snacks, meals and desserts. At the end of each session all recipes will be compiled into a cookbook to be taken home.



Spanish

¡Vamos a hablar Español! (Let's go speak Spanish!) This class teaches the basics of the Spanish language. Topics covered include alphabet, colors, numbers, days of the week, the months, simple phrases and salutations. Lessons are taught through conversation, reading and writing including songs and games. ¡Venga a divertirse! (Come have fun!)



Young Entrepreneur

Explore what it is like to be an entrepreneur. Learn how to bring your business idea to life! Great inventors and entrepreneurs like Bill Gates started their companies while in their teens. Get a fun, hands-on introduction to business concepts like revenue, profits, marketing plan, competition and substitutes. Learn how to present your ideas and solve business problems. Students will make group presentations, do team-based exercises, create marketing brochures, and write a business plan for their idea. Learn communication, presentation and analytical skills for high school and beyond. Meet like-minded peers who may become your business partners, and leave with a business plan in hand!

Sports & Fitness Classes

Archery

(7-13 years)

Participants will learn about safety, shooting, fundamentals, marksmanship, sportsmanship, different shooting styles and equipment. All equipment will be provided.



Dance Fitness

Party, groove and dance yourself healthy! In our Dance Fitness class we use easy steps, fun combinations and great music to get your body moving. Enjoy an energetic class filled with great beats and a party atmosphere!



Karate for Kids

Learn the art of Shotokan. Students will learn how to execute proper punches, blocks and kicks. This class is designed to promote awareness, confidence and self-esteem.

Self-Defense for Kids

This class will help equip your child with knowledge and strategies to protect themselves in potentially dangerous situations. Children will be more confident and aware in their surroundings. The most important thing to remember when teaching children about "strangers" is to instill confidence and knowledge.

Swimming

Learn basic strokes and skills to develop into a better swimmer. Participants will be grouped with those of similar ability. Water safety and swim instruction is provided. **Bring a swimsuit, towel and sun block.**



Team Sports Variety

Sign up for this exciting sport class to receive personal instruction on skill development for basketball and soccer. Children learn basketball footwork drills, rebounding, and shooting. Soccer techniques include receiving, shooting and passing.



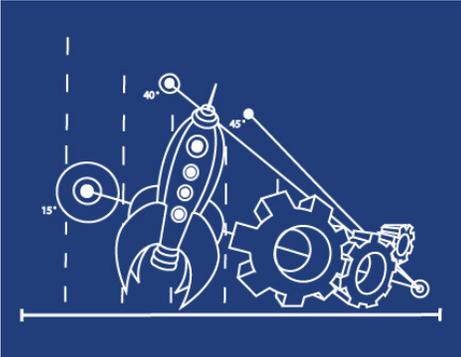
Tennis

Learn the basic skills of tennis: forehand, backhand, serving and volleys. Players will also develop sportsmanship, social skills, motor skills and appreciation for this fun, challenging game. **Please bring your own racket.**

STEM Classes

Engineering

Have fun building rockets, catapults, crossbows, humane mousetraps, and a ride-able hovercraft! Curriculum for this class is based around teaching the simple machines of engineering, and the basics of Newton's forces.



Electronic Design

Students will start out with a simple-to-use manipulative to learn about individual electronic components. Once basic skills are mastered, participants will learn how to design and build electronics on what is called an electronics breadboard and how to use electronics CAD software. Finally, students will be challenged to create a simple circuit and design it, not only on a breadboard but also in CAD software.

Electronics with Minecraft

This class is for Minecraft Engineers, and Redstone Enthusiasts! Over the two weeks students will learn basic electronics skills within the wonderful world of Minecraft. Participants will learn how to make logic gates, timers, sensors and memory devices, and use these skills to build fantastic machines! (Minecraft and Redstone are trademarks of Notch AB. This camp is not affiliated with or endorsed by Notch AB.)

Humanoid Robotics

Students will learn to program humanoid robots first using stop motion

programming, then using traditional programming language to program the robots using sensors. After this we will experiment with tweaking the source code to expand the robots' capabilities. Robots are capable of walking, running, doing handstands and more!

Programming with Arduino

Participants will learn how to program Arduino boards in this class. First, we will start off very simple by making LEDs blink and learning the language. Then, apply skills learned to control servos, motors, digital displays and speakers.

Programming with Scratch

Participants will learn how to use operators, if/then statements, loops, and more, before using this knowledge to build working games inside Scratch. After building working games inside Scratch, students learn how to control real electronic circuits using Scratch.



Robotics

Children will build small robots. Children will learn about robotic components and learn basic problem-solving skills. Students will have an opportunity to build jousting robots, drawing robots, robotic claws, robot walkers, line-following robots, searching robots and a robot programmed to bring its programmer a soda!

Robotics with Lego® E3V

In this class children will build capable robots. Children learn about robotic hardware and software interaction. Students will have an opportunity to build hexapods, robotic arms, ball-collecting robots, self-balancing robots, line-following robots, Lego-sorting robots and a Mars rover robot!

Science Bio-Blast

(Session 1 only)

Get ready to dig into flora and fauna in this exploration of the world of biology. Students will use microscope slide viewers to see some of the tiny cellular machines that keep our bodies working, and will play the "cell game" to learn more about the "stuff" inside cells. Fun experiments will help students understand more about their senses, brains, breathing, circulation and digestion. Students will create model cells, make mad mucus and do experiments with our "digerter inspector." We'll discover what owls eat, as we dissect owl pellets, and have fun finding and magnifying nature's smaller critters, from insects to pond slime.



Science Lights, Camera, Reaction

(Session 2 only)

Become a junior scientist as you explore the principle of gravity and how to resist it with physics! Kids will investigate 3-D concepts, make a rainbow out of white light, learn how to catch sound waves, and discover the secrets behind special effects seen in their favorite movies! They'll also spend some time in the e-lab learning the tools and techniques that real chemist use, and perform some spectacular hands-on experiments!

