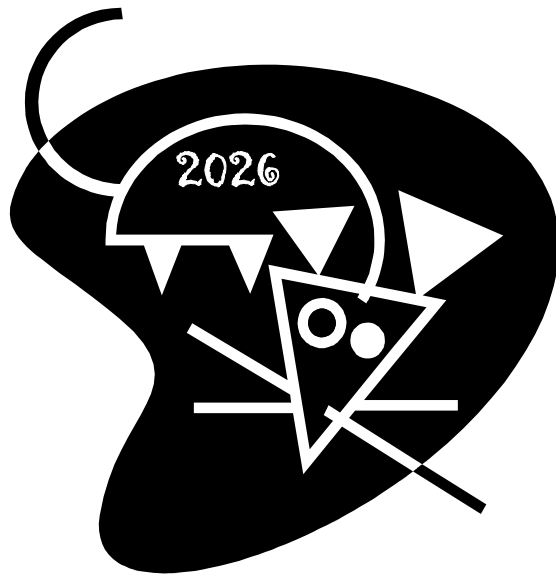


P R O J E C T T E R M
L O W E R E L E M E N T A R Y
G R A D E S 1 - 3



B L A C K R I V E R P U B L I C S C H O O L

PROJECT TERM 2026

Grades 1-3

Project Term for grades 1-3 is a two-week term that begins on Tuesday, May 26. Project Term is a valuable opportunity for Black River students and faculty as it provides hands on, experiential learning to each student while adhering to Black River's academic requirements. We are excited to offer a great list of classes and remind students that learning is fun!

Course Listings

Please read the course listings and discuss them with your child. Each child will be participating daily in two, one-hour long Project Term classes throughout this two week period. The Project Term schedule for grades 1-3 will be as follows:

- **Daily Schedule**
 - 8:00 – 10:50 Normal work time
 - 10:50– 11:10 Recess
 - 11:10 – 12:10 **Session 1 Project Term Class**
 - 12:10 – 12:15 Return to homeroom, prepare for lunch
 - 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch and recess
 - 1:20 – 2:20 **Session 2 Project Term Class**
 - 2:20 – 2:25 Return to homeroom
 - 2:25 – 2:40 Homeroom, prepare for dismissal

To clarify: each student will participate in two classes and they will have both of those hour-long classes every day during Project Term.

Course Selection and Registration

Once you have narrowed your choices down to the top twelve courses your child would like to take, please fill out the *pink* registration form and return it to your child's classroom teacher by **Monday, December 1, 2025**. We will do our best to make sure that each student gets to participate in his/her preferred courses, but we do ask that you provide five alternate courses for each session to allow for scheduling flexibility.

Parent Volunteers

We encourage parent participation in all stages of Project Term including preparation, assistance, and even teaching! Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested in volunteering.

SESSION 1 COURSES

American Sign Language *Krystin Krasnowski*

Let's learn sign language! In this class, we will explore different ways people communicate. Students will learn to sign the alphabet, their name, numbers, animals, places, and other basics.

Basketball *Adam Naylor-Tatterson*

In this class we will be working on the fundamentals of the greatest sport of all time, Basketball. Whether you are wanting to try out a new sport or you have been dribbling a basketball since you were two, join Mr. Adam for some fun drills and games to learn how to shoot, handle and pass a basketball.

Black River Olympics *Anna Hayes*

Go for the gold! Have you ever wondered what it would be like to compete in the Olympics? In this course you will learn about the history of the games, the many sports that are played, and compete in our own Black River games.

Board Games and Card Games *Rachael Naylor-Tatterson*

Get ready to play, learn, and think! In this class, we'll explore the world of board games and card games—old favorites and new ones. Students will practice taking turns, following rules, and using strategies while building teamwork and sportsmanship. We'll learn how different games work, talk about fair play, and even design our own simple board or card games to share with friends. Come ready to roll the dice, shuffle the cards, and have fun while thinking like a game designer!

BR Astronauts - Science and Science Fiction *Eldon Garvelink*

If you have a natural curiosity towards science and a creativity to go beyond, this class is for you! We will explore real life science and the fictional stories that it inspires.

Elementary Photography *Carrie Ames*

Do you have a creative mind and enjoy taking pictures? During this project term, you will learn the basics of photography and composition. Each day, you will learn a new skill and participate in a photography challenge to practice that skill. We will be visiting different places around and off campus to put our creativity to use.

Hot Off the Press *Christin Lankheet*

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Black River's lower elementary students are creating a newspaper during Project Term 2026! They will be exploring the writing process by becoming journalists and writing about the events that have happened at school this year through interviewing their peers and teachers. It will be an exciting couple of weeks as they brainstorm the newspaper's sections and stories, conduct interviews, write and edit their articles, finalize the layout, and publish the newspaper. Pencils will be flying and fascinating stories will be revealed. You won't want to miss out on this exciting adventure! Check out Hot Off the Press today.

SESSION 1 COURSES

Jewelry Making with Beads *Katie Melnick*

Do you like to be creative and work with beads? Come and take jewelry making with beads! We will work with different kinds of beads to make unique and fun creations!

Map Skills 101 *Melissa Meyer*

This class is for students who love pouring over maps, figuring out where things are, and creating maps of their own. We will take a look at the different kinds of maps, identify the key characteristics of a map, get outside and do a little bit of orienteering using a map, and create a map of our own! If you like maps, you will definitely want to find yourself located in this class!

Nature Art *Sarah Grace Waltz*

Explore nature by weaving, printmaking, and creating mandalas using found natural materials and yarn. We will use playful techniques that celebrate patterns, textures and creativity inspired by the outdoors. We will collect leaves, sticks, flowers, and stones to turn them into meaningful works of art.

The Wonderful World of Mo Willems *Jessica Roberts*

Come enjoy the fabulous stories of Mo Willems. We will have fun read-alouds and learn to draw the characters.

Yoga for Kids *Heather Kreuze*

Get ready to stretch, breathe, and have fun! In this class, we'll explore yoga through games, stories, and kid-friendly poses that help our bodies feel strong and our minds feel calm. We'll practice animal poses, learn silly breathing exercises, and even try short moments of relaxation at the end of each session. Yoga helps us feel peaceful inside while giving our bodies a great workout! No experience needed—just bring your energy, curiosity, and a willingness to try something new each day.

SESSION 2 COURSES

A Pirate's Life for Me *Adam Naylor-Tatterson*

Join Captain Adam on an imaginative voyage across the seven seas! In this eight-session adventure, students will become young pirates—creating maps, building ships, writing sea tales, solving clues, and discovering hidden treasures. Along the way, we'll learn geography, practice creative writing, and explore teamwork and problem-solving through hands-on projects and pirate play. All you need is curiosity, creativity, and a hearty “Arrr!”

Art Around the World *Heather Kreuze*

Pack your imagination—we're going on an art adventure around the world! Each day, we'll “travel” to a new country to learn about its art, colors, patterns, and traditions. We might make Japanese origami, paint African-inspired designs, create Brazilian Carnival masks, or explore Aboriginal dot art from Australia. Along the way, we'll learn about the people and cultures that inspire these amazing works of art. Get ready to create, explore, and celebrate the beauty of art from every corner of the globe!

Card Games Galore *Jessica Roberts*

We will learn and play different card games, and create an instruction booklet to teach your friends and family.

Cartooning *Katie Melnick*

Come draw some awesome comics! We are going to learn multiple aspects of the cartooning and comics trade. Starting with developing characters, we'll walk through how to create expression, action, environments, light and dark contrast, depth, comic strips, comic book page layouts and even a full four-page graphic story. You have to come ready to concentrate and draw hard every day for this course, but it will be really rewarding...it's the most comprehensive two week crash course in cartooning you'll ever take. Think you can't draw? Think again. Simple daily exercises will help you learn everything you need to know begin building your own characters, strips and visual stories in such a way that you can continue to develop on your own. Thinking visually helps your brain make connections, so let's exercise our visual brain muscles and tap into a fun and effective means of communication...cartoons! ***There is a \$50 student fee for this class.***

Endangered Animals *Anna Hayes*

If you had the chance to rescue animals and change the world, would you? In this course you will learn about the many different types of endangered species and how we can protect them. We will play games, create crafts, and even do our part to rescue a local endangered species: the Monarch Butterfly!

SESSION 2 COURSES

Friendship Bracelets *Sarah Grace Waltz*

Make friendship bracelets by exploring different types of simple knotting techniques. You will express your creativity through color and pattern while practicing fine-motor skills. Along the way we will swap bracelets, share ideas, and build teamwork. Every child finishes the class with a collection of handmade bracelets.

Kids Care *Krystin Krasnowski*

Do you want to make the world a better place? In this course, we'll be completing service projects to help people and animals in need in the Holland area. Whether you're making cards for kids in the hospital, picking up litter, collecting donations, baking a treat to share, or volunteering, you'll be making people smile every day. Along the way, we'll build empathy and practice friendship!

Logic Puzzles and Games *Eldon Garvelink*

If you love Sudoku, chess, math puzzles, this will be the class for you? We'll learn all about different types of logic puzzles and strategy games.

Playscape Builders *Melissa Meyer*

Do you like getting your hands dirty? Do you enjoy finding different ways you can use ordinary objects? Do you like to build things? If so, grab your hard hat and join this class! (Hard hats not necessary...)

This class will take a look at the different ways that you can use ordinary materials to build unique creations. Each day we will meet on the Playscape where we will get into teams and have a new theme to guide our construction. Since we will be using logs, kitchen tools, and other Playscape materials, these creations won't be able to come home with you, but the memories and ideas will! At the end of each class we will clean everything up and reset for the next day.

*Please note that this class will meet outside rain or shine, so please dress appropriately for the weather.

Run for Fun *Alaina Kramer*

Calling all runners, walkers, skippers and joggers--join us as we enjoy fresh air, sunshine and movement at Prospect Park. We'll begin each session with a healthy snack to fuel our bodies, and learn about the importance of exercise and nutrition. Next we'll count and track our laps around the park. The more laps you complete, the more prizes you earn. Come join in the fun!

SESSION 2 COURSES

Soccer Stars: Research & Play *Megan Verley & Jim Levering*

Get ready to dive into the exciting world of soccer—both on and off the field! In this energetic class, students will spend part of the time becoming mini researchers, learning fun facts about their favorite soccer players and creating their very own Soccer Star Booklet to share with classmates. The rest of the time, we'll head outside to practice skills, run drills, and scrimmage in friendly games. Along the way, students will learn the importance of good sportsmanship, teamwork, and playing with a positive attitude.

Splash and Swirl: Watercolors *Rachael Naylor-Tatterson*

Dive into the colorful world of watercolor painting! In this class, students will explore how water and color work together to create beautiful art. We'll experiment with blending, swirling, and layering paints to make skies, flowers, animals, and abstract designs. Along the way, artists will learn how to mix colors, use different brush techniques, and express their own creative ideas. Each student will build a mini collection of watercolor masterpieces to share and celebrate at the end of the term. Get ready to splash, swirl, and let your imagination flow!