



Uncommonly Awesome Learning Lab

Agenda

- What is a microschool?
- Who am I and why am I starting a microschool?
- Our goals this year and the future!
- Academics and Curriculum
- School Schedule
- Location
- Admissions Process
- Part time vs Full time vs Hybrid
- Tutoring and after-school classes
- Q & A



What is a microschool?

Small

- 1:5 student ratio
- 5 to 10 students for our first year

Independent

- Non-profit organization
- Limited testing, since we don't need to have test scores for funding

Creative/Flexible Programing

- Personalized
- Project-based
- Hybrid - offering part-time and online classes



Who am I and why am I starting a microschool?

Hi! I'm Kristin Rourke, I'm the director and lead teacher at UALL.

I have a BFA and MA in Architectural History, and I worked at museums and local government doing cool history programs for kids and teens.

I decided to get an education master's degree in 2013 and teach in public schools as a special educator, since I love finding creative ways to help kids learn.

I always wanted to build a place that was the kind of school kid Kristin would have loved. I was a 2e kid who went to public school, back before 2e was really a thing.



Our Big Goals for this Year

- Enroll 5-10 total students in grades 1 - 8
- Work with other similar schools in the Bay Area to build and develop our program
- Continue to offer tutoring and after school classes to students
- Begin the accreditation process by joining the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) New Schools program
- Hire part-time teachers, interns, and one additional full-time teacher
- Work with parent volunteers to help build the UALL community with social events and workshops

Our Goals for the Future

- Find a more permanent space in Mountain View/ Los Altos area (where we can have a bigger garden and more outdoor classroom and play space)
- Enroll more students and hire more teachers (we want to stay small, with no more than 40-50 total students at one location)
- Hire a school psychologist or counselor as well as occupational and speech therapists
- Become an accredited independent through CAIS and/or WASC (after three years of operating as a private school)
- Open enrollment to high school students and/or add a second campus in the Bay Area

Academics & Curriculum

We make goals in each area:

Reading

Writing

Math

Science/STEM

Social Studies

Arts & Design

SEL

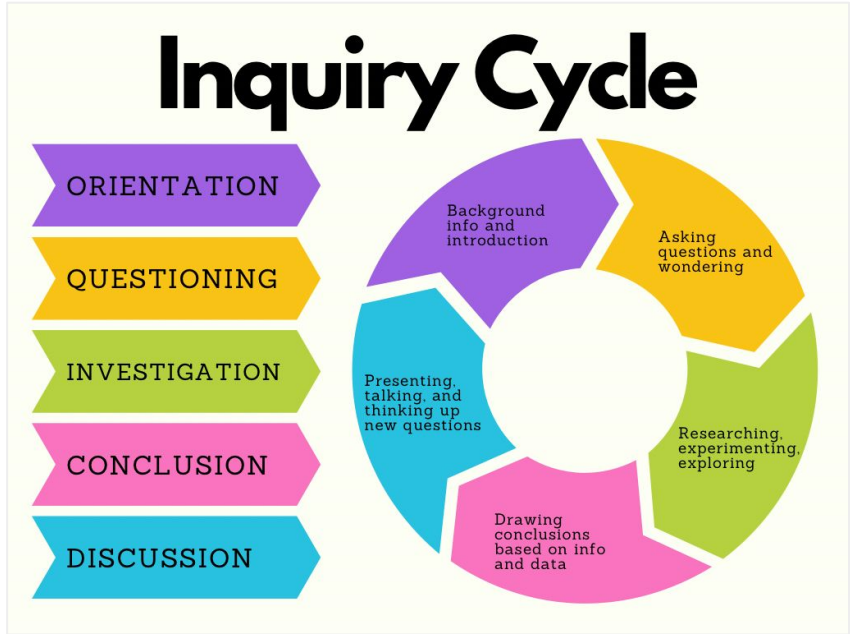
Uncommon Skills or Knowledge

- Develop year-long SMART goals for students based on their strengths, interests and needs
- Develop skill and knowledge goals
- Goals help determine what curriculum we use to teach
- Organize portfolio conferences and student showcases every six weeks
- If something isn't working we try something else

Project-based Learning Cycle

Our curriculum is all project-based, and students have the chance to be part of the process.

Students work on building math, reading, and research skills 1:1 or in a small group in the morning, then apply those skills in STEAM workshops and electives in the afternoons.



Some curriculums we love

Math

- Beast Academy
- Prodigy
- Brilliant

Reading

- TTRS
- Great Minds - Wit & Wisdom
- Reading A-Z

STEAM

- MEL Science
- Strawbees

We also incorporate our own teacher and student created curriculum, utilizing the projects cycle.

Daily School Schedule

Students work on building SEL, math, reading, and research skills 1:1 or in a small group in the morning, then apply those skills in STEAM workshops and electives in the afternoons. SEL is imbedded throughout the day in the 1:1 and small group setting.

Scheduled breaks but we also encourage students to take body breaks (snack, water, bathroom, movement, rest) when needed.

Students have their own visual copy of the schedule to plan their days. We use timers and clocks to help manage time and to prepare students for transitions from one activity to the next.

8:00am - 8:30am - Arrival

8:30am - Morning Meeting

9:00am - Reading Groups, Research Projects, SEL, 1:1 conferences

10:00am - Movement and Play Break

10:30am - Math Groups, Research Projects, 1:1 conferences

11:30am - Outdoor Lunch and Play

1:00pm - STEAM Workshops, Clubs & Electives

3:00pm - Cleanup and Closing Meeting

3:30pm - Dismissal

Yearly School Schedule

Week before school starts we will have individual meetings with students and families to plan goals, as well as student and family meetup activities (probably with board games).

First day of school is August 21st, 2023
last day is May 24th, 2024.

We operate on a six week on, one week off schedule (which I borrowed from Acton Academy, thanks Acton!)

Optional summer session in July 2024.

As with everything, we're flexible! We believe that maintaining routines is important for student success, we want to balance work, play, and rest.

We value feedback from families and students, so if you want to try something different, let us know! We plan to send short surveys to families after each learning block to help us improve our community.

Location - 1057 El Monte Ave, Suite B, Mountain View

Inside we have a large meeting space/sensory play space, a smaller sensory room for rest, a library room, and two makerspace rooms.

We have a bit of outdoor space for a garden and our composting worm bin, walking distance to Schaeffer and McKelvey Park.

We plan to find a new space with more outdoor play space for the 2024-2025 school year.



Inside the new Mountain View Space



Full Time vs Part Time vs Hybrid

Full Time:

- Full time students are registered with UALL as their school.
- Full time students attend Monday to Friday, and follow a set school calendar.

Part Time:

- Part time students are registered with a PSA as part of another school or homeschool program.
- Make their own schedule, coming in two to three days a week or half-day in either morning or afternoon

Hybrid:

- Officially registered either with UALL or a PSA
- Create their own schedule, like part-time students of when they want to be in-person or online
- On online days, students are guided with videos and written instructions through independent study assignments and meet online with a teacher 1:1 for a scheduled check-in session

Admissions & Tuition

Admissions Process:

1. Fill out application form and/or have a phone chat with me.
2. Schedule a tour and informal interview.
3. Place a non-refundable deposit of \$800 to hold your place.
4. Attend family and student events week of August 14th - 18th or schedule another time to meet with me prior to the start of school to fill out some forms and start the goal setting work.

Tuition:

First tuition payment is due September 1st. We will send an invoice you can pay by check or credit card, two weeks before payments are due.

Tuition is \$5,000 per session for five sessions or \$25,000 total for full time and hybrid students.

Part-time students are billed the same way, but at a cost of \$3,000 per student or \$15,000 total for the year.

Optional July summer session is an additional \$5,000.

Tutoring & After School Classes

Tutoring is 1:1 or small group of 2-3 students

- Reading/ Writing, Math, STEAM or some combination
- Project-based
- Personalized
- Takes place after school with times between 4pm-7pm (depending on the tutoring and the students, sessions are 45 minutes to 2 hours)
- We are looking for more tutors!

Classes are larger groups of 4-8 students

- Focus on STEAM skills and knowledge
- Centered around a fun theme
- Take place after school with times between 4pm and 7pm (lasting no more than two hours)
- We are looking for teachers interested in teaching classes, especially in coding, building and physics

Thank you!
Questions?

You may also email me at kristin.rourke@gmail.com or text/call (415) 940-7153
Visit uncommonlyawesomelearning.org
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