



2021 SUMMER PROGRAM

For Middle and High School Students
June 14th - August 6th

18200 Rinaldi Place, Northridge, CA 91326

(747) 877-2001

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Vidya does not discriminate on the bases of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sex in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school administered programs and activities.



1. Overview

The objective of our Summer Program is to offer unique classes that showcase our educational philosophy. These courses are intended to augment and complement traditional classes offered at local schools. They range from life skills, such as financial literacy and habits for success, to learner-led projects in our Makers' Lab. We use games, field trips, the Socratic method of discussion and project-based learning to make these classes fun and memorable. Come experience how we prepare teens for real life.

Our courses fall under five categories: (1) life skills; (2) community; (3) humanities; (4) science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and (5) Makers' Lab. Courses are typically four weeks long and offered in Session 1, 2 or both:

<i>Session</i>	<i>Start and end dates</i>
Session 1	Monday, June 14 – Friday, July 9, 2021
Session 2	Monday, July 12 – Friday, August 6, 2021

A few courses are eight weeks long and span both sessions – that is, they start Monday, June 14th and end Friday, August 6.

Classes typically meet twice per week — Mondays & Wednesdays (MW) or Tuesdays & Thursdays (TTh) — for three hours each.

<i>Session</i>	<i>Start and end times</i>
Morning	9:00am-12:00pm
Afternoon	12:30pm-3:30pm

Note: Classes with a significant number of field trips typically meet for the whole day (9 AM to 4 PM), and actual meeting times and places vary (see §8).

Our facilities are open 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday, and learners are welcome to stay at school outside of class hours for a fee of \$10 per hour.

Learners are expected to spend as much time learning and exploring outside of the classroom as inside the classroom (3 hours of class time per week = 3 hours of independent exploration per week). This may involve reading, researching, watching video clips, watching movies, interviewing, writing, or attending local events. Students will present their learning to their peers, families, and invited guests in a Presentation of Learning (PoL) towards the end of the session.



2. Course Offering and Schedule

		Session 1		Session 2	
Mondays & Wednesdays	Mornings	Cogs in the Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habits for Success I 2. What's Going on in the World? 3. Mathemagic I 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Habits for Success II 5. What's Going on in the World? 6. Mathemagic II 	Environment & the Community
	Afternoon		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habits for Success (MS) 2. Classics Book Club 3. State of the Tech 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Habits for Success (MS) 5. Classics Book Club 6. Invention Project 	
Tuesdays & Thursdays	Mornings	Farm to Table	1. Banking on the Future	2. Banking on the Future	Cogs in the Community
	Afternoons		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal Finance I 2. Health & Wellness 3. Classics Film Club 4. Build your own Gadget 5. The Mechanical Mind 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entrepreneurship 2. Data Science 3. Journalism 	
Fridays		Available for Makers' Lab, Exploration, and tutoring at additional cost.			

Blue is for middle school students and red is for high school students only.

3. Registration

Registering for summer classes is simple – just send an email to admissions@vidyachs.org with student and guardian information as well as the class(es) you wish to register for. You may also call Myriah Bibian at 747-877-2001 and provide the information over phone. Once we have all the necessary information, we will send an invoice and an agreement. There are three options for payment:

- a. **Zelle:** Payments can be made electronically via Zelle (available through most major banks) to muthu@vidyachs.org. This is the preferred approach as it is easy, fast, secure and without fees.
- b. **Check:** Checks must be made payable to Vidya Community High School and turned in to one of the board members. If mailed, checks must be mailed to the attention of the Treasurer at Vidya Community High School, 18200 Rinaldi Place, Northridge, CA 91326.
- c. **Credit Card:** Vidya uses Stripe to process credit card payments. If this is your preferred option, please let us know and we will send you a link.

Agents of Vidya shall not accept cash payments. Moreover, Vidya is not setup to accept payments via Venmo or other electronic payment service not listed above.

Your child will be officially enrolled in the class upon receipt of payment. Approximately one week before classes start, students and parents will receive an email with instructor name, log-in and detailed course information.

4. Summer Camp Policies

Vidya has the following policies and offers for the summer camp:

- Unless otherwise stated, fees include material and field-trip costs such as transportation and entrance fees.
- We will provide some healthy snacks during breaks but will not provide lunches.
- Classes are limited to a maximum of 16 students.
- Classes with five or fewer students enrolled will be cancelled the Friday prior to session start.
- Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Payments are due one week before session starts.
- We provide a 10% discount for each referral signup – ask for details.
- We provide a 10% discount for enrolling in two or more classes.
- There will be NO refund for missed days or withdrawal after session starts.
- Refunds are limited to 50% for cancellation between payment due date and session start date.

5. Course Description

Rooms and Instructors will be assigned early May and an updated course catalog will be published in late May. For *Audience*, *MS* refers to middle school students while *HS* refers to high school students.

a. Life Skills

Banking on our Future (BOOF)

Offered in partnership with Operation HOPE, this program empowers learners to participate in financial discussions with their families, save for college, and confidently manage their own money. Led by certified HOPE Corps volunteers, the program teaches learners money basics—budgeting, checking and savings, power of credit, and investments.

<i>Cost</i>	FREE	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	Middle School
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	Operation Hope		

Personal Finance I - Managing your money

This first course for high school students covers basics of money management, budgeting, earning and borrowing. Understand economic principles and how they influence money matters. Learn to avoid impulsive decisions and make rational ones. We will work through the process of buying or leasing a car. Learners will be exposed to college planning, costs and financing, as well as how to protect themselves from financial fraud. Have fun relating concepts to Monopoly and Ca\$hflow board games.

<i>Cost</i>	\$295	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	High School
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

Personal Finance II - Growing your money

In this continuation course for high school students, the focus will be on growing and protecting one's hard-earned money. This class dives into payroll taxes and employee benefits to maximize savings; stocks, bonds and real estate to build personal wealth; and insurance to protect one from certain risks. Learners will research and compare financial tools and services to meet financial goals.

<i>Cost</i>	\$295	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	High School
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

Habits for Success

This course introduces middle school learners to Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and puts them on a path to take ownership of their learning and lives. Through Socratic method discussions of real-life situations, learners will understand how to proactively respond to events and situations and how to effectively work with others.

<i>Cost</i>	\$295	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	Middle School
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		



Habits for Success I - Independence

With an emphasis on the first three habits of Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, this class empowers students to become more independent. Learners will understand the importance of focusing on things under their control, setting goals and prioritizing tasks. Through numerous exercises, activities and tools, students will learn how to put these habits into practice for success in high school.

Cost	\$295	Field trips	None	Audience	High School
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

Habits for Success II - Interdependence

Working effectively with others is essential, whether it be a group project or a team sport. This class focuses on Stephen Covey's *interdependence* habits to nurture a cooperative environment. Learners are provided tools to periodically self-assess and make continual improvement a lifelong process. Additional topics include rational decision making and risk management.

Cost	\$295	Field trips	None	Audience	High School
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

Health & Wellness

Understand your body and how you can influence it through diet, sleep and exercise. Track key health metrics and measurements and how they respond to various activities. Dive into the details of tests performed at your physical exam. (Access to Fitbit or similar activity tracker highly recommended.)

Cost	\$295	Field trips	None	Audience	MS & HS
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

Entrepreneurship

Learners bring entrepreneurship to life by gaining an understanding of economic principles that influence their lives in order to form, run, and liquidate their own business. These entrepreneurs will engage in experiential activities to synthesize how local, national, and global economic systems affect their business development and will have the opportunity to interact with professionals in their fields. This experience will allow learners to see the connections between what they learn in the classroom, their future professional journey, and their participation in the global economy.

Cost	\$695	Field trips	2	Audience	High School
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

b. Community

Cogs in the Community – Learn what makes your community run!



Ever wondered how our community functions? How does the community make decisions and enforce them? Where do we get our power, water, and gas? What happens to the waste that is generated? What products and services do we provide to folks outside of the community? This fun-filled class examines the critical elements of our community via field trips to local facilities such as city hall, wind farms, local landfill, etc.

<i>Cost</i>	\$495	<i>Field trips</i>	6	<i>Audience</i>	MS & HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

Environment and the Community

Where do we get our power, water, and gas? How do these essential utilities and services impact our environment? Understand the basic terminology, science, technology, and trends. This fun-filled class examines the critical infrastructure in our community via hands-on activities and field trips to local facilities.

<i>Cost</i>	\$495	<i>Field trips</i>	6	<i>Audience</i>	MS & HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

Farm to Table

Explore the journey food makes from the fertile farms to our table. Visit farmers markets, dairy farms, vegetable farms, butcheries, and food factories to learn where our food comes from, how it's processed and how it's stocked at the grocery store. Interact with a farmer, chef or agricultural scientist and explore career options in the food industry.

<i>Cost</i>	\$495	<i>Field trips</i>	6	<i>Audience</i>	MS & HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

Helping Hands

Learn about local non-profits & service organizations, how they benefit their communities and how you can support their mission. Volunteer your time to a cause that you support. Through the connections we provide, you can fulfill the twenty hours of community service requirements.

<i>Cost</i>	\$295	<i>Field trips</i>	4	<i>Audience</i>	MS & HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

c. Humanities

Classics Book Club



Avid readers who want to develop their critical-thinking skills will read two to three books from the Western canon of literature and participate in Socratic method discussions of the books. These discussions are intended to foster a constant, respectful dialogue between peers, the past and the present, and the real world and the classroom. Short compositions and book critiques will also develop their writing skills.

<i>Cost</i>	\$295 + books	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	MS & HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

Classic Film Club

Do you love stories and popcorn? Join us on a journey to uncover what happens when people run with their imaginations and bring their visions to life on the big screen. Film enthusiasts will be introduced to movies that stood the test of time and engage in meaningful conversations to unveil what has changed and what has stayed the same. Short compositions and film critiques will also develop their writing skills.

<i>Cost</i>	\$295 + rental	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	MS & HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

What's Going on in the World?

Pick a current event — global, national, or local — and dive deep into it through reading, research and interviews. Understand multiple perspectives. Use dialectics to enhance understanding of the world and your sense of agency.

<i>Cost</i>	\$295	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	Middle School
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

Journalism

Go beyond the 60-second evening news clip. Pick a local issue – such as Covid vaccine administration, homeless camps or Aliso Canyon gas leak - and dive deep into it through reading, research and interviews. Separate misinformation from facts. Make a documentary or write a report or news article.

<i>Cost</i>	\$495	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	High School
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

d. STEM

Mathemagic I – Discrete Math



Experience the fun of mathematics through logic puzzles like Sudoku, board games like Blokus, classic PC games like minesweeper, and card games. Students learn concepts in discrete math and number theory (like combinatorics and prime numbers) that play an increasingly important role in the modern world. This is a perfect complement to the continuous math that traditional schools focus on.

Cost	\$295	Field trips	None	Audience	MS, HS
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

Mathemagic II – Visual Math

Experience the fun of mathematics through visualization of functions. Using Excel and Desmos, interactively graph and plot functions to learn how they behave. Explore the beauty of Lissajous curves and Mandelbrot set. You will be exposed to incredible properties of π , e , i and ∞ , as well as some of the pioneers in the field.

Cost	\$295	Field trips	None	Audience	High School
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

Data Science

Dig deep into readily available data sets to answer a question that drives you. Dabble in statistical concepts and R programming language to learn how to distill large data sets into readily understandable graphics to effectively communicate Big Data to the masses. Build mathematical and statistical models to predict future observations.

Cost	\$495	Field trips	None	Audience	High School
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

State of the Tech

We begin by unpacking the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES), which is held each January, to peek at the technology just around the corner. We will explore a handful of student-selected technologies. Young minds will be dazzled as they experience virtual and augmented reality and learn to fly a quadcopter/drone. We will visit local tech companies to see firsthand the work of brilliant minds as they race to make our lives better.

Cost	\$345	Field trips	2	Audience	MS, HS
Room	TBD	Instructor	TBD		

Invention Project



Each day, learners engage in an activity (such as solar power projects or origami robots) that combines hands-on fun and creativity with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts. These units are infused with intellectual property and entrepreneurial literacy. Eight total units offered through National Inventors Hall of Fame (invent.org).

<i>Cost</i>	\$295	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	Middle School
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

e. Makers' Lab

Build Your Own Gadget (BYOG)

This is an introductory course for those interested in building their own electronic gadgets in our Makers' Lab. Students will get an overview of the design-thinking process, block diagrams, tools and resources available, inexpensive single-board computers like Raspberry Pi or Arduino, sensors, and actuators.

<i>Cost</i>	\$395	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	MS, HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		

The Mechanical Mind

This is an introductory course for those interested in building their own mechanical gadgets in our Makers' Lab. Explore the field of mechanical engineering. Learn to design parts in CAD software and realize your creative ideas on a 3D printer. Students will get an overview of the design-thinking process.

<i>Cost</i>	\$395	<i>Field trips</i>	None	<i>Audience</i>	MS, HS
<i>Room</i>	TBD	<i>Instructor</i>	TBD		



6. Makers' Lab

Many colleges have maker spaces – examples include USC's Ahmanson Lab, MIT's MakerWorkshop and Case Western's think[box] – where students can realize their creations. Makers' Lab is Vidya's version of maker space. It is a great way to experience project-based learning and our approach to education. Here, learners can work on their passion project of choice with professional guidance and support on their schedule in a safe space with adult supervision. Open 9-5 on weekdays, the lab is always staffed with at least one facilitator and is equipped with computers, printers, and commonly used software and hardware. During the course of the project, we will empower learners to use the design-thinking process – find, empathize, define, ideate, prototype and test – to successfully complete their projects. Projects are typically multidisciplinary and not limited to STEM fields. Potential examples of projects include the following:

- Making a short movie or documentary clip
- Presenting an investigative report based on analysis of readily available datasets
- Creating a robot (for example, using Lego Mindstorm)
- Building a smart device (for example, using Raspberry Pi or Arduino)
- Preparing for competitions (for example, JPL invention challenge or LA County Science Fair)
- Developing a smartphone app or game
- Writing a business plan or even starting your own business.

Joining the Makers' Lab is easy. Sign up for a free one-hour meeting to discuss your child's passion project with a facilitator. Together, we will develop a realistic plan that can be completed in 12-16 weeks with approximately three hours spent at Makers' Lab and three hours at home. Project plans can be tailored for summer when students can spend more time to complete a project in under eight weeks. The plan/proposal will include the following:

- clear, achievable milestone(s),
- success criteria,
- expected time/resource commitment,
- rough schedule with weekly benchmarks, and
- material needs, including cost.

The project will culminate with a Presentation of Learning (PoL) where learners will showcase their work to stakeholders and document lessons learned.

The cost for use of the Makers' Lab is \$20/hour, plus materials for the project. A group of three (recommended) can work on a project together for \$50/hour each.



7. Covid-19

Based on current federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and State Department of Health projections for vaccinations and herd immunity, we expect to be able to host in-person classes and field trips in the June-August months. However, we reserve the right to change the methods of instruction to reflect existing County Health Department advisories and guidelines.

8. Field Trips

Classes on field trip days will likely have different meeting times and places. For example, a visit to City Hall via train will require the class to meet at Chatsworth Train Station 15 minutes before the train arrival time. The facilitator or guide will provide all necessary information well ahead of the field trip.

Students are encouraged to bring snacks and lunches consistent with their dietary needs. Full day field trips will include lunch breaks where students will have access to meals that they can purchase out of pocket.

9. Contact Information

For any questions regarding classes, registration or logistics, please email info@vidyachs.org or call (747) 877-2001.

