

St. Thomas Episcopal After School Program
First Nine Weeks, 2017 – 2018 Class Descriptions
August 28 – October 20, 2017

Art a la Carte – Artistic skills and creativity with focus on age-appropriate drawing, sketching, and painting – using pen and ink, pencil, oil, pastels, acrylics, and water colors. We use several medium to work on paper, fabrics, wood, and ceramics; also modeling clay to strengthen fine motor skills. The class instruction, projects, and supplies are tailored to the age group of the class. (Adler)

Ballroom & Country Dancing – In this class, participants will learn the fundamentals of lead and follow, framing, floor craft, timing, and more, as it pertains to a variety of dances: waltz, tango, foxtrot, East Coast swing, cha-cha, rumba, two-step, polka, and West Coast swing. This class is for anyone aged 10 and older. (Orsak)

Beginning Chess – Learn the fundamentals (names of pieces, their value, and how they move) and basic strategy (check, checkmate, stalemate, checkmate in 1 puzzles) of the ancient game of chess. (Githoro)

Beginning Soccer – Come learn and play the fundamentals of the most popular sport in the world! (Andrews)

Board Game Design - Students in this class will have opportunities to play both competitive and cooperative board games. They will then be guided through the process of creating their own games either individually or in pairs (their choice). They will decide the “Purpose” of their game, and then design a game that they can share with others. (Matheny)

Chess – Learn Advanced chess strategies and compete in tournaments. (Advanced mating patterns: K+Qmate, K+Rmate, en passant; opening tasks and names of variations) (Githoro)

Engineering for Kids – Students will use the engineering process to apply real world concepts through real hands-on, inquiry based activities that involve STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Students will learn about trajectory, thrust, and aero dynamics, while making planes, helicopters, and rockets. (Ibeawuchi)

Fiber Creations for Pre-K3, pre-K4, and Kindergarten - Children in this class will have the opportunity to create whatever they would like out of the materials they are given. Each week they will be presented with several different types of “Fibers” (yarn, fabric, paper, etc), along with some “surprise materials” and will be encouraged to come up with their own unique creations. Making these “creations” will also help to strengthen their fine motor skills. (Matheny)

Fencing – Learn the ancient art of sword play! No prior experience required. Foils, mask, jackets, and gloves provided. (Trojanowski)

Fun with Fiber Art – Children in this class will have fun learning basic sewing, quilting and crocheting skills. We will make lots of crafts using all types of fibers (fabric, yarn, paper etc). Whether a child already possesses these skills, or if they are learning them for the first time, they will be able to make several projects of their choice. Some of these choices will include (but will not be limited to) ornaments, bags, small quilts,

seasonal decorations, “Stuffies”, cards and windchimes. These projects will also strengthen fine motor skills, math skills and social skills. (Matheny)

Fun with French – An experienced, native French-speaking teacher offers creative, themed classes to help children gain an early grasp of the French language. Students will act out stories, play games, sing, and dance, all in French, because we don’t learn only with the brain, but also with the whole body. (Angel)

Guitar – Guitars have been around for hundreds of years, and any kind of music can be played on a guitar. If you love music, you probably love guitar! From Classical to Rock n’ Roll, and everything in between, a good guitar player can do it all. Join me in learning the world’s coolest musical instrument, the guitar! (Sims)

Horseback Riding Lessons – Build horseback riding skills, knowledge, and responsibility. Lessons available in two 1-hour sessions: 9:00 or 10:00 a.m on Saturday mornings in Friendswood. Call to arrange an appointment and payment: 281-844-5574 (Purdum)

Learning with Legos – Come and learn with us across the curriculum with the best, most creative, and popular toy...Legos!!! (Morris)

Magic, the Gathering – Delve into the world of deck building and discover endless combinations and synergies to challenge your creativity and see the result when two minds collide. (Morrow)

Martial Arts– Forged Warrior facilitates physical, mental, and spiritual growth while promoting courtesy, respect, discipline, and courage to students of all ages. No uniform required. (Buckreis)

Math Olympiad (grade 4 and up to grade 8) – If math is your “thing”, this is the class for you! Math is fun when you have a strong foundation and a healthy sense of confidence! The Math Olympiads program is a math problem solving contest for teams of students in grades 4 through 8, which is designed to provide students with the groundwork for math that students can continue to build upon as they develop strategies for problem solving (learn more at moems.org). (Chen)

Playing Board Games - In these days of video games (which I don’t deny can be fun), children are spending more time in front of a screen instead of with other people. In this class, children will be given the opportunity to play some new games, share their favorites, and learn how to win and lose graciously. We will be playing both competitive and cooperative board games while practicing good sportsmanship. (Matheny)

Private Piano Lessons - Lessons are tailored to meet the needs of individual students in regards to age and ability. Lessons include music notation, theory, music history, technique, piano literature of different styles, and performance practice. Lesson day and time will be arranged with the instructor.

Sign Language – (Matthews)

Soccer Skills– Come learn and play the fundamentals of the most popular sport in the world! (Andrews)

Soccer Play – Introduction to the skills needed to play soccer. (Andrews)

Tabletop Roll Playing Games – Coming off the heels of a very successful summer camp, there will now be an after-school opportunity for young people to learn about tabletop role-playing games. These games are unique, in that they teach a variety of skills people are unlikely to learn elsewhere. At its most basic, it is a

study in cooperative storytelling, which is an activity that is as old as mankind itself, but in our world of visual and audio media, has eroded as a part of our culture. Consider engaging in this fun and enriching activity. (Orsak)

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles – Through crafts, science and reading, we will zoom through town investigating what makes vehicles go! (Bowker)

Video Production – Action! Students will explore the world of videography as they produce their own short films. Come have fun and practice acting, storyboarding, filming, and editing. (Thornburg)

What's Cooking? – Something smells good - It's time to join Mrs. Bischoff/DeHaan's second cooking class! Each week we will prepare two dishes – always different. Sometimes a soup and a salad; sometimes a main entrée and dessert. Always special; ALWAYS good! Bring two covered plastic containers each week to take home some of your delicious creations. Kitchen space is limited, so sign up soon! (Bischoff/DeHaan)

St. Thomas Afternoon Enrichment, 2017-2018 1st Nine Weeks Instructor Introductions

Molly Adler – has taught art at St. Thomas and at the Clear Lake Presbyterian Mothers' Day Out Program for over twenty years.

Lindsie Andrews – A collegiate soccer player, she has played and coached soccer in our community for 25 years. Ms. Andrews has a particular affinity for young learners.

Veronique Angel – moved to the US from France 12 years ago and has been a high school and college French teacher for 10 years. She taught her two daughters French at home and looks forward to teaching young children with French books, games, and music.

Silvia Bischoff – Teacher of Spanish at St. Thomas and Clear Lake Presbyterian MDO for a number of years, her joy in life is cooking and creating happy dining experiences. The St. Thomas Summer Camp cooking class was lots of fun, and this class will be, too!

Rikie Bowker - is the mother of two St. Thomas alumni and a 7-year teacher at St. Thomas. In addition to her love of teaching, she volunteers with the Bay Area Assistance League and Clear Lake Panhellenic.

Robby Buckreis – has combined twenty years of martial arts experience with a Masters degree in exercise and sports science to develop a proprietary blend of martial arts styles coupled with fitness to teach crucial self defense skills in a fun and interesting way.

Charlene Chen, CPA and Staff from League City Kumon – has been the instructor for the League City Kumon Math & Reading after-school program for over 12 years and is the proud mother of two former St. Thomas students. She is delighted to be returning to the St. Thomas campus to help students build their math skills, which will serve them well throughout their education and careers.

Rosemarie DeHaan - – Although she is certified and experienced in teaching all areas, K – 8, her special interest and certification is art. She challenges students to reach their potential in all their artistic endeavors.

Bo Githoro – is a 2x Texas State Chess Champion with over 17 years of competition experience. He has over ten years of teaching experience and has produced State Champions as young as the 1st grade. His interactive and innovative methods of teaching can take all students to the next level of play.

Samira Ibeawuchi – has taught grades K-3 for the past 7 years. She is passionate about teaching and preparing our little ones for the future. Her aim is for each child to develop a love for learning and to have fun while they're doing it!

Michael Leedy – is completing a degree in geology at UH. He is a life-long member of St. Thomas Episcopal in Nassau Bay and has had extensive experience working with children and youth. He has been playing RPGs for a decade and heads games for other game masters, including Pastoral Associate Joshua Orsak.

Meg Matheny – has been teaching religion at St. Thomas for fifteen years. Both of her daughters graduated from St. Thomas, and she is most excited that her granddaughter will be starting pre-school here in the fall.

She loves to watch children grow in curiosity and develop creatively, and she strives to create an environment where that growth can occur.

Leigh Matthews - is a Speech Pathologist who has worked with deaf or hard-of-hearing students and adults of all ages. In addition to working with those with learning or communication problems, she enjoys knitting and riding her bike.

Gail Morris - says that teaching children is her true passion. She is presently a special education para-professional with Clear Creek ISD. Prior to that, for 17 years, she was a teacher at a private pre-school in League City.

Connor Morrow – is a theater production student at the University of Houston. He has a passion for art, people, and sweet, sweet victory.

Joshua Orsak – is the ten year pastoral associate at St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church and School. He has a degree in Christian Education and is a licensed youth minister, ballroom dancer, game player, and crime fighting hero!

Suellen Purdum –and husband David have been successfully teaching riding to beginners and intermediate riders for 8 years. Their kindness and patience provide a fun and safe learning experience! Ages 5 – adult welcome!

Brian Riker – of Masterwork Studio Piano Lessons, has studied piano for 28 years and has been a recitalist and collaborative pianist for over a decade. He has degrees in piano performance from Sam Houston State and Lamar Universities, has performed in Salzburg, Austria, and with a number of performing artists. He is currently the organist at Atascocita United Methodist Church.

Parker Sims – has been a guitar player for almost ten years and has taught guitar for three years. He loves to share the joy of playing music with others. Playing an instrument is a skill that can change a life for the better in many ways.

Ellen Thornburg – is a graduate student in Digital Media. Last autumn she assisted the students with their film, “A Day in the Life of St. Thomas.”

John Trojanowski – has been involved in fencing since 1995 and coaching since 2001. Currently, he serves as chair of the Gulf Coast Texas Division of USA Fencing.