



# Learning Lab Winter 2024

Learning Lab classes are hands-on, high interest enrichment classes for students. Classes challenge students academically and creatively. Students will make new friends while exploring topics in-depth and developing new skills. Class sizes are limited to ensure optimal student/teacher interaction. Excellent teachers are chosen for expertise in their area and their skill working with bright students. **Classes are open to all.**

## Learning Lab Dates:

Saturdays - February 3, 10, 17, 24 and March 2, 9

## Learning Lab Location:

Wydown Middle School, 6500 Wydown 63105

## Learning Lab Tuition & Payment:

Classes are \$120/six-week class, payable online or by check.

**For More Information:** Contact the GRC office at (314) 962-5920 or [info@giftedresourcecouncil.org](mailto:info@giftedresourcecouncil.org)



## Class Schedule

### SESSION 1: 9:30 - 11:00

Ages 4 - 5 "TINKER" Toys

Ages 5 - 6 Storybook Adventure

K - 1<sup>st</sup> Body Brainiacs

1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Whodunit?

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meteorology: Heading Toward Spring

3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Make Us Laugh! Improv for Kids

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Checkmate! Advanced

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Beginner

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Cryptography & Code Breaking

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> The Iliad & The Odyssey

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> The Strategy of Building Board Games

5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Hidden Treasure of Zendar

ONLINE! - Storytellers of the Tabletop - D&D - 1:30 - 3:00

### SESSION 2: 11:15 - 12:45

Ages 4 - 5 Storybook Adventure

Ages 5 - 6 "TINKER" Toys

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Checkmate! Beginner

1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Make Us Laugh! Improv for Kids

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Body Brainiacs

3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Whodunit?

3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Hidden Treasure of Zendar

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Advanced

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Math Games Around the World

4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Meteorology: Heading Toward Spring

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Write a Choose Your Own Adventure Book

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> The Way of Rome



# Class Descriptions – Winter 2024

## Body Brainiacs

**Grades K – 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 - 11:00**

**Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:15 - 12:45**

Ever wonder how your body works? Let's journey through the human body and discover what makes us human. How do the different parts of the brain affect all other parts of our bodies? How do the heart and lungs work together to deliver oxygenated blood? Create an edible heart model and check your pulse at rest and while exercising. Build a model set of lungs. Follow your lunch on its journey through the digestive system.

Explore how the small bones in your back help the body bend while the long bones do not. Hands-on activities and experiments get us to the heart of the matter!

Instructor: Kara Viviano

## Checkmate!

**Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 11:00 - Intermediate/Advanced**

**Grades K – 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:15 - 12:45 - Novice/Beginner**

Join us in the challenging world of chess! Learn moves, tactics and strategies to be a contender in a match with your friends. Apply your chess problem-solving skills to school and home, as you learn to think before making a move! For novice players, tactics can make or break your game. Will you use pins and forks or skewers? We'll look at strategies for your advanced skills, such as attacking on opposite wings and playing to reach a better ending. We'll work on good sportsmanship and coping with the consequences of your decisions.

Instructor: Stephen Randall

## Cryptography & Code Breaking

**Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 11:00**

So popular in the fall we're bringing it back! Are you a master code breaker? Would you like to be? Experiment with different kinds of codes – like the Caesar Cipher, Hieroglyphics, Binary Codes, and Morse Code – and try your hand at each of them! You'll get a mini-history of each code and how it was used – and by whom. Then you can create your own code! Your problem-solving skills will be challenged as you unlock the captivating world of cryptography.

Instructor: Angela Rhodes

## NEW!! Hidden Treasure of Zendar

**Grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 11:00**

**Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> 11:15 - 12:45**

You and your friends find a peculiar map to a hidden treasure in the mysterious land of Zendar. How do we get to Zendar? Once we're there, how do we find the treasure? And what is it? It's up to you and your team to figure it out. Each week, your team will be tasked with one or more puzzles to solve, which may involve math,

geography, codes, science, or tricky riddles. The solution to each puzzle is a clue you will need on the final

week to find the hidden treasure! Your team will be given "hint tokens" that you can trade in for hints if you get stuck. But be careful—if you run out of tokens, you run out of hints, so use them wisely! Can you be the first team to find the hidden treasure? Your guide is Dave Cole, the author of *The Math Kids* series, which combines math and mysteries to create great adventures. Instructor: Dave Cole

## NEW!! The Iliad and the Odyssey

**Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30- 11:00**

Three sessions will be devoted to *The Iliad* and three to *The Odyssey*. These epics tell the rest of the story—the end of the Bronze Age and its collapse. Greece lost the ability to write for almost 400 years during its Dark Age, but saw the emergence of Homer, telling a history of gods and men, their triumphs and tragedies. Bronze Age weapons and tactics plus court intrigues were on dramatic display in these epic poems, which have stood the test of time and thrilled the hearts of generations.

Instructor: Art Koenig

## LEGO Mindstorms Robotics - Beginning

**Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 11:00**

This is your chance to learn the basics of LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robots! Consider a real-world problem, create your hypothesis, program your solution and test your results! Build a rover-type robot to handle some basic tasks and experiment with other features of the kits. Apply the engineering process to your project. Problem-solving skills and creativity using robotics technology prove that the possibilities are endless.

Instructor: Lisa Hummel

## LEGO Mindstorms Robotics - Advanced

**Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 11:15 - 12:45**

If you've taken at least a beginning Mindstorms class, now you can go further! Learn more and work on harder challenges, based on your skill level. Build and program working robots which respond to your commands as well as information from their environments. Working with a partner, you can even design your own robot from scratch! You'll learn to control your creation using multiple sensors, various moving parts, and complex programs that allow the robot to assess its environment and make decisions. You will be given or choose a specific challenge to accomplish with your programming at the beginning of each class.

Instructor: Lisa Hummel

## NEW!! Make Us Laugh! Improv for Kids

**Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30- 11:00**

**Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:15- 12:45**

Do you like to make people laugh? Would you like to learn to think on your toes and be creative? Have you always wanted to be a movie star? Then this is for you! In this learning lab, we will set our sights on future



stardom by developing the ability to project our voices, think on our feet, and be expressive while learning and practicing theater games. We will have lots of fun using simple props, our bodies, and things in our environment to create on-the-spot comedy. Be ready to laugh and make others laugh in this improv class!

Instructor: Tracy Bednarick-Humes

### **NEW!! Math Games around the World**

Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 11:15 - 12:45

Math concepts may be the same all over the world, but the games are different! Learn and play games like Two Stones from Korea, Mulinello Quadripo from Italy, Nine Men's Morris from Egypt and Mu Torere from New Zealand. We'll use learning strategies like how to refine tactics, observation skills, analysis, practice, focus, and flexibility! There are lots of games to choose from so we can adjust based on the skill levels in class. Plus, after trying out a variety of new games, we'll use what we've learned to make up our own!

Instructor: Angela Rhodes

### **NEW!! Meteorology: Heading Toward Spring**

Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30- 11:00

Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 11:15- 12:45

What causes severe thunderstorms? How can Doppler radar detect tornadoes? How do changes in air pressure affect temperature, wind, and other weather? Through hands-on experiences, discover what relative humidity and dew point mean. Build a barometer and use it at home to help monitor weather conditions. Draw a developing thunderstorm and label its components. Simulate what creates rotation that can cause tornadoes. Interpret symbols on surface maps and predict daily weather as you increase your meteorologist skills!

Instructor: David Linder

### **NEW!! Storybook Adventure**

Ages 5-6 9:30 - 11:00

Ages 4-5 11:15 - 12:45

Let's go behind the scenes of some amazing storybooks and explore them in a different way. From old favorites like *Rapunzel* (we'll do some braiding with yarn and create a rope for her!) to new classics like *Dragons Love Tacos* (we'll learn about wind and air - how do dragons breathe fire anyway?). Hands-on experiences with science and crafts based on ideas from each book will make your favorite stories come alive in a whole new way!

### **NEW!! The Strategy of Building Board Games**

Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 11:00

Enjoy playing games? Ever considered the approaches behind how they work? You'll build specific strategy board games, then learn and play them. Explore strategy, theme and components. What's the difference between a roll-and-move game and one

that focuses on resource collection? By the end of the class, you will have six new games to take home and play with friends and family.

Instructor: Rick Hasler

### **NEW!! "TINKER" Toys**

Ages 4-5 9:30 - 11:00

Ages 5-6 11:15 - 12:45

Does your kiddo love to build? Do they get frustrated when the building doesn't go to plan? Play-based TINKERing class will delight our youngest learners with high-interest, open-ended building sets! We'll have a strong emphasis on supportive social-emotional growth and understanding, including productive struggles that center on embracing mistakes and 'failing forward.' Play and learn with sets like Quadrilla Wooden Marble Runs, Fat Brain Joinks, Brio Builder Sets, Tinkertoys, Legos, and more!

Instructor: Stephanie Elliott

### **NEW!! The Way of Rome**

Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 11:15 - 12:45

From *Senatus Populus que Romanus* (the Senate and People of Rome) to Ave Caesar, we'll unearth and explore the history, outsized personalities and structures of everyday life—both republican and imperial. We'll look at everything from life in a ramshackle apartment block in the Subura to Caesar's campaigns across the Mediterranean. From philosophizing at Cicero's villa in Tusculum to the take-no-prisoners politics of the late republic. We'll look at it all. Perhaps a Roman feast and visit from Marcus Aurelius as well?

Instructor: Art Koenig

### **Whodunit?**

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30- 11:00

Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> 11:15- 12:45

Grab your magnifying glass and put on your thinking cap (or is it a deerstalker hat?) as we get ready to solve some mysteries! You and your fellow detectives will use crime scene investigation techniques to solve cases. We will focus on footprints, handwriting, fingerprinting, blood spatter (fake, of course!), and cryptograms/hidden messages. Your critical thinking skills will be put to the test as you dive into the field of forensics!

Instructor: Hannah Noack-Ruebling

### **NEW!! Write a Choose Your Own Adventure Book**

Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 11:15 - 12:45

We've all played along with a choose your own adventure book. But are you ready to write one?? Get tools for developing and writing a "Choose Your Own Adventure" book. Think about plot, options, hints and twists. How do you make sure your reader is having a good time? By the end of the sessions, you will be able to take home one or more complete books.

Instructor: Rick Hasler

# Learning Lab Details

**Eligibility:** *All children are eligible to participate in Learning Lab classes. They do not need to be enrolled in gifted programming at their schools.*

**Dismissal:** Children must be picked up promptly at the end of class. If your child has signed up for two classes in a row, he or she will be supervised during the short break between classes, and you will pick up at the end of the second class.

PLEASE COME INSIDE to pick up your child. We will not dismiss children to go outside alone.

**Notification:** If the class your child signed up for is full or cancelled, you will be notified and given the opportunity to sign up for an alternate class.

**Photos:** Pictures will be taken of Learning Lab classes, and may be used for promotional purposes. If you do not want your child's photo used, please contact the office in writing before the start of classes.



## Instructors

**Tracy Bednarick-Humes**, Ed.D., coordinator of gifted programming, Lindbergh School District

**David Cole**, B.S., author of *The Math Kids* series, Equations coach for 15+ years

**Stephanie Elliott**, M.Ed., elementary and gifted teacher

**Joanna Gubin**, M.S., early childhood educator/play therapist

**Rick Hasler**, M.A., Gifted specialist, MOSAICS Academy, Parkway School District, 9<sup>th</sup> year Ancient Academy

**Lisa Hummel**, M.A., middle school science teacher, Ferguson-Florissant School District

**Art Koenig**, A.M., GRC's "Renaissance Man"

**David Linder**, M.Ed., retired elementary science, language and gifted teacher, online teacher/tutor

**Hannah Noack-Ruebling**, M.A., gifted teacher, Hazelwood School District

**Stephen Randall**, Ph.D., history professor St. Charles Community College, Rated USCF National Expert

**Angela Rhodes**, M.S., teacher, St. Louis Public Schools

**Kara Viviano**, B.A., elementary teacher, St. Louis Public Schools





# Parenting Classes – Winter 2024

Come explore the various joys and challenges of raising bright, gifted children with us. Local experts in gifted education and child development will lead presentations/discussions on a wide range of topics. Classes are \$15 each or **FREE** with a GRC membership (starting at \$60/year). Classes will begin at 11:15 am and will run about 90 minutes total, with time for Q&A. These are interactive sessions, where we welcome questions and discussion.

Feb. 3 - **Social Media and Your Kids** - Nancy Bonn-Winkler, M.Ed., LPC, Grit & Grace Counseling Services

Feb. 10 - **Why Doesn't My Gifted Child Want to Do Homework? And What Can I Do About It??** - Agnes Meyo, Psy.D., Clinical psychologist, private practice

We plan to add two more sessions soon - stay tuned!



## GRC Membership

Your membership will help us improve existing programs, extend offerings and reach more children. You also receive benefits like priority registration, program discounts, and free parenting classes. It's quick, easy and tax-deductible (as allowed by law). Sign up by adding the appropriate amount to the total on the Learning Lab form or joining online. Memberships are valid for one year.

### Wise Philanthropist (\$1,000+)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- FREE Learning Lab course
- \$50 discount off a Summer Academy
- Learning Lab scholarship in your name at your request
- Use of GRC library
- GRC logo lapel pin

### Brilliant Benefactor (\$500 - \$999)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- FREE Learning Lab course
- \$50 discount off a Summer Academy
- Learning Lab scholarship in your name at your request
- Use of GRC library

### Talented Patron (\$250 - \$499)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- \$10 off two Learning Lab courses
- \$50 discount off a Summer Academy
- Use of GRC library

### Sharp Sponsor (\$150 - \$249)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- \$10 off two Learning Lab courses
- \$25 discount off a Summer Academy
- Use of GRC library

### Intelligent Friend (\$100 - \$149)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- \$10 off two Learning Lab courses
- Use of GRC library

### Gifted Member (\$60 - \$99)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- Use of GRC library

### Imaginative Institution (\$100)

- For schools and other institutions
- Recognition in newsletters and on website

# Registration Form – Winter 2024

(Registration is available by sending in the form below with a check or credit card information or by registering online at [www.giftedresourcecouncil.org](http://www.giftedresourcecouncil.org) – credit card payments will be charged a service fee.)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Address (Street/City/State/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) occupations/employer: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT (if parents can't be reached):

Name/relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about GRC? \_\_\_\_\_

Race/ethnicity (optional, but useful for GRC when applying for grants!) - please choose any/all that apply:

☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ White ☐ Hispanic/Latino/a

☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ Other or additional info: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select your child's class choice(s) from the list(s) below.

## SESSION 1: 9:30 - 11:00 - Saturdays

## SESSION 2: 11:15 - 12:45 - Saturdays

### IN PERSON at Wydown Middle School

- ☐ "TINKER" Toys (Ages 4 - 5)
- ☐ Storybook Adventure (Ages 5 - 6)
- ☐ Body Brainiacs (K - 1<sup>st</sup>)
- ☐ Whodunit? (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- ☐ Meteorology: Heading Toward Spring (2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ☐ Make Us Laugh! Improv for Kids (3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ Checkmate! Advanced (3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Beginner (3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ Cryptography & Code Breaking (3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ The Iliad & The Odyssey (3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ The Strategy of Building Board Games (4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ Hidden Treasure of Zendar (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)

- ☐ Storybook Adventure (Ages 4 - 5)
- ☐ "TINKER" Toys (Ages 5 - 6)
- ☐ Checkmate! Beginner (K - 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- ☐ Make Us Laugh! Improv for Kids (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- ☐ Body Brainiacs (2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ☐ Whodunit? (3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ Hidden Treasure of Zendar (3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Advanced (3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ Math Games around the World (3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ Meteorology: Heading Toward Spring (4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ Write a Choose Your Own Adventure Book (4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)
- ☐ The Way of Rome (4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>)

No refunds after January 19, 2024. Members' priority registration good until December 31, 2023. All others taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Are you a current member of GRC? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to become a member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

At which level? \_\_\_\_\_

Return form & payment to: Gifted Resource Council  
10425 Old Olive St. Rd., LL1  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

## Total Fees Enclosed:

Class(es) - \$120 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Payable by check to: Gifted Resource Council  
or credit card (transaction fee charged):

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_