



KID'S COLLEGE

SERIOUS SUMMER FUN!

2026 Class Descriptions | Alphabetical Reference Guide

El Camino College Campus • July 6 – August 6, 2026 • Monday–Thursday

3D Game Design with Unity *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

Are you ready to take your game design skills to another level? With Unity, an industry-grade design software, aspiring game designers will learn level editing, 3D modeling, impactful gameplay creation, as well as how to utilize scripts and variables. Student-created games will be available on a password-protected Black Rocket website to share with friends and family. Returning students can create more advanced projects that build on previous years. *Requires a 64-bit operating system. Compatible with MAC and Windows OS only.

A.I. Designers & Developers *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

Take a step behind the scenes and uncover the mysteries of artificial intelligence! This program readies the next generation of AI engineers as they work with customized machine learning models for a variety of scenarios. Students will also gain experience in block-based coding skills while building interactive projects and games. From simulating self-driving racecars to teaching robots how to play video games, push the boundaries of what is possible with the help of A.I. Students will work in pairs or teams for most of the program.

A.I. Detectives: Is It Real or Fake? *Grades 6–8*

Kids are swimming in A.I.-generated content in their search results, their social feeds, and the images and videos they encounter every day. This workshop gives them the tools to understand what they're looking at. They get a plain-language explanation of how tools like ChatGPT work and why they sound confident even when they're wrong; they learn to spot telltale signs of A.I.-generated images; and they explore why two people searching the same term can get very different results. Activities include examining real A.I.-generated photos alongside photographs, using reverse image search tools to trace an image's origins, and working in small groups to investigate unknown content samples and share their reasoning with the room. This workshop draws from A.I. literacy and research ethics curricula at the college and university level, including the ALA AI Policy Working Group.

Adventures in Middle School Writing: Daily Lessons & Prompts *Grades 6–8*

Through daily writing lessons and prompts expressly designed for middle school students, students will practice writing skills that will help them throughout their lives. Each day focuses on a particular trait of writing, such as author's voice, fluency, organization, and conciseness. Young writers will learn to produce clear, effective, and engaging content for their projects that will leave their audience wanting more.

Algebra *Grades 9–12*

Learn the fundamentals of first-year algebra such as distributive law, solving linear equations, graphing by plotting points, using zeros, using slope-Y intercept form, and absolute value and linear inequalities. Other topics will include solving systems of equations by graphing, substitution and addition, exponents and scientific notation.

Art Portfolio Building: Concept, Craft & Critique *Grades 9–12*

This intensive week-long program is designed for high school artists ready to think and work at a collegiate level. Students will move through the full arc of an artist's process — from researching inspiration and developing a personal concept, to experimenting with advanced mixed media, to installing and presenting finished work in a formal gallery exhibition. The week closes with a structured critique that mirrors real art school/college feedback sessions, preparing students for portfolios, college art programs, and beyond.

Beginning Piano *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

Students will be learning to play piano keyboards in a “hands-on” music studio environment. Come learn fingering, hand position, essential music reading skills, basic songs, and how to play by chords.

Code Breakers *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

Calling all future coders, programmers, and designers! Learn the basics of coding languages like HTML, JavaScript, and CSS through a series of web projects and design challenges each day, and be on your way to becoming the next tech star! Whether you want to be a Silicon Valley CEO or the high school student who just made \$1 million programming in her bedroom, this course has the essentials you need to begin your journey. Projects will be available on a Black Rocket website to share with friends and family. Returning students can create more advanced projects that build on previous years. *Compatible with MAC, Windows, and Chrome OS.

Day in Court – Mock Trial *Grades 3–5*

Play the roles of judge, defendant, plaintiff, witness, lawyer, bailiff, or juror in several mock trials. Learn how to make opening and closing statements, how to phrase objections, and how to question witnesses. Pull all your skills together at the end of the week as you participate in a final mock trial based on cases from past national and state-level Mock Trial competitions. Students will work in pairs or teams for most of the program.

Drone Adventures *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

The drones are here — let the battles begin! In this hands-on, interactive class you will learn how to safely fly drone robots. Working in teams, you will be able to code your drone to compete in missions that will prepare you for the ultimate team challenge at the end of the week. Students will work in pairs or teams for most of the program.

Group Swim Lessons *Ages 5–14*

Small-group swim lessons held at the El Camino College pool, Monday through Thursday, in 30-minute sessions with a maximum of 6 students per lesson. Instructors are CPR/First Aid certified with backgrounds in competitive swimming and coaching. Six skill levels are available — from Level 1 (Intro to Water Skills) through Level 6 (Swimming and Skill Proficiency) — so every swimmer finds the right fit. After registering, email your preferred level and proof of highest level achieved to swimlessons@elcamino.edu. Multiple afternoon time slots available between 2:00 PM and 6:35 PM.

High School Geometry Critical Concepts *Grades 9–10*

Students will learn the fundamentals of geometry during this class while creating a collection of work that will guide them in their future studies. Topics will include points, lines, planes, segments and angles, triangles, symmetry, parallel and perpendicular lines, distance, midpoint and more.

Improving Reading Comprehension & Reading Skills *Grades 3–5*

This course teaches students the skills needed to be better readers. The focus is on improving reading fluency, understanding reading comprehension strategies, literature circles, leveled reading skill builder activities, and writing and creative activities to enhance reading skills. Students will learn the importance of reading as the foundation for all learning, and will get the opportunity for additional reading practice and review to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Little Artists: Explore & Create *Grades 3–5*

Spark your child's creativity in a real working gallery! Young artists in grades 3–5 will spend four fun-filled afternoons experimenting with color, clay, printmaking, and drawing. Each day brings a brand-new project designed to build confidence, develop fine motor skills, and nurture a love of making. No experience needed — just curiosity and a willingness to get a little messy. Students take home finished artwork every day and end the week with a mini gallery showcase of their creations.

Make Your First 3D Video Game! *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

In this Black Rocket classic, you will go beyond the limitations of traditional 2D game design and create an immersive 3D world. You will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of gameplay, and storytelling. Students will work in pairs or teams for most of the program.

Make Your First Video Game! *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

If you love playing video games, this is the camp for you! Make your first video game in this one-of-a-kind class that shows you the keys to designing your first 2D platformer game. Conceptualization, play experience, level design, graphics, sounds, and simple coding are just some of the concepts explored. No prior experience necessary — just a desire to have fun. Student projects will be available on a password-protected Black Rocket website to share with friends and family. Returning students can create more advanced projects that build on previous years. *Compatible with Windows OS only.

Math-Amazing! Addition + Subtraction x Multiplication = Fun! *Grades 3–5*

Inspire a sense of amazement for math in your child in this fun, interactive, NOT BORING math class for grades 3–4. Students will fortify their understanding of multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction while conquering their fear of word problems and fractions through games, story, song and amazing fun!

Newsroom Journalism Camp *Grades 6–8*

Find the story. Write the headline. Start your byline. Step into a real college newsroom and see where journalism comes to life. This four-day class invites middle school students inside El Camino College's award-winning campus newspaper — one of the most respected community college publications in California and the Nation — for a hands-on introduction to reporting, writing, and storytelling. Students will learn how journalists find stories, ask the right questions, and write clearly and fairly. By Thursday, every student will have written and "published" their own news article with a real byline. Classes are taught by the college's campus journalists and publishers.

Newsroom Journalism Camp *Grades 9–12*

Pursue the story. Tell the truth. Make it matter. Step into a real college newsroom and learn journalism the way it is actually practiced. This four-day intensive invites high school students behind the scenes of El Camino College's award-winning campus newspaper to work alongside the real journalists who produce it. Students will pitch and report a real story, conduct on-campus interviews, write to professional standards with AP Style, work through an editor's critique, and leave with a published piece and a journalism portfolio start. Learning objectives include: reporting and writing a complete news or feature article, applying AP Style and copy-editing techniques, conducting on-the-record interviews, understanding press ethics and First Amendment protections, using basic photojournalism and digital layout tools, and beginning a professional portfolio.

Research Superpowers *Grades 3–5*

Finding good information is a skill — and so is knowing when something is trying to mislead you. Over four days, students learn the core moves of real research: crafting searches that actually surface what you need, understanding the difference between .gov, .edu, and .com sites, and recognizing the warning signs of a misleading headline or a website designed to look trustworthy without being so. They play a "Real or Fake?" card game using actual viral claims, practice lateral reading (the technique professional fact-checkers use), and explore library databases that go well beyond a regular Google search. The week ends with students investigating something they're genuinely curious about and sharing one surprising thing they found. This workshop gives kids the critical thinking skills that make all the technology around them more meaningful.

ROBLOX Coders *Grades 3–5 and 6–8*

Discover how to code in the Lua language while playing and designing worlds in ROBLOX, an online universe where you can create anything you dream of. This class combines game design concepts, coding, and fun! Young entrepreneurs will also learn how to navigate ROBLOX's fast-growing marketplace to publish their games. Student-created games will be available on a password-protected Black Rocket website to share with friends and family. Students will work in pairs or teams for most of the program. *Compatible with MAC and Windows OS only.

Sourdough Bread Baking *Grades 6–12 + Parents (Separate registration required per parent)*

Sourdough bread baking is part science, part craft, and entirely delicious. In this hands-on four-day class, students dive into the living world of wild yeast fermentation — creating and nurturing their own sourdough starter from day one, then using it to mix, shape, score, and bake a full sourdough loaf by Thursday. Each session blends practical kitchen skills with real food science concepts: wild yeast and fermentation, gluten development, hydration ratios, and the chemistry behind a great crust. No prior baking experience is needed — just curiosity, a willingness to get your hands floury, and an appetite for learning. \$35 Materials & Supplies fee due to instructor on first day of class. All ingredients and equipment provided. Students should wear closed-toe shoes and bring an apron if they have one. Each student receives a take-home bread baking kit, including fresh & dried starter, flour food, stone-milled flour, dough spatula, banneton and cover, and their finished loaf on the last day.

Tiny Heroes, Big Impact: Pollinators and Sustainability in SoCal *Grades 3–5*

Southern California is home to over 1,600 native bee species, most of which kids may have never heard of, and many of which are doing more ecological work than the honeybee most people picture. This workshop uses pollinators as a window into sustainability, urban ecology, and environmental science close to home. Students observe and sketch live native plants, explore real citizen science data on iNaturalist to see what's been spotted in the South Bay, and use satellite imagery to see how green spaces connect or fail to connect across SoCal neighborhoods. They learn why drought-tolerant native plantings support more wildlife and use less water than a conventional lawn, and touch on why some neighborhoods have more green space than others and what that means for the communities and creatures living there. Students take home a packet of native wildflower seeds.

Write On! Writing Camp *Grades 3–5*

Students will not only have fun, they will also learn how to improve their writing skills through practice exercises and skill-building projects directly aligned with the California State English-Language Arts Standards (grades 4–5). Review of grammar, parts of speech, and short essay writing is taught through various creative and inspiring assignments.

Writing Skills Development for High School Composition *Grades 9–12*

Writing arguments in an analysis of substantive topics or texts is a skill needed for high school writing success. Students will learn specific tools to introduce a precise claim, establish the significance of the claim, and distinguish it from alternate or opposing claims; supply evidence for both sides, pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of each for the reader; and use transitions and transitional phrases to link the sections of text and create a cohesive argument.

Writing the High School Essay *Grades 9–12*

How do you make the grade in high school English? Your best bet is to conquer that staple of every English course: the multi-paragraph essay. This class will give you the tools to succeed: strategies for pre-writing, organizational tips, and surefire ways to create interesting sentences. Students will work one-on-one with the teacher and participate in workshop activities with peers.

Young Investors & Entrepreneurs *Grades 6–8*

Whether you want to build the next great American company, become a Wall Street tycoon, or be the millionaire next door by investing wisely — this camp is for you! In this course, you will learn the basics of investing in the stock market, the difference between assets and liabilities, the importance of diversification, and how to evaluate companies. You will also develop your own business plan and present your ideas to your peers to compete for their investments in a mock Shark Tank-style activity. Students will work in pairs or teams for most of the program.

Zine Making – Mini Zine Makers *Grades 3–5*

Mini Zine Makers introduces younger students to the joyful, hands-on world of zine creation. Students discover the concept of zines for the first time — exploring examples, learning folding formats, and creating their very own 8-page mini zine from scratch. No prior art experience required, just imagination! Students brainstorm topics they love, draw and write their pages, and fold and assemble a complete zine to take home. Emphasis is on creative confidence, personal voice, and celebrating every student as a maker and storyteller. All supplies provided; \$20 materials fee includes paper, scissors, glue sticks, markers, crayons, pencils, pens, bone folders, stencils, stamps, and magazines for collage.

Zine Making – Zine Studio *Grades 6–8*

Zine Studio gives middle school students a creative platform to explore identity, interests, and visual storytelling. Students are introduced to the rich history and culture of zines and dive into designing a themed multi-page publication, experimenting with mixed media, stenciling, and layout composition. Students choose a theme they're passionate about and develop a cohesive multi-page zine across the week. They experiment with mixed media techniques, explore visual narrative and page flow, and learn basic reproduction methods so their work can be shared beyond the classroom. The week ends with a group share-out and class anthology. All supplies provided; \$20 materials fee includes mixed media papers, cardstock, tracing paper, acrylic paint, bone folders, extra-long staplers, stencils, magazines, rubber stamps, fine-line pens, and photocopier access.

For more information or to enroll:

www.ECCommunityEd.com 310-660-6460 commed@elcamino.edu

Questions about Swimming Lessons: swimlessons@elcamino.edu