

SPARK ACADEMY

IGNITING CURIOSITY, LIFELONG LEARNING, &
WHOLEHEARTED AUTONOMY



A hybrid-homeschool program using an interest-led, project-based approach that sparks wonder, innovation, and creativity in K-8th grade homeschooled students.

SPARK ACADEMY PARTNERS WITH HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH AN APPROACH THAT INCLUDES:

- Project/ Passion-Based learning
- Multi-Age groups
- Growth Mindset
- Wholehearted - body, mind, spirit
- Brave communication

Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.

W.B. YEATS

A few terms explained

Wholehearted Autonomy:

Wholehearted: walking in the fullness of who you are: body, mind, and spirit.

Autonomy: Self-governance, ownership, and personal responsibility.

Together, wholehearted autonomy means full ownership over your whole heart: mental, emotional, spiritual and intellectual growth. It's our vision that students would grow in their ability to walk in wholehearted autonomy and learn skills to take ownership of their learning, their relationships, and their academic development and pursuits.

Project Based Learning (PBL):

An active and inquiry based teaching approach. Students learn through active exploration of real-world challenges. Students investigate and respond to a complex question, challenge, or problem. Such as: "What is the best way to reduce the pollution in the schoolyard pond?" Or "What causes rain?" Students then create a solution to the problem, and/ or they demonstrate knowledge gained through a presentation. Presentations could be anything from a poster board to a student-made documentary.

Growth Mindset:

"In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment." -Carol Dweck



STATEMENT OF FAITH

Spark Academy is under the covering of Bethel Atlanta Church. The beliefs and core values of Bethel Atlanta will be the banks in which the river of Spark Academy flows. To read those belief statements and core values, go to www.BethelAtlanta.com where you will find our "who we are" and "core values" pages.



**Spark Academy classes meet 3 days a week
on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays.**

Classes are groups of 12-16 students led by a full-time Guide.

We group students by:

Sparks

(Usually K-2nd grade ages 5-8) - These students are still learning to read and write or are learning to understand what they read. They use a lot of hands-on manipulatives and play to spark their curiosity. These students need a little more assistance and encouragement from their guide.

Flames

(Usually 3rd -5th grade ages 9-11) These students are now reading to learn. They can handle working on group projects and contributing. They are learning to set goals and organize their time. These students can work independently on their goals and can follow their plan.

Blazes

(Usually 6th -8th grade ages 12-14) - These students are entering higher level thinking and taking what they learn to make larger connections. They can have discussions on a wide range of topics and handle more complex projects and goal setting.



Conquer Time

Students set goals and work independently during designated class time throughout the year on Math and English Language Arts curriculum. We call this our "conquer time" where students are conquering their goals in these areas. Spark Academy will suggest the curriculum that we will support, but families will be able to select a curriculum that best suits their student.

Project Based Learning

The rest of the day the Guide will facilitate students through a project based curriculum that will cover a variety of subjects. Students will have problems to solve, questions to discuss, the time and opportunity to explore nature, to create, or to dig into research on things they wonder about. Tentatively, every four to six weeks a new theme will be explored where students will learn about new concepts and/ or careers while collaborating together to create solutions or find answers to real world problems or challenges. Students present the solution or demonstrate learning at the conclusion of each 6 week thematic unit. Presentations could be anything from a poster board to a student-made documentary, an exhibit or a business fair.

As a hybrid-homeschool program, the ultimate responsibility is on the parents to follow GA homeschool laws. Georgia homeschool laws are very simple. Ultimately, you are responsible for your child's education, but you are not alone. We are here to walk that journey together and offer support and resources.

Through growth mindset principles Spark Academy students will learn to take responsibility for their own actions. Our goal is to cultivate an atmosphere that produces emotionally healthy, lifelong learners who are the responsible citizens and future leaders that change the world.



Sample schedule of how our days flow:

Sparks Class Sample Schedule - (5-8 year olds)

8:30 classroom setup, circle time and calendar
9:00 conquer
9:40 recess
10:00 Project based learning
11:00 lunch then break
11:45 conquer
12:45 project based learning (breaks as needed)
Monday 2:00 buddy reading
Tuesday 1:30 Art lessons
Wednesday P.E.
2:30 Dismissal

Flames Class Sample Schedule (9-11 year olds)

8:30-9:00 Gather
9:00-9:30 Project
9:30-10:15 Conquer
10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:15 Conquer
11:15-11:45 Lunch
11:45-12:15 Read-aloud
12:15-1:45 Project
1:45-2:00 Clean-up
2:00-2:30 Reading buddies with Sparks class Or 1:30-2:30 PE on Wednesday

Blazes Class Sample Schedule (12-14 year olds)

8:30 - School Starts- Morning Circle
9:00 - 9:30 - PBL
9:30 - 10:15- Novel Study Conquer 1
10:15 - 10:30 - Brain Break
10:30-11:15 - Math Conquer 2
11:15 - 11:30 - Lunch
11:30 - 11:45 - Recess
11:45 - 1:00-- PBL
1:00-1:15 - Brain Break
1:15-2:15 - PBL
2:15-2:30 - Shout Outs and Clean Up (Wednesdays - PE 1:30-2:30)



FAQ

How much is tuition?

Tuition is \$3500 a year per student. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is applied toward tuition.

Do you offer payment plans?

Yes, the remaining balance (after deposit) can be paid in 11 monthly payments of \$300 a month.

Are there any discounts?

Lead Volunteers receive a discount on tuition. We will interview interested parents who would like to be a Lead-Volunteer. This is a significant and consistent weekly time commitment. For this commitment, there is discount for tuition. All volunteers will be background checked.

Do you require parents to volunteer?

No, at this time volunteering is not required, but we do love it when our parents volunteer. This could be occasional help in the classroom, or a one-time visitor to share on a particular subject, or reading in classrooms, etc.

Do you offer tours of the school or have visitor days?

No, at this time we do not offer tours or have any scheduled days for visitors.

Where are classes held?

Bethel Atlanta Church Campus 362 Farr Rd. Tyrone, GA 30290

Do you assign the at-home work for Thursdays and Fridays?

Occasionally there will be some work for projects that overflows onto Thursdays and Fridays. Otherwise, those days really are up to the parents. Most parents have students continue to work on their "conquer time" subjects, some add additional home studies, some go on field trips with other families. You can customize those days to the needs of your family and your student.

Do you require masks or social distancing?

No, we do not require students or teachers to wear masks or social distance. We do ask that no one comes to school sick or after direct exposure to covid.

How do I contact you if I have more questions? Please email: sparkacademy@bethelatlanta.com

What is the Application Process?

1. New Students may request a link to our online application by emailing sparkacademy@bethelatlanta.com
2. In addition to filling out the online application, students will send in a short 2 minute video (details are on the application).
3. We will review applications and acceptance will be notified after March 25th.
4. Upon acceptance, students will have enrollment paperwork and a deposit due by May 1st in order to secure their spot in their class.



Georgia Home School Laws FAQ

Resource- Georgia Home Education Association www.ghea.org

In Georgia, the homeschooling requirements fall under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690. To better serve you, we have provided the Home School Legal Defense Association's legal analysis of the Georgia law.

Who may teach? Parents or legal guardians may teach their own children. Additionally, parents or guardians may employ a qualified tutor to teach their children.

What are the qualifications to teach? Parents/ guardians or hired tutors must have at least a high school diploma or a general education development (GED) diploma.

What to teach? Any home study program must include a basic academic educational program which includes, but is not limited to, reading, language arts, math, social studies, and science.

How much time do I need to homeschool? For each school year (12 months), the home study program must include 180 school days. One school day is the equivalent of at least 4.5 hours (unless the child is physically unable to comply). Although attendance is no longer required to be reported, GHEA recommends you keep a record of your attendance in your personal school file.

How do I report to the state that we are homeschooling? The parent or legal guardian must file a Declaration of Intent with the Georgia Department of Education for each homeschool year. DOI is found on the Georgia Dept. of Education website.

What testing is required? Homeschoolers are required to take a standardized test at least every 3 years. You do not need to report the results of this testing, but you do need to keep them in your personal school file.

How do I show progress? Parents must write an Annual Progress Report (also called an Annual Summary) at the end of each school year. These are not reported anywhere, but must also be kept in your personal school record.