

# SUMMER B.L.A.S.T



*Inspiring & Creative Learning Adventures!*

**June 3-7, 2024**

**SYRACUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*A Syracuse Library Foundation Program for Youth*



**Summer Blast is a youth program presented by the Syracuse Library Foundation.** It takes education beyond the classroom by providing students with unique, motivating, hands-on learning opportunities! Classes are designed to be fun, engaging and geared to incorporate science, technology, engineering, art and math. Summer Blast also emphasizes other important parts of the learning process such as: creative thinking, collaboration, experimentation and exploration.

***Classes are offered for students completing grades K-6th in the Spring of 2024.*** Class selection for enrollment should be based on your student's current grade for the Spring 2024 semester. This program is facilitated by the Syracuse Library Foundation, with classes being held at the Syracuse Middle School.

# The Details

## Class Dates: June 3-7, 2024

Morning Session | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Afternoon Session | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

*\*Students attending both a morning and afternoon session may bring their own sack lunch and remain on site between classes. Lunch supervision provided.*

.....

## Program Fees

1st Class = \$25

2nd Class = \$10

Maximum Fee = \$35 per FAMILY (Any Number of Kids)

## Students qualify for FREE CLASSES if:

1) Proof of free & reduced lunch status (form from school) is provided with registration. If you have difficulty uploading the form during registration, you may text a pic of the form to 402-269-0111. Contact Joy Stilmock at 402-269-7472 with any questions about the free & reduced lunch documentation you must request from your school. *We cannot hold a spot in class for your child until this documentation is received.*

2) The child's parent or legal guardian is teaching a 2024 Summer Blast class.

.....

## How to Register for Classes

*All registrations and payments must be completed online.*

***Registration Opens @ 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 14, 2024.***

Classes fill-up fast, so sign-up ASAP! You must remit credit card payment or free/reduced lunch form at time of registration. Find our online registration form at one of the following places!

**WEBSITE:** [www.GoSyracuseNE.com/summerblast](http://www.GoSyracuseNE.com/summerblast)

**FACEBOOK:** @SyracuseSummerBlast

**INSTAGRAM:** @SyrSummerBlast

If you have questions about the online sign-up process, contact Jeni Leefers at 402-269-0111 (text or call).

# Morning Classes

## **Funky Furniture** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates:** June 3-7 | **Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Start searching the thrift stores now for a piece of wooden furniture. Then take that flea market trash and transform it into a fun, funky piece you'll treasure for years to come. Use paint, metallic markers, polymer clay and mosaic to create designs everywhere! Please wear old clothing and shoes daily. Bring your piece of furniture with you the first day of class as you will spend the day sanding and priming. Furniture should be made of wood and easily fit through a classroom door. Items such as small dressers, desks, chairs, large mirror frames and tables would be appropriate. | *Taught by: Cheryl Anderson, Owner of All Creative Things*

---

## **Junior Shark Tank: Where Young Ideas**

### **Make a Splash** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates:** June 3-7 | **Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Step into another language, another culture, another way of celebrating. Want to join our entrepreneurship class - a dynamic journey from idea to success. Build skills in strategic planning, leadership, and adaptability to thrive in a world of startup companies. Find out what it takes to turn your entrepreneurial dreams into reality. | *Taught by: Abbie Hodges, Ag Education & Engler Entrepreneur Student at UNL*

---

## **Hola Amigo! Bienvenido Espanol! "Hi Friend!**

### **Celebrate Spanish"** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates:** June 3-7 | **Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Step into another language, another culture, another way of celebrating. Want to know how to say some things in Spanish? Interested in learning about Spanish celebrations, culture, traditions and food? How about making a pinata? Come join in the fiesta. Adios mi amigos! | *Taught by: Colin Coon, Student at Metro Tech and Macy Wittler, Student at the University of Kansas*

## Exploring Natural Disasters (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 2nd-4th)

Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Do you feel the ground shaking? Oh no, it's an EARTHQUAKE! This is one of many topics that will be explored as we swirl like a tornado into learning about natural disasters. As you learn how these disasters can occur, you will create different types of disasters using food experiments. These might include a gelatin and marshmallow earthquake, a chocolatey mudslide or an icy blizzard. Investigate where disasters happen across the United States and research how they occur. Warn visitors to be careful on Friday when they visit our classroom – or they might be blown away by a wind storm! | *Taught by: Addie Gyhra, Teacher, Louisville Public Schools*

---

## Disgusting Science (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Discover the mystery behind ghastly, disgusting things. Dissect grasshoppers, frogs, cow eyes and pig hearts. Grow a germ farm, make a "gas" log, observe really gross things under a microscope and make drinkable blood. Only the most courageous can survive this repulsive class! | *Taught by: Ellie Weiler, Substitute Teacher, Syracuse Public Schools and Nebraska City Public Schools*





# Robotics: LEGO® Mindstorms® EV3, Levels 1 & 2

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Design, build and program robots using the most advanced and newest LEGO® robotics technology – the powerful MINDSTORMS® EV3.

Work as a team to complete real-world engineering and computer science challenges as you build and command robots that walk, talk, think and do anything you can imagine. With your ideas and the latest LEGO® operating system and sensors, there are no limits to what you can do. **Level 1**

– **Builder:** Entry level, limited

or no experience with programming. Objectives are basic programming and robot movement. **Level 2 – Explorer:** Completed at least 1 class at Level 1 and/or experience through another program. Objective are sensors, loops and switches. | *Taught by: Nathaniel Cordray, Music Education Student at South Dakota State University & Caleb Cannon, Student at Southeast Community College*

---

## Veterinarians in Training (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 3rd-5th)

Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Do you have a passion for animals and have you considered a career as a veterinarian? Meet a retired veterinarian, learn in depth information about dogs and study diseases that can be found in both humans and dogs. Complete the first steps in making your dreams of becoming a vet come true!

*Taught by: Susan Peoples, Teacher, Johnson County Central Public Schools*

## **Can't Stop Coding** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 3rd-6th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Spend a week exploring coding and learning algorithms, binary code, functions and digital citizenship. We will do a number of activities, plugged and unplugged, as we problem-solve, create and build games. Work independently and in small groups during the week on coding lessons. Be ready to stretch out of your comfort zone as you try new things and experiment throughout the week. | *Taught by: Andrea Cannon, Teacher, Syracuse Public Schools and Gabe Dilley, Computer Science Student at Wayne State*

.....

## **Safari Adventures** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: K-1st)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Are you ready to go on safari? Grab your pith helmet and binoculars to visit Africa and explore the amazing animals that call the savanna, desert and rain forest home. We'll transport ourselves to Africa using books, music and art to learn how different animals adapt and survive. We will also explore careers that help protect the land and animals. See you on safari! | *Taught by: Logan Jording, Teacher Education Student at Iowa Western*





## Happy Campers (Current Grade/Spring 2024: K-2nd)

Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Let's go on an indoor camping adventure! On this summer adventure you will get the chance to make delicious campfire snacks, use favorite stories to discover and learn about the starry night sky and get creative with crafts. Campers should be ready to compete in the fun and action-filled Camping Olympics. Use your very own compass to help you hike through a scavenger hunt and this amazing week! | Taught by: Nick Cordray, Youth Ministry, Luther Memorial Church

.....

## A-B-Cs of Fishing (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 1st-3rd)

Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Are you curious about fishing? Well . . . that is what this class is all about. Discover all there is to know about fish including what they eat, and how to catch them. You will learn how to use a fishing pole. You'll gain an understanding of the different types of fishing, the lessons that this sport teaches, and the most important thing to know about fishing: **SAFETY!** | Taught by: Braden Lafollette, Student at Southeast Community College



## Wet, Wild and Wacky Science

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 1st-2nd)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Get wet, wild and wacky as you dive into science experiments that fizzle, flop, float, pop, spin, soar and slide. Explore density, states of matter, chemical changes, pressure, flight, sound and light, the human body and ecosystems. Make elephant toothpaste, race Fruit Loops using lung power and test elasticity with water balloons. Plunge into this exciting science adventure. | *Taught by: Natsaki Takata, Teacher Education Student at Iowa Western*

.....

## Under the Sea

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: K-1st)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Learn about what exists under the sea – from vertebrate/invertebrate animals to ocean zones/layers. Discover animals in the sea that glow in the dark! Is coral an ocean animal? Are ecosystems important and can you ride a seahorse? Discover answers to these questions and more! | *Taught by: Kaylee Meyer, Teacher, Lincoln Public Schools*

.....

## Farm to Fork

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 2nd-4th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Have you ever wondered where the food you eat comes from? Come explore how food gets from the farm to your fork. Discover the stages your food travels through before it reaches your stomach! Learn about healthy food and jobs in the food industry. We'll

do experiments, make food and eat food, all while learning where food really comes from (hint... it's not McDonald's™)!

*This curriculum was formerly offered under the name, "Does My Food Come from*

*McDonald's™."* | *Taught by: Christy Hodges, Agriculture Teacher, Johnson County Central School District*





## Spy Academy

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 1st-3rd)

**Dates: June 3-7**

**Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Learn how to write messages to your friends in secret codes. Enjoy puzzles and play strategic games. Become a real-life secret agent learning about cryptography, the science of making and breaking codes, and explore how to crack codes using ciphers. With this new secret intelligence, construct your own book of secret codes and complete a scavenger hunt written in secret messages. You will also discover more about the use of cryptography in agencies like the CIA and other types of secret communication like Morse and Binary Code. | *Taught by: Brooklyn Epler, Teacher Education Student at Wayne State College*

---

## Amazing Race Challenges

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 3rd-5th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Explore the world with fellow adventurers as you conquer road-blocks and de-tours. Search for the daily team challenge envelope containing creative games and crafts that will test your abilities in science, math and writing. Celebrate your teamwork by creating a flag and proudly wearing your team colors.

Finish off the week with a scavenger hunt that will determine the Amazing Race Champions! | *Taught by: Laini Fullerton, Teacher Education Student, Peru State College*

# Afternoon Classes

## **A-B-Cs of Hunting** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 3rd-6th)

**Dates:** June 3-7 | **Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Are you interested in hunting and want to find out more about it? This is the class for you! We will identify resources in our state that can help you learn about hunting. We will look at the importance of understanding the safety requirements of hunting. Learn about game animals in Nebraska and relevant considerations of those animals. Most importantly, we will study hunting safety considerations. This class will discuss various aspects of hunting, why it's fun, and the essential things it teaches us. | *Taught by: Braden Lafollette, Student at Southeast Community College*

---

## **Happy Campers** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: K-2nd)

**Dates:** June 3-7 | **Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Let's go on an indoor camping adventure! On this summer adventure you will get the chance to make delicious campfire snacks, use favorite stories to discover and learn about the starry night sky and get creative with crafts. Campers should be ready to compete in the fun and action-filled Camping Olympics. Use your very own compass to help you hike through a scavenger hunt and this amazing week! | *Taught by: Nick Cordray, Youth Ministry, Luther Memorial Church*

---

## **Life on the Farm** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 2nd-4th)

**Dates:** June 3-7 | **Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

In this class, you'll learn about life on the farm. It's messy... smelly... and utterly amazing! Discover what farm life is like through interactive and engaging hands-on activities and experiments. From farm animals to crops planted in fields, you will learn about how farms feed the world. *This curriculum was formerly offered under the name, "Adventures in Agriculture."* | *Taught by: Christy Hodges, Teacher, Johnson County Central Public Schools*



## Edible Science

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 3rd-5th)

**Dates: June 3-7**

**Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Do you like science? Do you like to eat food? Let's smash science, food and learning together!

Come join us to learn about parts of the body, cells, climate types, rock cycles and other fun science experiments. The best part is – we get to EAT them ALL! Come join us for science fun in the kitchen.

*Taught by: Addie Gyhra, Teacher,  
Louisville Public Schools*

## Oh the Places You'll Go

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: K-1st)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

"Oh the Places You'll Go" on a fun-filled trip through Seussville! We'll have a Wacky Wednesday kind of day filled with egg-citing science experiments. Oh, the tricks you will learn – perhaps a balancing act like the "Cat in the Hat." Discover how to create a marble run with recycled tubes, then dabble in the dirt with the Lorax! Who knows how make Oobleck? We will explore that! As the beloved Dr. Seuss would say, "Will you have fun here on a summer's day? Try it, and you may, I say." *This curriculum was formerly offered under the name, "Dr. Seuss is Loose."* | *Taught by: Natsaki Takata, Teacher Education Student at Iowa Western*

## Potions & Magical Creatures

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 2nd-4th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Come explore the world of wizarding! Unleash your creativity as we begin to explore a magical realm. Throughout the week we will create magic and discover the hidden knowledge of being a wizard. | *Taught by: Laini*

*Fullerton, Teacher Education Student, Peru State College*

## **Diggin' Up Dinos** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: K-2nd)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Become a paleontologist as you explore and dig up hidden fossils that have long been forgotten. Feel and touch some real fossilized teeth as we investigate what dinosaurs must have eaten. Hatch your own dinosaur, determine its type, what it liked to eat and how it lived millions of years ago. Finally, leave the class with an elaborate habitat that your dinosaur can call home and an official Summer Blast Paleontologist Certificate! | *Taught by: Logan Jording, Teacher Education Student at Iowa Western*

.....

## **Sew, SO Easy** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Have you ever wanted to make your own fashion statement by sewing unique creations with a sewing machine? Learn basic hand stitching and the use of a sewing machine along with how to pin and cut out a pattern. Choose from a variety of projects including creating a custom pillow case, designing a fleece headband, dressing up your old jeans with embellishments, making a swim suit cover-up, or sewing your own dress. Receive your own personal sewing kit to use and take home. On Friday, these projects will be "all sewn up" for a fashion show open house. Beginning and experienced students are welcome. *Taught by: Cheryl Anderson, Owner of All Creative Things*







## Imagination Illustration

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 2nd-4th)

**Dates: June 3-7**

**Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Become an illustrator and write your own story worthy of a spot on the library shelf. Improve your drawing skills and create a dynamic character to star in your very own book. Create characters

and backgrounds using pencil, colored pencil, marker, pen, pastel and water-colors. Bring your character to life and create a hand puppet to help tell your story. On Friday, share your handmade book at the gallery showing. *Sponsored by Olsson Family Foundation. | Taught by: Susan Peoples, Teacher, Johnson County Central Public Schools*

.....

## Sweet Palette Mastery: The Sugar Canvas Experience

(Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Immerse yourself in a captivating week of Cookie & Cake Decorating. The Cookie Lady will guide your creativity, unveiling secrets of intricate designs and vibrant colors. Explore the realm of sweet design as you master the delicate balance between flavor and aesthetics. From delicate piped details to fondant sculpting, you'll transform simple baked goods into edible masterpieces.

*Taught by: Abbie Hodges, Ag Education & Engler Entrepreneur Student at UNL*

.....

## Into the Wild (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 1st-3rd)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Have you ever wondered what a bull snake feels like? Or thought about where tree frogs spend the wintertime? What about how large you are compared to an alligator or cobra? Make turkey calls, touch Nebraska reptiles and amphibians, dissect an owl pellet and make and eat edible scat (yup, that's poop!). Get up close and personal with all kinds of wild animals from around the world.

*Taught by: Brooklyn Epler, Teacher Education Student at Wayne State College*

## **Super Space Adventures** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 1st-2nd)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Before orbiting the galaxy, you must master the skills of an astronaut. Practice completing space chores with astronaut-type gloves, build a space station and taste astronaut food including ice cream! Track constellations and learn amazing facts about the planets. You can't launch your film canister rocket until you learn about the Earth's rotation and location. Out in space, discover art, music and literature in another galaxy. Prepare for blastoff! | *Taught by: Brian Cleary, Teacher, Norfolk Public Schools*

---

## **Organic Mechanic** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

*This class is for green go-getters and/or nutritionists, dieticians, and chefs. Are you ready to blast off and get on the scene toward a grander life in green? Get ready to prepare foods that are good for you and the planet! | Taught by: Stephanie Bryant, a Local Resident Drawn to Clean, Organic Living*

---

## **Funky Furniture** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Start searching the thrift stores now for a piece of wooden furniture. Then take that flea market trash and transform it into a fun, funky piece you'll treasure for years to come. Use paint, metallic markers, polymer clay and mosaic to create designs everywhere! Please wear old clothing and shoes daily. Bring your piece of furniture with you the first day of class as you will spend the day sanding and priming. Furniture should be made of wood and easily fit through a classroom door. Items such as small dressers, desks, chairs, large mirror frames and tables would be appropriate.

*Taught by: Carlie Antes, Assistant Professor of Practice & 3D Foundations Coordinator, UNL*





## **Mini Monet** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: K-1st)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Where did Van Gogh? Do you like Picasso to eat? How do you make Maltisse cookies? Who likes to draw and paint? If you do – this class is for you. You can paint and decorate white chocolate covered oreos. Yum!! | *Taught by: Kaylee Meyer, Teacher, Lincoln Public Schools*

.....

## **Disgusting Science** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 4th-6th)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Discover the mystery behind ghastly, disgusting things. Dissect grasshoppers, frogs, cow eyes and pig hearts. Grow a germ farm, make a “gas” log, observe really gross things under a microscope and make drink-able blood. Only the most courageous can survive this repulsive class! | *Taught by: Ellie Weiler, Substitute Teacher, Syracuse Public Schools and Nebraska City Public Schools*

.....

## **LEGO® We Do Robotics** (Current Grade/Spring 2024: 1st-3rd)

**Dates: June 3-7 | Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Interested in science, engineering or computers? Do you love to build with LEGO® bricks? Ignite your creativity with an introduction to robotics and computer programming. Using LEGO® WeDo kits and LEGO® educational software, you will be challenged to solve real-world problems by creating one-of-a-kind machines with gears, motors and sensors. Themes will include natural disasters, space exploration and speed. | *Taught by: Nathaniel Cordray, Music Education Student at South Dakota State University & Caleb Cannon, Student at Southeast Community College*

# Wildlife Encounters

A Special Group Assembly for All Students

Date: Wed, June 5th | Time: 9:30 AM

Wildlife Encounters explores our world's amazing habitats and the animals that live within them! The "Wild About Animals" program gives students an opportunity to experience an interactive presentation featuring several animals from all over the world! Students and teachers will learn about each animal's habitat, adaptations, environmental role and what we can do to help the animals we share this planet with.

All students from both the morning and afternoon sessions are invited to attend this special assembly. Be sure to send a sack lunch if your child will be staying after this session to attend their regularly scheduled afternoon class.



# You're Invited

## Open House on Friday, June 7th

For the last 30 minutes on the final day of each session (11:30 AM - 12:00 PM morning classes and/or 3:30 - 4:00 PM afternoon classes), we invite parents, grandparents and legal guardians to join their student's class as the kids share some of their favorite Summer Blast experiences from the week!



## Follow-up Surveys

On the final day of classes, parents and students will be asked to complete follow-up surveys to gather important information about what went well and what we could improve upon to make Summer Blast an even better experience next year.

Connect with Us

 @SyracuseSummerBlast

 @SyrSummerBlast