



BUILDING SKILLS FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Collaboration Communication Creativity Critical Thinking

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The STEAM School is a homeschooling co-op in Delaplane, VA offering one school day each week and one meet-up day each week, providing both community and curriculum support

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CO-OP VALUES

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
TIME OUTDOORS
INCLUSIVITY

FREE PLAY
ACADEMIC CHOICE
INDIVIDUALITY

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL GROWTH
INDEPENDENCE
RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Classes at co-op are guided by experienced teachers. Lessons provide opportunities for group work, independent exploration, hands-on learning, and open-ended projects. Our goal is to inspire our children and foster an independent desire for learning. As projects finish, we take time for children to share their findings, experiences and questions with each other.

Community is very important to us, both within the school and outside our walls. Weekly class interactions help promote friendships, build community and offer

natural opportunities for collaboration. We periodically pair older children with younger ones for buddy activities. We also offer one meet-up day each week, which may be a field trip, outdoor activity, service activity or community event. We hope that these opportunities will help kids embrace diversity and grow a desire to contribute their ideas and improve the world around them.

To accomplish this we...

- Provide multisensory, experiential, self-directed, and project-based learning experiences that fit the needs of individual learners
- Foster creative thinking and academic excellence through open-ended inquiry, meaningful conversation, and challenging content
- Create a safe environment for kids to be curious, take risks, make mistakes, and learn skills for how to be a part of a community
- Inspire children to think critically about social issues, consider multiple perspectives, and take meaningful action
- Honor child development through age appropriate schedules and curriculum, including opportunity for free play and exploration

CLASSES

Classes are led by experienced teachers and parent assistants, allowing us to keep a very low student to teacher ratio. Children learn through experience, projects and exploration. We do not use tests or grade students, and teachers are available to discuss progress by parent request. A full schedule of planned Fall 2021 classes can be found in this packet.

STEAM School offers classes for Primary, Elementary and Upper Grades groups. Our primary group includes roughly Kindergarten through 1st grade (5-7 year olds). The Elementary group includes roughly 2nd-4th grade (7-10 year olds). Upper grades will include roughly 5th-8th grade (10-14 year olds). **These age groupings are subject to change based on registration numbers.**

OUR TEACHERS

STEAM teachers hold college degrees and have extensive experience working with and coaching children. All of our current instructors are parents with children in the program; however, we are also open to qualified outside help. Most classes also have an assistant working with the teacher to answer questions and help guide kids through projects. Assistants are parents who choose to remain on campus with their children and work with the teachers to learn how they can best help students. All assistants and teachers are parent volunteers and come from within the community. Assistants and teachers are exempt from paying drop off fees if they have children in the program. Teachers and assistants work together to plan our curriculum, create our schedule and organize school field trips. We are always interested in expanding our talent pool, so if you are interested in a staff position, please let us know!

OUR STUDENTS

We offer classes to kids in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our belief is that kids do best when they're understood and nurtured, and we aim to work as a team with families to provide an environment where their child can thrive.

We accept students with learning disabilities, ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorder, Autism and other profiles that impact their experiences in our learning environment. We encourage parents and teachers to engage in ongoing dialogue about how best to nurture students. Our teachers design learning experiences with all their students in mind, including those for whom traditional classroom instruction might be a poor fit.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Rules for Adults and Kids

- Be respectful and kind to all
- Encourage others and keep a positive attitude
- Mind the safety and personal space of others

- Listen to each other
- Help with clean up and taking care of school and church property
- Make learning fun!

TECHNOLOGY

Students in upper grades are encouraged to bring their own chromebooks or laptops to use for writing and other projects. STEAM provides tablets for shared use in robotics and other classes. Students may sometimes have opportunities to bring their own tablets to classes. Students are not permitted to use cell phones while on campus, although they may be stored in a student's backpack if a family would feel more comfortable with their student having one while at co-op.

DISCIPLINE

STEAM School places student learning at the center of our work. Therefore, when there are instances in which students are having difficulty participating appropriately, playing respectfully, and/or following the rules listed, teachers support the students through the use of calm down strategies, conflict resolution, and reflective conversation. The goal is for students to learn to self-regulate, including responding in healthy ways to their emotions, and to solve problems independently. We communicate with parents when these instances occur so that learning and reflection can continue at home and so that the STEAM-home partnership is strong.

If issues become ongoing and impact the health and learning of the child or their peers, a formal meeting with the leadership team may be called to discuss how to move forward. Children may be removed from the classroom temporarily, moved to another classroom, or asked to leave the co-op if they do not participate in a productive way during class or are continually upset and not benefiting from learning experiences.

When there are instances of adults acting in ways that are disrespectful, unkind, or unsupportive to other adults, the leadership team will talk directly to him/her. Action plans moving forward may include conflict resolution, making amends, changing behaviors, or leaving co-op if the relationship is deemed to be unproductive or unhealthy. Instances of disrespect or unkindness from an adult to a child are not tolerated.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- If a child needs help in the bathroom, his or her parents should be asked to provide help or asked for consent for another adult to help the child.
- Children who are upset, physically aggressive, and/or overwhelmed during classes or recess will be removed from the situation, and supported by teachers to de-escalate.
- STEAM School is a nut-free school. Please do not pack peanuts or tree nuts in student snacks or lunches.
- No food sharing except snacks provided for the entire class, which must be nut free and dairy/allergy friendly
- Each child must be signed in and out each school day. Children will only be released to the parent or emergency contact listed on registration forms unless prior notice is given.
- Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather, and have closed toed shoes.
- Slippers or socks must be worn inside, and shoes outside at all times. No bare feet.
- All parent volunteers and teachers are subject to a background check.
- **COVID 19** - STEAM School will comply with current Virginia Department of Health and CDC guidelines in place during our Fall 2021 semester. STEAM school will communicate specific guidelines to parents prior to the start of the fall semester as they relate to social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, positive tests within our school etc. based on guidance at that time.
- Children and adults must be symptom free from contagious illness (respiratory illness, sore throats and/or fever) for 72 hours before attending school or meet-ups. Please monitor your child's symptoms and temperature directly before attending an event. If you or your child begin to show symptoms after arrival, we ask that you leave. If you have had exposure to

Covid, do not attend events until 14 days after exposure remaining symptom free.

- All parents will need to sign a waiver releasing STEAM school from liability and agreeing to adhere to our safety policies.

GRADING

No formal evaluations will be given. Teachers are available for suggestions on improvement, feedback on submissions, or areas to correct by parent's request.

RELIGION

We are expressly a secular co-op, this means that content will be taught from a secular perspective. Children and parents are welcome to share their personal faith perspectives when it is relevant to the topic.

VOLUNTEERING

All co-op members pay the family fee to participate and agree to volunteer. Since we are a cooperative, we ask that all families share responsibilities. We ask that a family member complete a ***required minimum of hours** each semester. Available volunteer positions include morning playground monitor, being on call for substitute teaching, after-school clean up, assisting with activities on meet-up days, and assisting at parties. Teachers and assistant teachers are exempt from volunteer requirements as they typically go above and beyond these requirements through planning meetings, administrative tasks and filling vacant volunteer spots. ***The specific number of hours for each family to fulfill in order to meet the volunteer requirement will be calculated based on staffing vacancies and number of member families each semester, and will not exceed 10 hours per family.** The exact number of volunteer hours will be communicated with families before the beginning of each semester along with a list of volunteer needs and sign up list. If

you are unable to fulfill any of the volunteer slots, please speak with co-op coordinators.

REGISTRATION COST AND FEES

All Families must pay the registration and family fee applicable to the option they choose. Parents who choose to enroll their child as a drop off student on Tuesdays must also pay monthly fees for drop off service. These fees should be paid by the 15th of each month, and are non-refundable. A late fee of 10% of your family fee costs will be applied if payment is made late. If you do not pay required fees, your child's space may be forfeited to someone on the waiting list.

Please plan to pick up your child by 1:30pm. If a parent is late to pick up, there will be a \$15 charge for every 20 minutes past their pick up time, added to their monthly invoice.

COMMUNICATION

All parents and teachers must create an account in our parent communication app. It holds our calendar, volunteer schedule, files, class updates, supply needs and general announcements. All news between co-op administrators and teachers will be posted in this app.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event of weather we follow both Fauquier AND Warren county school closings, since we have teachers and families in both counties. If one or the other needs to close, we will also close. In the event of a 2 hour delay, we will forgo Morning meeting and center time and begin the day at 10am. Updates for delays and closings will also be posted in our parent app and on Facebook.

SUPPLIES

Each child should come to STEAM School with the following...

- **Slippers** - Each student should bring slippers to leave at STEAM School during the semester. Students wear their slippers while inside the school building to help limit daily floor clean up.
- **Backpack**
- **Lunch, snack and water bottle** (lunch and snack should be nut-free to adhere to school safety policies)
- **Change of clothes** - Primary students should keep a change of clothes in a plastic bag inside of their backpack. Elementary and upper grades students are strongly encouraged to keep a change of clothes in their backpack as well, as there is always the possibility of messy art projects, mud puddles etc.

Each family should come to STEAM School with the following...

- 2-3 items from the communal supply list, which will be shared before the start of the semester
- **An outdoor toy donation**, which may include a ball, jump rope or other item. A list of current needs will be sent out before the start of the semester.

MEET-UPS

Each week of the semester, STEAM will offer a meet-up on Thursdays. These gatherings change location each week, and are typically held at parks or other venues within a 40 minute driving radius of STEAM (occasionally farther), or in

some cases at STEAM. Meet-ups generally start at 10:30am. A full schedule will be made available prior to the start of the semester. Possible meet-ups will include themed activities at local parks, hikes, outdoor STEAM challenges, seasonal celebrations, as well as trips to local STEAM-related attractions. If the weather looks like it will not cooperate for an event, an email will be sent notifying participants the night before, and excess funds will be allocated to future meet-ups.

All supplies and fees for Thursday meet ups are included with the STEAM family fee. Select trips with higher fees will limit adult participation to one adult per family. If families would like to bring more adults for these events, they may have the option of paying separately for those participants.

Unlike Tuesday class days, Thursday meet-ups do not offer a drop off option; however, you may arrange your own parent proxy for meet ups if you wish.

All events will be structured in a way to accommodate current social distancing requirements, and we ask that you RSVP to the events.

FALL 2021 IMPORTANT DATES

September 7	First day of school
September 9	First Meet Up
November 2	Meet Up Day
November 4	School Day
<i>(school and meet up day are reversed 1st week in November so school building can be used as polling place on election day)</i>	
December 7	Last school day of semester
December 9	Last Meet Up of semester

FALL 2021 COURSE OFFERINGS

	Primary	Elementary	Upper Grades
9:00-9:30	Free Play Outside & Board Games Inside		
9:30-10:00	Morning Meeting		
10:00-10:45	Literacy with art and play based activities	Unit 1: Science Unit 2: Engineering	Unit 1: Literacy Unit 2: Writing Workshop
10:45-11:00	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11:00-11:45	Unit 1: Nature Science Unit 2: Engineering	Unit 1: Literacy Unit 2: Writing Workshop	Unit 1: Science Unit 2: Engineering
11:45-12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:30-1:30	Sensory and Play Centers (Older Primary Students may choose to join other electives)	Open Robotics Open Studio Art Student-Led Clubs: TBD based on student interest	

***Units are 5 weeks long**

****Schedule subject to change due to enrollment****

FALL 2021 CO-OP FEES

STEAM offers families 3 options to participate in our Fall 2021 semester.

Option 1 - Tuesday Class

Registration: \$100/family per year

Family fee: \$200/family per semester

TOTAL: \$300/ family (plus *monthly drop off fees if applicable)

**The following monthly drop off fees apply if you will NOT be on campus in a teacher or assistant teacher role during class day*

1 child	\$80
2 Children	\$144
3 Children	\$192
4 Children	\$256

Option 2 - Thursday Meet Ups

Registration: \$100/family per year

Family fee: \$100/family per semester

TOTAL: \$200/family (Thursdays do not offer a drop off option)

Option 3 - Tuesday Class AND Thursday Meet Ups

Registration: \$100/family per year

Family fee: \$300/family per semester

TOTAL: \$400/family (plus *monthly drop off fees if applicable)

**The following monthly drop off fees apply if you will NOT be on campus in a teacher or assistant teacher role during class day*

1 child	\$80
2 Children	\$144
3 Children	\$192
4 Children	\$256

Questions? steamschooldelaplane@gmail.com