



## The Science Lab Class (8th Grade)

This hands-on projects course is designed to ignite curiosity and deepen scientific understanding through active experimentation and exploration. Scholars engage in a wide range of science experiments, learning to apply the scientific method, analyze results, and think critically about the world around them.



Throughout the course, each scholar designs and conducts two independent experiments on topics of their choice, encouraging self-directed learning and creativity. They document their process and findings in detailed research posters, demonstrating their ability to communicate scientific ideas clearly and effectively.

One of these projects will be selected for a formal presentation at **The Anchor School Science Fair** or in The Anchor School's first ever student-led publication of research, giving scholars the opportunity to showcase their work to peers, educators, and the wider school community.

**This projects-based class nurtures scientific thinking, collaboration, and confidence, empowering scholars to become thoughtful investigators and enthusiastic problem solvers!**





## The Great Debates Class (8th Grade)

This project-based humanities course challenges 8th grade scholars to explore complex ideas, build persuasive arguments, and develop their voices as thoughtful, informed communicators. Through in-depth reading, analytical writing, and spirited classroom discussions, scholars sharpen their critical thinking and rhetorical skills.



A central focus of the course is formal debate, modeled after academic speech and debate competitions. Scholars prepare for and participate in at least two official debates, presenting well-researched arguments on a variety of historical, ethical, and contemporary topics.

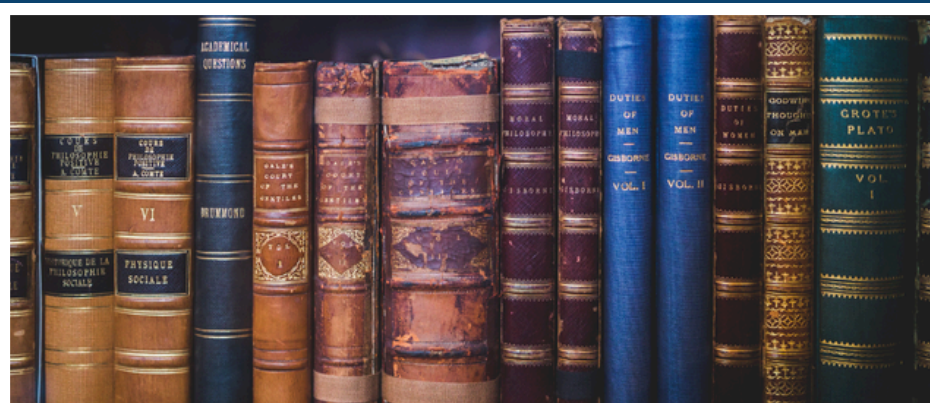
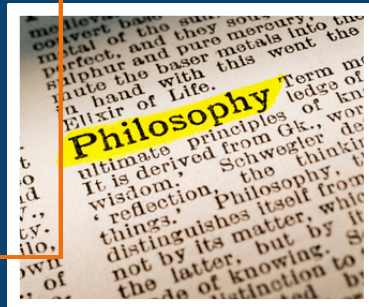
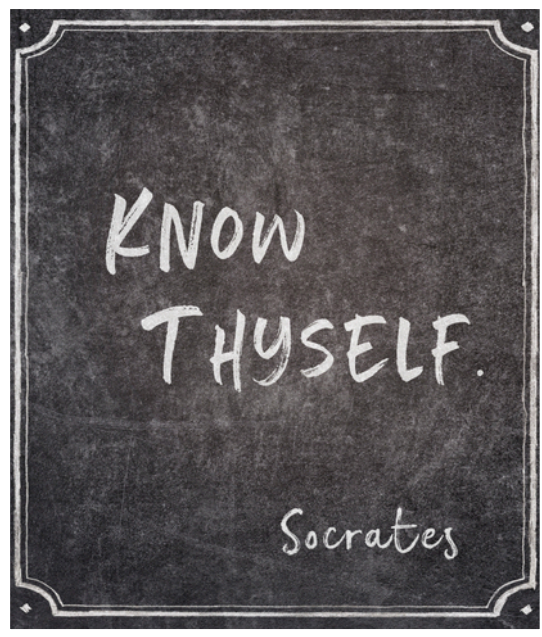
These culminating events take place during The Anchor School's **Fall and Spring Showcases of Student Learning**, giving scholars the opportunity to demonstrate their intellectual growth and public speaking abilities.

By engaging with diverse texts and viewpoints, scholars learn to defend their ideas with evidence, listen actively to opposing perspectives, and write with clarity and purpose.

**This projects-based course fosters leadership, empathy, and academic confidence — essential tools for lifelong learning and civic engagement!**







## The Big Questions Class (8th Grade)

Inspired by Yale University's acclaimed freshman seminar, **Life Worth Living**, this project's course invites 8th grade scholars to explore life's most profound and enduring questions. Through project-based learning, reflective writing, and Socratic dialogue, scholars engage deeply with nine essential philosophical questions that have challenged and inspired thinkers across cultures and centuries.

*What is a life well lived? What shape would a life well worth living take?  
How do we respond to suffering? Who am I? To whom am I connected?  
Where is my purpose?*

These are just a few of the questions scholars investigate as they explore diverse philosophical traditions and perspectives—ancient and modern, Western and non-Western.

Throughout the course, scholars create personal and collaborative projects that express their worldviews and insights. The journey culminates in a capstone experience: the opportunity for select scholars to deliver a spoken reflection at The Anchor School's 8th Grade Bridging Ceremony.

**This course challenges scholars to think with depth, speak with conviction, and grow as purposeful members of their community — ready to enter high school with clarity, curiosity, and compassion!**





## Language, Culture & Community Class (8th Grade)

This project-based course builds on the foundations of scholars' core Spanish studies, offering a dynamic and immersive extension of language learning. Through meaningful practice in speaking, reading, writing, and listening, scholars deepen their fluency and confidence in real-world Spanish communication.



In addition to language development, this course offers a rich exploration of the culinary traditions of diverse Spanish-speaking cultures. Scholars engage in hands-on cultural experiences, from researching regional recipes to learning about the history and significance of traditional foods.

The highlight of the course is the planning and hosting of **Cafecito**, a warm and welcoming cultural celebration. Scholars curate an interactive experience for families and peers at The Anchor School, showcasing their language skills, cultural knowledge, and hospitality through food, conversation, and student-led presentations.

**This project-based course empowers scholars to become global citizens — thoughtful, curious, and connected through language and shared cultural experiences!**

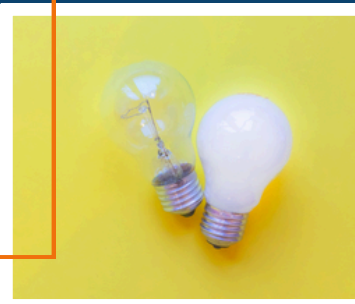






## Innovation & Invention Class (6th Grade)

Our 6th Grade Fall Special Projects class is a dynamic, hands-on course where students become real-world problem solvers and young inventors. Using the **Georgia Tech K12 InVenture Prize** curriculum as a foundation, students engage in an authentic design-thinking process — from identifying a real-world problem to developing and prototyping an original invention that addresses it.



Throughout the year, students learn to brainstorm, research, collaborate, and iterate as they navigate multiple design-thinking cycles. They develop critical skills in agency, collaboration, creativity, communication, and perseverance, while also exploring the practical applications of science, technology, engineering, and math.

The culmination of this project-based course is participation in the **Georgia Tech K12 InVenture Prize Competition**, where students present their innovations at an Engineering Innovation Fair on Georgia Tech's campus. This authentic audience provides powerful motivation and feedback, making the learning experience both meaningful and memorable.

**This class empowers students to see themselves as capable changemakers — equipped with the skills and confidence to imagine, design, and build a better future!**







## Community Impact & Civic Advocacy (6th Grade)

Our 6th Grade Spring Special Projects class empowers students to become thoughtful advocates and changemakers within their own community. Grounded in the **Local Civics Community Impact** curriculum, this course guides students as they explore the foundations of civic engagement and use their voices to propose meaningful improvements to student life at The Anchor School.



Students begin by identifying issues that matter to them through a particular civic lens—ranging from the student experience to environmental sustainability—and conduct research, stakeholder interviews, and root-cause analyses. They learn to craft persuasive arguments, develop actionable solutions, and prepare professional presentations.

The course culminates in a formal presentation to an authentic panel of community experts, including school administrators and board members. This experience both sharpens students' communication and leadership skills and creates a direct channel between student voices and real institutional change.

Each year, the panel selects the top two proposals to receive implementation grants from the school. Past projects have led to lasting improvements in school policies, spaces, and programs.

**This course is a transformative opportunity for students to see themselves as capable leaders, active citizens, and powerful agents of change!**





## Portraits of the Past: Exploring African History Through Art (7th Grade)

Our 7th grade scholars are diving deep into the vibrant and complex history of Africa through a unique passion project that blends academic research with artistic expression. Centered around the driving question — How can I express my knowledge of geography, economics, and social events in Africa through art? — this interdisciplinary project encourages students to become both historians and artists.



Students research a specific topic, figure, or event in African history, examining how geography, economic systems, and social movements have shaped the continent over time. From ancient empires like Mali and Great Zimbabwe, to modern movements for independence and civil rights, scholars use their social studies and English language arts skills to investigate, write, and reflect on key historical narratives.

Each student creates a historical portrait—a mixed-media artwork that brings their research to life. These portraits may include traditional drawing or painting techniques, digital art, collage, or sculpture, and are accompanied by artist statements and historical narratives crafted using ELA writing skills.

The project culminates in a public Art Gallery Exhibition. To further elevate the experience, local artists and cultural leaders are invited to lead workshops, offering mentorship and sharing insights into storytelling through art. On the night of the exhibition, these community artists also serve as expert judges, providing feedback and recognizing student work that stands out in historical insight, artistic technique, and emotional impact.

By engaging both the mind and the heart, this passion project empowers students to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of African history and geography
- Build research and writing skills
- Express their learning in creative and personal ways
- Contribute meaningfully to a shared cultural experience

**Through this powerful fusion of art and academics, we are proud to celebrate student voice, historical inquiry, and creative expression!**