



*Learning Labs
Winter 2025*



Learning Lab Winter 2025

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 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8

Learning Lab Location:

Wydown Middle School, 6500 Wydown 63105

Learning Lab Tuition & Payment:

Classes are \$120/six-week class, payable online or by check. Tuition is refundable (minus a \$15 withdrawal fee) for classes dropped more than two weeks before the start date. Members' priority registration good until December 24, 2024.

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



Class Schedule

SESSION 1: 9:30 - 11:00

Ages 4 - 5	“TINKER” Toys
K - 1 st	Storybook STEM
2 nd - 3 rd	It's a Hard Rock Life
2 nd - 4 th	Everyday Electricity: Advanced
3 rd - 4 th	LEGO Spike Robotics
3 rd - 5 th	Genre Journeys & Writing Wonders
3 rd - 5 th	Disaster Defenders: Engineering for the Extreme
3 rd - 8 th	Cryptography & Codebreaking
3 rd - 8 th	Checkmate! Advanced
3 rd - 8 th	LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Beginning
3 rd - 8 th	Digital Storytelling: Advanced Podcasting
4 th - 5 th	Game On!

SESSION 2: 11:15 - 12:45

Ages 5 - 6	Storybook STEM
K - 1 st	It's a Hard Rock Life
K - 3 rd	Checkmate! Beginning
2 nd - 3 rd	Game On!
2 nd - 4 th	Everyday Electricity: Beginning
3 rd - 5 th	Winter Wonderland Art Studio
3 rd - 8 th	LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Advanced
3 rd - 8 th	Digital Storytelling: Beginning Podcasting
4 th - 8 th	Legends, Lore & the Wizarding World
5 th - 8 th	LEGO Spike Robotics

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.

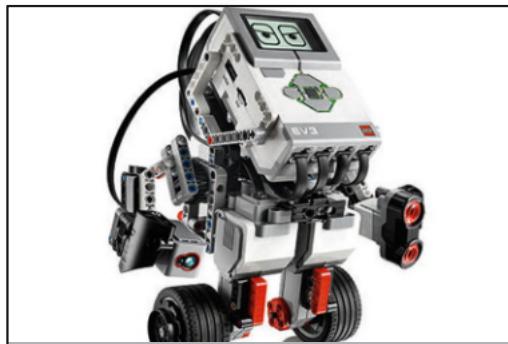


It's a Hard Rock Life

2nd - 3rd grades: 9:30 - 11:00
K - 1st grades: 11:15 - 12:45

Be amazed at the unseen wonders just beneath our feet! How do tectonic plates float on top of molten rock? Explore the formation of mountains, volcanoes and ocean trenches. Investigate caves, and create/excavate your own fossils. Learn about the rock cycle and construct a geode and unique rock of your own. Geology rocks!

Instructor: Kara Viviano



LEGO Mindstorms

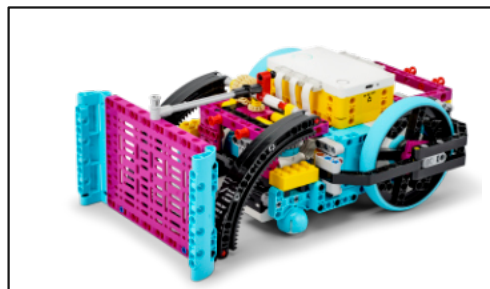
Beginner 3rd - 8th: 9:30 - 11:00
Advanced 3rd - 8th: 11:15 - 12:45

LAST CHANCE! If you're a fan of the amazing Mindstorms robots, this may be your last chance to take a class. The software for these runs on an OLD operating system, so while the kits are still good, we're phasing out classes because the laptops we use with them are becoming irreparable.

Beginner: 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. Problem-solving skills and creativity using robotics technology prove that the possibilities are endless.

Advanced: If you've taken at least a beginning Mindstorms class, 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.

Instructor: Lisa Hummel



LEGO Spike Robotics

3rd - 4th: 9:30 - 11:00
5th - 8th: 11:15 - 12:45

GRC has some brand-new LEGO Spike Prime kits (with expansions) that we're excited to get started with. Get your building and coding on with these colorful new kits. You'll use the engineering design process to meet a different challenge each week, then use that knowledge to create your own build. The 3rd-4th grade class will focus on inventions, and the 5th - 8th class will focus on life hacks. Both should be a fun introduction to our new coding kits.

Instructor: Hannah Noack-Ruebling

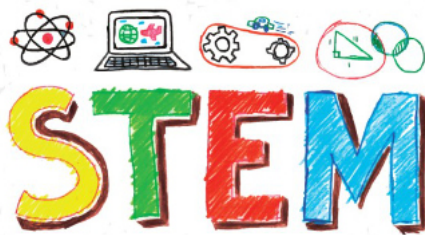


Winter Wonderland Art Studio

3rd - 5th: 11:15 - 12:45

It's cold! This is the perfect time to bundle up and work on some creative winter-themed art and craft projects. You'll start your winter wonderland with some fun painting, including working with salt, pinecones and rocks. You'll make your own birdfeeder - perfect for feeding feathered friends during the cold. Come enjoy doing art with mixed media and take home some great winter projects!

Instructor: Angela Rhodes



Storybook STEM

K - 1st: 9:30 - 11:00
Ages 5 & 6: 11:15 - 12:45

Challenge yourself with STEM! This hands-on class will have you designing, building, testing and experimenting with a variety of materials. We'll look at air dynamics, water buoyancy, qualities of light and more! You'll create different mazes, test shapes, and build bridges. Design and build a boat! The floor is lava - can you build a platform to keep your stuffies safe?? STEM challenges will be based on a different story each week.

Instructor: Beth Crites





Disaster Defenders: Engineering for the Extreme

3rd - 5th grades: 9:30 - 11:00

Using engineering design methods, we're going to try and build disaster-proof structures! How about a building that can withstand an earthquake? St. Louis is surrounded by rivers - let's try our hands at a flood barrier. You'll also build a hurricane-resistant home, a seawall barrier to protect from a tsunami, and a landslide-resistant slope. You'll need all your structural and environmental engineering skills to tackle these tough challenges!

Instructor: Lisa Pascoe



Checkmate!

Advanced 3rd - 8th: 9:30 - 11:00
Beginner K - 3rd: 11:15 - 12:45

Beginner: If your child is just learning chess (or wants to learn!), this class is the perfect place to start. Learn the basics of chess, how to begin the game, strategies such as pins and forks, how to queen a pawn and how to checkmate with Queen and King or Rook and King at the end of the game, all while playing and having fun.

Advanced: Learn advanced concepts in chess, including openings to produce swift checkmating attacks or the win of material, learn how to plan ahead in chess and create positions where tactical themes can be used, all while playing and having fun.

Benefits of the game for all levels: Problem-solving skills, coping with the consequences of your decisions, and good sports behavior.

Instructor: Stephen Randoll



"TINKER" Toys

Ages 4-5: 9:30 - 11:00

Back by popular demand with all new challenges, like Teetering Towers, Mouse Houses, and Constructed Portraits! This super-fun building class lets our youngest learners explore a variety of high-interest, open-ended building sets. Children's literature is a springboard for their designs in this play-based building class, with a strong emphasis on supportive social-emotional growth and understanding, including productive struggles that center on embracing mistakes and 'failing forward.'

Instructor: Stephanie Elliott



Game On!

4th - 5th grades: 9:30 - 11:00
2nd - 3rd grades: 11:15 - 12:45

Let's play games! Actively develop your critical thinking and problem-solving skills through playing various board games. We'll use games like Book Us, Set, Mancala (and more!) to practice strategic decision-making, analyze potential outcomes, and adapt to changing conditions within the game. Board games also develop patience, turn taking, teamwork, following rules and good sportsmanship! Get in the game!

Instructor: Michelle Joyce

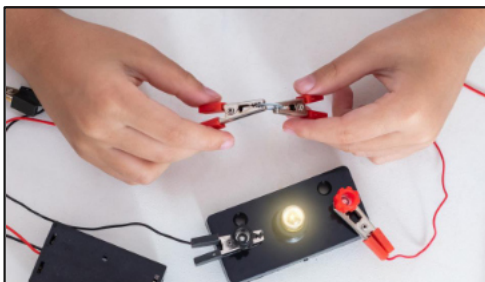


Legends, Lore & the Wizards World

4th - 8th grades: 11:15 - 12:45

So, you know about Hogwarts, Dumbledore, Hagrid and Weasleys. You can debate the merits of the Firebolt over the Nimbus Two Thousand and One in a crucial Quidditch match. You know Harry Potter. But have you ever wondered about words like trifle, hippogriff, Patronus and "Expelliarmus!"; or why Harry's life and adventures interest so many children and adults? Now you can get answers! You'll use a unique mixture of trivia, costume, drama and simulations to explore the mysteries of J.K. Rowling's books. See how she employs myth, English culture, ancient lore and languages to weave together the fascinating tales of the education of everyone's favorite student wizard. Note: Students should have read at least two of the Harry Potter books.

Instructor: Emily Thiele



Everyday Electricity

Advanced 2nd - 4th: 9:30 - 11:00

Beginner 2nd - 4th grades: 11:15 - 12:45

Beginning: Do you like experimenting with science and seeing what will happen? Have you ever wondered how a lightbulb works or why a battery has a plus side and a negative? Uncover the basics of electricity, explore how to create different types of circuits, and learn about switches. We'll even discover surprising objects that will complete and power a circuit.

Advanced: Go even further! Explore complex circuits, resistance and fuses.

Learn how to draw accurate circuit symbols. If the class meets learning goals quickly, you'll also explore electric motors and maybe even design your own electric experiments! Advanced students should have taken the Everyday Electricity class in the fall or have studied an electricity unit in school.

Instructor: Tracy Bednarick-Humes



Digital Storytelling: Podcasting

Advanced 3rd- 8th grades: 9:30 - 11:00

Beginning 3rd - 8th grades: 11:15 - 12:45

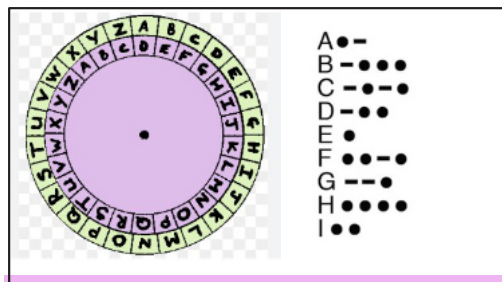
Back by popular demand!

Are you passionate about podcasts and love discussing a variety of topics? Beginners, learn what it takes to produce your own podcast, from scripts to shareable productions. We'll investigate a variety of tools and technology for our creative process.

Advanced, keep working on your project from last fall—or start a new one! (Or if you have some previous experience, the advanced class is right for you.)

All will practice performing and discover how to generate enough content for a series. Additionally, we'll cover how to find content that respects copyright laws and doesn't infringe on others' ideas. Whether you want to sign up solo or bring a cohort, join us for a fun and engaging journey into digital storytelling!

Instructor: Chuck Baker

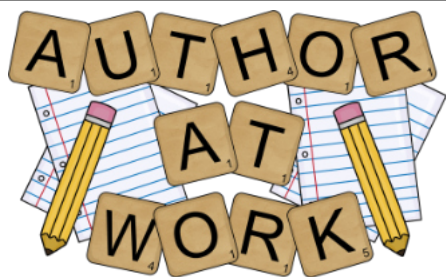


Cryptography & Code Breaking

3rd- 8th grades: 9:30 - 11:00

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



Genre Journeys & Writing Wonders

3rd - 5th grades: 9:30 - 11:00

Do you love to read fantasy, mystery, history, and adventure? Have you thought of writing something yourself? Learn tricks of the trade and develop your own stories. How do you use a 'hook' in different genres to captivate and intrigue your readers? Create some fun book styles, like a fantasy pop-up page and a hidden message book. Explore a variety of writing styles that will stimulate your imagination. We'll share our stories in a class book – you'll go home a 'published' author by the end of our session! I'd share all the hard work!

Instructor: Emily Thiele



Instructors

Chuck Baker, M.S., gifted teacher, Maplewood-Richmond Heights Middle School

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

Beth Crites, M.A., teacher, Sts. Joachim and Ann Catholic School

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

Lisa Hummel, M.A., middle school science teacher, Affton School District

Michelle Joyce, M.Ed., gifted teacher, Mehlville School District

Hannah Noack-Ruebling, M.A., gifted teacher, St. Charles School District

Lisa Pascoe, M.Ed., Board certified gifted teacher, Missouri Virtual Academy

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

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

Emily Thiele, M.Ed., Gifted specialist, Mehlville School District

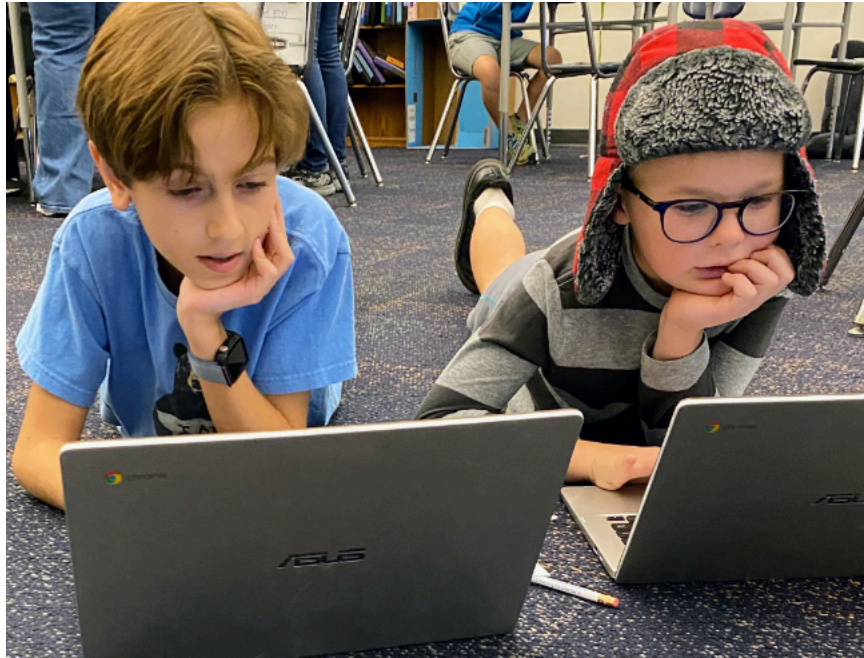
Kara Viviano, B.A., elementary teacher, Hazelwood School District

Parenting Classes – Winter 2025

Thanks to a generous donor, our parenting classes are **FREE TO ALL** this fall & winter!

We're still working on scheduling our line-up for speakers for winter.

We'll get these published as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have a topic you're dying to hear more about, please just let us know!



GRC Membership

Your membership will help us improve existing programs, extend offerings and reach more children. You also receive benefits like priority registration and program discounts. 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 2025

(Registration is available by sending in the form below with a check or credit card information or by registering online at 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 Middle Eastern/North African Other or additional info: _____

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

SESSION 1: 9:30 - 11:00

- Ages 4 - 5 "TINKER" Toys
- K - 1st Storybook STEM
- 2nd - 3rd It's a Hard Rock Life
- 2nd - 4th Everyday Electricity: Advanced
- 3rd - 4th LEGO Spike Robotics
- 3rd - 5th Genre Journeys & Writing Wonders
- 3rd - 5th Disaster Defenders: Engineering for the Extreme
- 4th - 5th Game On!
- 3rd - 8th Checkmate! Advanced
- 3rd - 8th Cryptography & Codebreaking
- 3rd - 8th LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Beginning
- 3rd - 8th Digital Storytelling: Advanced Podcasting

SESSION 2: 11:15 - 12:45

- Ages 5 - 6 Storybook STEM
- K - 1st It's a Hard Rock Life
- K - 3rd Checkmate! Beginning
- 2nd - 3rd Game On!
- 2nd - 4th Everyday Electricity: Beginning
- 3rd - 5th Winter Wonderland Art Studio
- 3rd - 8th LEGO Mindstorms Robotics: Advanced
- 3rd - 8th Digital Storytelling: Beginning Podcasting
- 4th - 8th Legends, Lore & the Wizarding World
- 5th - 8th LEGO Spike Robotics

Tuition is refundable (minus a \$15 withdrawal fee) for classes dropped more than two weeks before the start date. Members' priority registration good until December 24, 2024. 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: _____