



**2026-2027**

## **6th-8th Grade Exploratory Course Offerings**

At The Lincoln Academy, scholars will graduate college- and career-ready. TLA scholars will be exposed to various careers at each grade level as part of their educational experience. Each year, 6th-8th grade scholars can take four different exploratory courses that align with their Individualized Learning Plan. Scholars will select four exploratory courses plus two alternates. These courses will provide hands-on learning experiences and career exploration through different pathways. Taking these courses will help guide scholars in selecting the courses they would like to take in high school. Below are the course descriptions for all the exploratory courses.

### ***3-D Modeling***

Scholars will learn how to 3D model using Fusion 360. 3D modeling is the root of the technology we offer here at TLA. Scholars need to know how to design, 3D model, create assemblies, and animations within 3D modeling software to properly utilize any of the technology we have in our labs. Whether scholars use a 3D printer, a laser, a CNC machine, or a router, it all starts with 3D modeling.

### ***Aerospace-Launch Learning Through the Science of Flight (\*NEW)***

Scholars will explore the science of flight through hands-on experimentation and design challenges that bring real-world concepts to life. Scholars will test forces that act on a zip line rocket to optimize the launch angle of a straw and water rocket. They will investigate motion, force, and energy through engaging interactive design.

### ***Basketball as a Lifestyle: Learning to Love the Game***

In this course, scholars will explore the game's rich history, from its origins to the modern era, learning about legendary players who shaped basketball and today's stars who continue to inspire. Beyond the game itself, we'll break down the fundamentals—dribbling, shooting, defense, and strategy—while focusing on the values that make basketball special: teamwork, camaraderie, and leadership. Scholars will develop skills that extend beyond the court, applying discipline, communication, and resilience in the classroom and everyday life. Whether a beginner or a seasoned player, this course will help scholars develop a deeper love for basketball while building confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships.

### ***Broadcast***

Scholars will explore the exciting world of media production through a hands-on broadcasting class that covers the full process — from developing story ideas, scripting, filming, interviewing, editing, and storytelling. They will learn about broadcast media and streaming platforms through producing their own videos while building skills in visual storytelling and media literacy. Working individually and in small groups, scholars gain real experience using digital recording equipment and creative media tools. This course emphasizes teamwork, creativity, and an understanding of the science behind how broadcasting and streaming media services work, culminating in the creation of a final multi-segment program.

### ***Build-A-Band Workshop (2 Quarters)***

Step into the world of music creation and collaboration in this hands-on course, designed for individuals who want to experience the thrill of building their own rock band from the ground up. Scholars will be immersed in a dynamic learning environment, forming small groups to craft a unique musical identity, from choosing a name to designing a logo, and ultimately putting on a final performance.

### ***Character Illustration***

In this exploratory scholars will explore a variety of drawing techniques. There will be a large focus on character variety and exploring the elements of art. Scholars will gain insight into the significance of illustrations, materiality, and style.

### ***Choir***

This course is designed to provide scholars with a rich and immersive experience in choral music. Through a blend of vocal training, music theory, and ensemble performance, scholars will develop their singing skills, musicality, and appreciation for a diverse range of choral repertoire. Open to scholars of all singing abilities and musical backgrounds.

### ***ChromeDepot***

Scholars will learn about computer equipment, terminology, and networking. Scholars will learn how to teardown and rebuild a variety of computers from Desktops to Chromebooks. They will help repair scholar devices. Computer ethics, careers, and job outlooks will be discussed in this course.

### ***Citizenship and Service***

This course provides classroom experiences that will help scholars become informed and responsible citizens, promoting self-reliance, discipline, and leadership.

### ***CNC***

Scholars will be introduced to CNC equipment and learn how to use an XS Tech desktop CNC through this hands-on, lab-based class. During the course, scholars will learn how to properly set up and operate a desktop CNC Mill. Scholars will learn how to program CNC CAM software to make custom parts. Scholars will also learn about manufacturing and engineering careers. The NC3 (National Coalition of Certifications) curriculum will be taught in this course.

### ***Construction***

Scholars will begin to familiarize themselves with the Construction Lab, learning about safety and how to use a variety of different hand and power tools. During the course, scholars will work in teams to design and create a custom project.

### ***Creative Writing***

Scholars will examine different writing genres and the elements necessary to write stories, poetry, journal entries, and other works that encourage creativity and originality. Scholars will be exposed to various authors, writing techniques, basic story elements, and peer feedback to improve and expand their writing skills. When possible, scholars will have the opportunity to share their work with their peers and communicate with published authors.

### ***Culinary***

This course is designed to introduce scholars to culinary arts. Scholars will gain knowledge about food and nutrition. Scholars will work in groups, preparing recipes and developing introductory food preparation skills. Essential skills will focus on kitchen safety and sanitation, lab procedures, and measuring techniques.

### ***Drone Engineering Program (\*NEW)***

Scholars will engineer and customize their own drone while exploring the full design process. They will be tasked with designing a business plan that seeks to address a need in their community that can be solved by a drone pilot. Scholars will tackle real-world challenges such as testing a flight, carrying payloads, and building delivery systems.

### ***Education***

This course will allow scholars to develop critical-thinking, collaborative, and time management skills. This class introduces scholars to the process of lesson planning, creating their own lesson plans, and having hands-on experiences teaching their lessons to other scholars. Scholars will teach lessons of their choice and be creative in the project creation process while working collaboratively with others in the classroom.

### **Fashion Illustration**

Scholars will gain an understanding for illustrating fashion. Scholars will render unique fashion designs and explore proportion. There will be a strong focus on the elements of art in fashion.

### ***Fitness and Personal Health Basics***

Scholars will improve endurance, overall fitness level, and athletic performance in this class. Scholars will learn the proper form for lifting weights, how to use gym equipment properly, and how to lead a healthy, fit life. Fitness training will help protect their bodies from injury by keeping them in the best possible physical condition.

### **Forensics (Speech & Debate)**

Scholars will build confidence and sharpen their public speaking skills through speech and debate. They'll learn how to research topics, craft persuasive arguments, and present ideas clearly and effectively. From impromptu speaking to structured debates, scholars will develop critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills in a fun and supportive environment. Perfect for anyone who loves to talk, argue (respectfully!), or perform!

### **Healthcare**

This course introduces middle school scholars to the exciting, dynamic world of health sciences. This industry is rapidly changing and in high demand for workers who can think critically to solve a range of health-related problems. Scholars will explore healthcare systems, legal and ethical issues, and basic healthcare skills.

### **Hydroponics**

Scholars will learn about indoor farming by using our Flex Farms Hydroponic system. They will learn how to grow their food, study plants, learn about the benefits of native plants, and operate the Fork Farm. Given time and appropriate weather, we may also plant using more traditional methods.

### **Innovation Lab**

This course introduces scholars to Makerspace. They will learn the importance of creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving while using the technology and equipment. Scholars will learn about safety, the design process, and computer-aided design. Scholars will learn how to use 3D printers, lasers, vinyl cutters, and design software that supports these machines.

### **Introduction to Personal Finance**

This course equips scholars with essential money management skills through interactive lessons and real-world applications. Covering budgeting, saving, smart spending, credit, investing, and financial responsibility, scholars engage in hands-on activities, simulations, and projects that bring financial concepts to life. By the end of the course, scholars will have practical strategies for managing money wisely, setting financial goals, and building habits that lead to financial independence, empowering them to make informed financial decisions for a successful future.

## **Lifetime Wellness**

Scholars will learn about and participate in a variety of activities designed to promote overall wellness. The goal of this course is to develop an understanding of how physical, social, mental, and emotional health work together to support a well-rounded, healthy lifestyle. Through both individual and group activities, scholars will build lifelong skills and knowledge of the importance of physical activity at every stage of life.

## **Metals Art**

This course is designed to familiarize scholars with basic and traditional metal techniques for designing and creating metal objects. Using tools, machines, and materials, scholars will learn the importance of the metalworking industry.

## **Mosaics**

In this exploratory scholars will explore glass as a material. Scholars will become well-versed in producing tesserae. Scholars will explore grouting techniques. There will be a focus on color theory, 2-D design, technical applications skills, and lab safety.

## **Music Foundations**

This course is designed to build a solid music foundation on specific instruments of scholars' choosing. The following instruments are available: Piano, Electric Guitar, Electric Bass Guitar, Ukulele, Voice, Drums, Trumpet, Trombone, and Violin. Other instruments may be considered, but must be approved by the Music Teacher.

## **NJROTC **\*\*Open to 8th Grade Scholars Only****

This course is designed to prepare scholars who want to participate in a (4) year Naval Science course of study as Naval Cadets. Among other things, they will learn the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment as well as participate in various competitions in Drill, PT, Color Guard, and Drone.

## **Robotics**

Scholars will learn how to use software to design, build, and program robots. This course will help scholars develop essential skills, creativity, and critical thinking.

## **Spanish**

This course offers scholars an overview of the Spanish language and culture. Scholars will learn basic vocabulary, basic expressions, and cultural information. Scholars will explore how the Spanish language and culture relate to English and other countries.

## **Watercolor Illustration**

In this exploratory, scholars will explore a variety of watercolor painting techniques. Scholars will be exploring the elements of art. Scholars will deepen their understanding of materiality, composition, and setting.

## ***Web Development From Vision to Digital Experience (\*NEW)***

Scholars will be introduced to the foundations of web design, coding, and interactive technology through hands-on projects that blend creativity and technical skills. They will learn to differentiate between user interface and user experience design. By the end of the quarter, scholars will be able to integrate physical computing and app development, design interactive devices and prototypes that connect digital applications with real-world inputs.

\*\*\*Subject to change based on scholar course request.