



## Deerstream Fall 2025 Afternoon Enrichment Courses

<b><u>Dates:</u></b> <b>September 10-December 4</b> (NO afternoon programming October 15-16, November 24-27)	<b><u>Times:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Café and Play: 12:15-1 PM</li> <li>• Afternoon Enrichment Courses: 1-2:15 PM</li> </ul>
<b><u>Cost:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Café and Play: \$100 per day per semester</li> <li>• Afternoon Enrichment Course: \$150 per course/per semester for Deerstream Morning Students</li> <li>• \$175 per class/per semester for non-Deerstream students</li> <li>• \$25 discount applied for each Café and Play + Afternoon Course pairing</li> </ul>	

## Courses Offered

Monday		Wednesday		Thursday	
Age	Course	Age	Course	Age	Course
4-8	Charlotte Mason Hour	4-8	Read and Romp	4-8	Lego Basics
5-10	Parkour & Acrobatics	5-10	Animal Engineers	5-10	Van Gogh Painting
5-9	Spanish	6-9	Storytime Chess	8+	Clogging
8-12	Secret Agent Stem	8-12	Secret Agent Stem	9+	Lego Robotics
9-13	Fairy Tales on Trial	9-14	Life Skills	10+	Improv and Public Speaking
10+	Game Design	10+	Deerstream Chorus	11-14	Ancient History
JD/HS	Personal Finance	JD/HS	Collage Art & Painting	JD/HS	Entry Level Python
		JD/HS	Charlotte Mason Hour		

*\*If your student is interested in a class outside the age range listed and you believe it could be a good fit, reach out to Mrs. Pica at [afternoons@deerstream.org](mailto:afternoons@deerstream.org).*



## **Monday Fall 2025 Course Descriptions**

### **Charlotte Mason, Mrs. Harris (ages 4-8)**

Spend an hour with friends in a Charlotte Mason way. Afternoons will contain good stories, art studies, handicrafts, old-fashioned games, and free play.

---

### **Intro to Spanish, Miss Peck (ages 5-9)**

This introduction to the Spanish language requires no prior experience. Previous students are welcome to join the class. Class time will be spent practicing and repeating. We'll learn a few praise songs, how to greet others, vocabulary, and some verb conjugation. Students will have a fun and light-hearted experience intended to encourage them to continue the study of Spanish.

---

### **Parkour & Acrobatics, Coach Vaughn (ages 5-10)**

This physical fitness class is for students of all skill levels who want to work on their agility and acrobatic abilities. Students will start by learning basic acrobatic movements such as cartwheels, rolls, and safety falls. We will then build on those skills and learn more advanced gymnastic and parkour sequences. Students will develop flexibility, sharpen their physical instincts, and deepen their appreciation of their natural strength and abilities.

---

### **Secret Agent Stem Class, Mrs. Bortone (ages 8-12)**

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: Come enjoy STEM! In this mission, "secret agents" must use a variety of materials to help the secret agent carry out the master plan. Critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration are needed for success! This is an engineering type class where students will be investigating using hands-on activities to stretch their thinking (and spy skills!).

---

### **Fairy Tales on Trial, Mrs. Embry (ages 8-12)**

What if the Big Bad Wolf took the stand to defend himself? Was Goldilocks really just a curious girl—or a trespasser? In this fun and interactive enrichment class, students will step into the roles of lawyers, witnesses, judges, and jurors as we put classic fairy tale characters on trial! Each week, we'll explore a different fairy tale, analyzing the story's plot, character motivations, and point of view while learning the basics of courtroom procedure. Students will sharpen their reading comprehension, public speaking, and critical thinking skills as they prepare opening statements, question witnesses, and deliver persuasive arguments. This class blends imaginative storytelling with real-world skills, encouraging teamwork, creativity, and deeper engagement with familiar texts—all while bringing fairy tales to life in a whole new way: in the courtroom!

---

### **2D/3D Game Design w/Unity (Code Wiz)**

Gaming will never be the same again! In our 2D & 3D Game Design class, you'll use the Unity platform and a VR headset to fuse your imagination with reality and create Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality games with your code. You will also learn to add creative special filters to your camera feed. Another

exciting feature you can know is how to use hand gestures to interact with the elements of your virtual game. Concepts your child will learn: Navigate a 3D game engine, build 2D and 3D Unity games from the ground up, write C# scripts, create Character and Camera Animations and cutscenes, and use variables and functions. They will also learn essential artificial intelligence, work with gravity and 3D objects, and gain a transferrable general knowledge of game design.

---

### **Personal Finance, Mrs. Eriksen (JD/HS)**

This class will help Junior Division and High School students understand the basics of Personal Finance. As students get ready to enter the real world, it's important that they have the skills and the knowledge to make smart financial decisions. A personal finance class can help them learn about the importance of financial responsibility and managing their money wisely. Students will learn money management skills and strategies and the role various financial institutions play in that process. Students will look at the advantages and disadvantages of debt and the ways to be an informed consumer and borrower. Students will also look at various investing strategies and the role taxes play in saving and investing. All content will be taught recognizing that God, as Creator, is the ultimate owner of all possessions on earth. Students will be thoughtfully taught to recognize that God has given people the authority to be stewards of those possessions and the responsibility to faithfully manage them according to the principles in the Word of God.



## **Wednesday Fall 2025 Course Descriptions**

### **Read and Romp, Mrs. Winslow (ages 4-8)**

Who is up for some fun, book-based, story-time adventures? In this class, we will read a book (or two) each week and follow up with an activity. These activities include a scavenger hunt, nature hike, relay races, rock painting, bird feeder creation, dramatic interpretation, active songs, and tent/shelter building. Students will not be expected to read in this class. Instead, book lovers and reluctant readers alike will be immersed in great literature and a related adventure.

### **Animal Engineers, Mrs. Chyatte (ages 6-10)**

Welcome to *Animal Engineers*, an afternoon enrichment class where young minds will dive into the fascinating world of nature's most innovative engineers. In this hands-on class, students will explore how different animals build, create, and design extraordinary structures and systems to survive and thrive in their environments. From the intricate tunnels of ants to the sturdy dams of beavers, this class will highlight the brilliant engineering feats of the animal kingdom. Through engaging lessons and fun projects, students will learn about the remarkable designs of animals such as beavers, ants, spiders, termites, wasps, and more. They will then have the opportunity to create their own versions of these

natural engineering marvels, applying problem-solving skills and creativity. By the end of the course, students will not only gain a deeper understanding of the natural world but also develop hands-on engineering skills that they can carry with them into other areas of their learning and play.

---

#### **Storytime Chess, Mrs. Corpening (ages 6-9)**

In this class, 6-9 year olds are invited to experience the gentle method of Story Time Chess to learn beginning chess skills. Each week will begin with a story... of a king, or two knights, or a castle lawn full of pawns! As we meet each character, their stories will help us to learn the beginning concepts of chess. Each week, mini-games will help us put what we have learned into practice as we gradually learn to play a basic, full game of chess!

---

#### **Secret Agent Stem Class, Mrs. Bortone (ages 8-12)**

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: Come enjoy STEM! In this mission, "secret agents" must use a variety of materials to help the secret agent carry out the master plan. Critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration are needed for success! This is an engineering type class where students will be investigating using hands-on activities to stretch their thinking (and spy skills!).

---

#### **Deerstream Chorus, Mrs. Rachel Culberston (ages 10+)**

Join us this fall for an exciting journey into the world of choral singing! In this course, students will be inspired to find and use their unique voices to experience the joy of singing in a fun and supportive environment. Singers will receive instruction in healthy vocal technique, sight-singing, ear training, diction, and music appreciation, as well as how to present themselves to an audience with confidence and engagement. Rehearsals will include a variety of activities aimed at fostering teamwork and artistry, and students will connect with their musical heritage through learning quality repertoire including hymns, folk songs, spirituals, and musical theater. The last day of class will include a showcase for singers to share the music they've learned!

---

#### **Life Skills, Mrs. Harris (9-14)**

Students will learn all the necessary skills they need to not only survive as an adult- but thrive! This hands-on class will cover topics from First Aid, sewing, meal planning, cleaning a bathroom, apologizing, tying a tie, wrapping a gift...as well as other important life skills this semester.

---

#### **Collage Art & Painting, Miss Peck (JD/HS)**

In this course, with images, color, and words, we use collage art and paint to tell a story, recall a memory, and create something beautiful. In my art classes, I value space for creativity, individuality, and for the students to relax and breathe from all the pressures they can carry from their young lives. We use scraps of various colored paper, magazine images and words, Scripture papers, sheet music and even photos or images they want to bring from home. It can get messy with Modge Podge glue and paint, so be prepared to create something beautiful from what looks like a mess. "He makes all things beautiful in His time," so let's teach our children to partner with the Creator who loves them and wants us to experience hope.

---

#### **Charlotte Mason Hour, Mrs. Doyal (JD/HS)**

Charlotte Mason, an esteemed educator who developed a philosophy of education that is popular with many homeschool families of young children, has also written a book for older students! It is called

*Ourselves*. *Ourselves* employs an allegory borrowed from Bunyan's Holy War by describing the inner self as 'the kingdom of Mansoul'. In Charlotte's words, "The inner self is, as we have said, like a vast country much of which is not yet explored, or like a great house, built as a maze, in which you cannot find your way about (p 33, *Ourselves*)." The purpose of this enrichment class is to read book one of *Ourselves* and discuss each week the themes that emerge: the nature of the inner landscape, the governance of 'mansoul', the role of appetite and desire, the way of love and its attendant virtues, a comprehensive picture of justice, and vocation. Each week there will be approximately 20 pages of reading outside of class. During our classroom time, we will discuss the ideas read in the previous week and how they relate to our lives today, and a monthly focus on a Charlotte Mason delectable will allow older students to explore nature study, handicraft, poetry, and the like. The goal is to foster a deeper understanding of ourselves in the context of supportive peer discussion because "every human being child or man, is a Kingdom of Mansoul; and to be born a human being is like coming into a very great estate; so much in the way of goodness, greatness, heroism, wisdom, and knowledge, is possible to us all (p 9, *Ourselves*)."

*\*\*A copy of the book Ourselves by Charlotte Mason will need to be purchased.*



## Thursday Fall 2025 Course Descriptions

### **LEGO Building Basics: Code Wiz! (ages 5-8)**

In this fun, hands-on class, kids ages 5-8 will explore the basics of engineering through creative LEGO building. They'll learn about balance, stability, and simple machines like levers and pulleys, all while building awesome LEGO models. Each week, kids will tackle new challenges and design projects that encourage problem-solving and teamwork. This beginner-friendly class is perfect for young builders excited to learn how things work and build their own creations!

*\*Enrollment priority given to students who have not yet taken this course.*

---

### **Van Gogh Painting, Miss Peck (ages 5-10)**

We'll be doing a study of the famous Impressionist artist, Vincent Van Gogh, using acrylic paints. This course covers color theory, brush and painting techniques, perspective, some fun facts of Van Gogh's life, his various styles & colors he used in some of his most famous artwork. I always make time for the students to practice technique, and then we get to our beautiful masterpieces! Looking forward to painting with your children.

---

### **Beginner Southern Appalachian Clogging (ages 8+)**

Step into the joy of movement with this Beginner Southern Appalachian Clogging class! This class introduces students to the foundational techniques of this lively percussive dance style rooted in rich Appalachian tradition. Students will learn essential clogging steps such as double steps, ball changes, and shuffles, along with traditional figures often seen in square dancing. Dancers will experience the excitement of freestyle, smooth, and line dancing—all set to the sounds of traditional bluegrass and country music. Clogging is more than just steps and music—it's a celebration of community, culture, and

worship. As students grow in skill and confidence, they'll also discover how dance can be a joyful expression of faith and a way to glorify God with their movements and hearts. Whether they're an experienced performer or are just stepping on the dance floor for the first time, students can come ready to laugh, learn, and praise God through the power of dance. Clogging truly feels like one big celebration with friends! **Special Shoes Required: clogging shoes are recommended for this class but any tap shoe with [buck taps](#) attached will also work.**

---

### **LEGO Robotics & Coding Adventure, Code Wiz! (ages 8-12)**

In this exciting class for kids ages 8-12, students will dive into the world of engineering, coding, and robotics using LEGO! They'll learn to build and program robots, exploring concepts like motors, sensors, and coding logic to bring their creations to life. Each session will include fun challenges where kids collaborate, problem-solve, and refine their skills, creating robots that can move, sense, and react. Perfect for young tech enthusiasts eager to learn how to code and create their own robotic inventions!

*\*Enrollment priority given to students who have not yet taken this course.*

---

### **Improvisation & Public Speaking, Medina Minor (ages 10+)**

This class will cultivate quick thinking, adaptability, and confidence in public speaking through fun and interactive improvisation exercises. Each week, we'll focus on utilizing the 7 Ps of public speaking (purpose, preparation, planning, practice, presentation, performance and passion) to deliver creative improvised stories. Students will grow in active listening skills, their ability to collaborate in peer settings and problem-solving skills. This class will end in a fully improvised showcase on the last day of class.

---

### **Ancient History, Mrs. McCall (ages 11-14)**

In this fast-paced 11-week course, 6th-10th graders have the opportunity to explore the fascinating and foundational history of the ancient world. During the afternoon class sessions, students will participate in lively, interactive activities and discussions. Class sessions will be supplemented with reading and reflection at two levels of challenge. For younger students homework will consist of a small amount of reading from Susan Wise Bauer's Story of the World, Vol. 1 and some reflection questions to help them engage with the material throughout the week. For students who would like to go deeper, reading will be assigned from Bauer's more thorough History of the Ancient World, and more complete responses to reflection questions will be encouraged. Grades will not be assigned, but all homework will receive corrections and comments. Both tracks of students will also work on one semester-long project of further research and creative presentation on a topic of interest at home, to be shared on the last day of class.

---

### **Entry Level Python and Computer Science, Code Wiz (ages 12+)**

This course is designed for students with little or no Python experience. The course will assume a pace set by the students; we will not rush through the work or concepts. We will start with a very basic Python program and learn as individuals. Then students will collaborate in small groups; with programs that highlight additional Computer Science and Python concepts. Entry level example programs are Number Guessing, finding Prime Numbers, etc. Chat GPT will be lightly used as a starting point for some of the examples. The course will introduce Entrepreneurial concepts using basic group projects and potentially a speaker from the community. A stretch goal will be to present the group projects in the final class. Learning a new Language for Computers should be fun and requires some patience and determination to solve problems.



## Teacher Bios

**Angela Bortone** teaches the 7/8 science class on Wednesdays. She is a North Carolina native and taught in Wake County Public Schools for five years. She also served as the director of kids' ministry in San Diego, California. She and her husband, Dante, have three children. In her free time she likes to garden and take walks with her toy poodle, Ahvi.

---

**Bobbie Bullard** is excited to be able to teach at Deerstream again! Her dance journey began at age four and grew to include ballet, pointe, jazz, modern, tap, and especially clogging. She danced with the Little River Clogging Team for 10 years and was honored to be part of the NC All-Star Clogging Team. At 16, she began teaching dance and continued through college, where she majored in Art and minored in Dance. She has taught art and movement classes at The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Oxford Preparatory School, Bright Horizons, and Lakewood Avenue Children's School. In 2023, she co-founded a children's theater camp with her sister—a creative dream come true! She believes the arts are vital to child's growth and a beautiful way to worship and glorify God. When she's not dancing, performing, or creating, she enjoys gardening, reading, camping, being active in her church, and spending time with her husband, their two young daughters, and her dogs.

---

**Mary Chyatte** has been teaching or tutoring math and science in some capacity for about 20 years. This is Mary's second year at Deerstream, and she is thrilled to teach Earth Science on Wednesdays, and Animal Engineering during Enrichment next year. She is a homeschooling mother of four, three of whom attend classes at Deerstream. When she is not busy chasing or bussing around her children, Mary enjoys spending time outdoors, live music, comedy, cooking, and traveling.

---

**Jessica Corpening** teaches Junior Division Prep Language Arts on Mondays. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Elon University and a Masters of Theological Studies from Duke Divinity School. Jessica taught 3rd Grade for many years at a wonderful elementary school in Wake County Public School System. She loves to garden, read, and bake!

---

**Rachel Culbertson** is passionate about educating the next generation of music lovers and helping them find their unique, God-given voices to live a fuller and more joyful life. She received her B.A. in Church Music and Vocal Performance, and upon graduation taught music and drama in various private school settings. She has many years of experience performing with choirs and vocal ensembles, including the Seattle Choral Company. Most recently, Rachel had the pleasure of directing a youth community choir for several years at a local church. Her favorite job by far, however, has been homeschooling her two children! In her free time Rachel enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, and spending time outdoors with her family.



---

**Alice Doyal** teaches an afternoon enrichment class based on Charlotte Mason's book *Ourselves* for late middle/early high school students. Alice has had a circuitous career path, beginning with a BA in anthropology, a Rheumatology Nurse Practitioner, and now homeschool mother. A Durham native, Alice is passionate about education as a vocation, not just checking boxes or jumping through hoops. She hopes her students experience curiosity and wonder, and never stop asking questions. Alice and her husband have 5 children, 3 fish, 2 dogs, 1 hedgehog, and 1 bunny. She enjoys nature walks, camping, gardening, and reading.

---

**Jessica Embry** holds a B.A. from Salem College, with a major in English and Chemistry, complemented by a minor in Math. Since then, she has been dedicated to providing private tutoring and teaching homeschool classes, supporting numerous individuals in their homeschooling endeavors. In 2018, she furthered her education by earning a Master's in Education from Regent University. With twenty-five years of homeschooling experience, her passion for learning remains strong, and she now also offers educational consulting services. Mrs. Embry is committed to providing a nurturing and faith-based educational environment that fosters both academic growth and character development.

---

**Michelle Harris** is teaching her fourth year at Deerstream. Her teaching career includes a year in Uzbekistan teaching English to middle and high school students, teaching 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> grades, and teaching English as a second language. Sixteen years ago, she became a homeschooling mom to her 4 children: Sarah (age 21 living in St. Louis), Nathan (at App State), Micah (in public school) and Ellie (at home). She has enjoyed teaching in the home as well as several different co-ops.

---

**Emily McCall** is thrilled to continue for a fifth year of teaching at Deerstream in a variety of courses. She loves wondering at the beauty of creation with her 6/7 year old scientists. She is fascinated by ancient and medieval history and enjoys helping middle schoolers understand and connect to characters and events from those worlds. She is excited to share with Deerstream teens her passion for philosophy and exploring how the Christian faith can provide solid ground to answer the deepest human questions. She holds a BA in Spanish from Wheaton College, a BS in Nursing from Duke, and an MA in philosophy from Biola University, and She is a mom of three daughters and has lived here in NC with her husband Paul since 2005. She has worked as a neuro nurse, owned a coffee shop for parents with kids, served as a children's ministry director, lived in Prague for three years, and, of course, homeschooled her daughters!

---

**Medina Minor** is excited to bring the improv and public speaking class to Deerstream. One of her favorite lessons from improv is learning when to take the lead and knowing when to follow... also, that there are no mistakes! Much of her past work experience often involved participatory planning processes and design charrettes - skills she is hoping to bring to Deerstream's improvisation and public speaking class, where collaboration, creativity and adaptability are key. She has a Master of Science degree in Urban Planning. Medina is in her 5th year of homeschooling and her two children are entering their third year at Deerstream! She is a self-proclaimed serial-hobbyist but her truest passions are cultivating her marriage, her garden and the young minds of her children.

---



**Sarah Peck** (aka: Miss Sarah) has found it a joy & honor to share various mediums of art with children and adults for the past 10+ years. Her approach is to value and affirm every student by encouraging confidence, using creative expression and implementing art skills and techniques.

---

**Emily Winslow** is in her seventh year at Deerstream, teaching both 9-11 Year Old Social Studies and 5/6 Year Old Science. Her background is in education, including homeschooling her now college age daughters for 10 busy and wonderful years. When she is not teaching, she enjoys running with her dogs, reading, and traveling with her family.

---

**Vaughn Nelson** is a seasoned martial artist and acrobat from New York City with over eight years of experience teaching kids, including as a Ninja Coach at USA Ninja Challenge in Durham. A former member of the NYC based martial arts breakdance company Spinnin Ronin, Vaughn has honed his craft across a variety of disciplines, including theater, stage combat, acrobatics, and parkour. As the founder of Fight Fusion, Vaughn combines his love of performance with his expertise in martial arts to prepare students for on-screen combat and stunt work. Having worked with students ranging from ages 2 to middle age, Vaughn loves sharing his passion for movement so that students of any skill level can build confidence in their natural abilities.

---

**Kathryn Eriksen** received her BA in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Master's in Education from Wake Forest University. She taught in the Chapel Hill public school system for 7 years as a high school history teacher and was awarded the district Teacher of the Year in 2010. She then served as the Children's Ministry Director at Christ Community Church for 7 years. As an experienced teacher and leader, she loves helping students more completely understand the world around them by exploring the past. Watching students grow in their ability to think critically and express their own opinions about world events brings her great joy. She is married to the wonderful Rusty Eriksen and they have four fantastic kids. She loves reading, coffee with friends, and walks on the beach.