

Project Term 2026

ES Catalog 4-5

PROJECT TERM 2026

Project Term is a four-week term (for grades 4-12) that begins May 12, 2026, and ends June 5, 2026. Project Term is a valuable opportunity for Black River students and faculty, alike. It provides hands on, experiential learning to each student, while adhering to Black River's academic requirements. Before viewing the course selections, please be aware of our project term policy and mark important dates on your calendar.

The priority registration deadline is **Monday, December 1, 2025** by 4:00 p.m. Students who register by this date will have *priority registration* over students who turn in their registration form after this date. The final deadline to register is Friday, December 19, 2025. Any student not registered by December 19 will be assigned to classes with available space.

TIME SLOTS FOR PROJECT TERM CLASSES

The four time slots are as follows:

8:00 – 11:00 from May 12 – May 22 (Block A)
11:40 – 2:40 from May 12 – May 22 (Block B)
8:00 – 11:00 from May 26 – June 5 (Block C)
11:40 – 2:40 from May 26 – June 5 (Block D)

Keep in mind that some classes and trips require more than one block. This is denoted in the first column before each class description.

PROJECT TERM OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026
6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Each year, we have a night to showcase our students' projects and display the fruits of their labor during the four-week term. *Attendance is required for all students registered in a Project Term course.* Please keep this date in mind as students who do not participate at the Project Term open house may lose credit for the course, at the discretion of the Dean of Students and teacher of the course.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT PROJECT TERM REGISTRATION

1. During scheduling, course choices will be prioritized first by application date and second by grade seniority. Turn your registration in by **Monday, December 1** to receive priority scheduling.
2. Fill out the **entire** schedule request. Do not repeat any classes.
3. Sign up for a variety of different kinds of courses. Students should not sign up for a course they have already taken unless approved by the teacher.
Students may be limited to one physical education class per two week term, depending on course availability.
4. Treat your teachers and classmates with respect during the year and act responsibly in the classroom. Students who behave responsibly and respectfully will be given first priority in off-campus courses and courses taught by guest teachers. *Students who have been on behavior contracts during the year will not be considered for off-campus trips.*
5. Be flexible. Many faculty members have listed several course possibilities for one time slot in order to provide a variety of choices. Be aware that due to a lack of interest, some courses will not run.
6. Make sure you sign up for a second, third, and fourth choice for each block in case your first choice isn't available. If you don't, please be advised that Mrs. Wise will pick your classes for you after all other students have been scheduled.

PROJECT TERM POLICIES

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. All students must attend Project Term. Project Term is part of our school year and the attendance policy does not change from the regular school year. Unexcused absences will be regarded as truancy. Students who miss more than two days of a Project Term course may fail the course at the discretion of the teacher.
2. The dates for Project Term are May 12, 2026, to June 5, 2026. The school day for on-campus courses will be from 8:00-2:40 p.m. The elementary and main offices close at 3:30 p.m. during Project Term.
3. Students are expected to participate 100%. Every class has an academic component and students are required to meet all guidelines established by the teacher.
4. Parents are responsible for transportation to and/or from their project during this term. Keep this in mind if registering for an independent study project.

FEES

While most projects do not have fees, some may include one. Projects that involve incidental personal expenses such as travel, food and accommodations or those where students keep the projects they create may have a fee. Fees are due by **Monday, March 16, 2026**. Keep in mind that off campus trips may have different deadlines and deposit requirements.

There may be some opportunities for students to acquire financial assistance. Students requesting financial aid must fill out a financial aid form by **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**. Scholarship request forms are available on the school's website or from Mrs. Wise. Students will receive written notification of scholarship awards by **Monday, March 10, 2026**.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Individuals who would like to sponsor the personal expenses of a Black River student during Project Term are encouraged to contribute to the Project Term Student Support Fund. Faculty members cannot be responsible for raising money.

PROJECT TERM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Project Term is an integral part of the BRPS curriculum. Students in grades 9-12 need to pass three years (1.20 credits) of Project Term in order to graduate.

Seniors who have successfully completed three years of Project Term have completed their Project Term requirement for graduation. ***Seniors who have received either a grade of "incomplete" or "F" must make up the credit in order to graduate.*** They must make up this course by taking a project term class during their senior year.

A failing grade in a project term class for students in grades 6-8, in combination with other failing grades, may result in that student being retained in their current grade level.

Since many Project Term classes involve hands-on activities and a greater responsibility for the individual student, it is important that for the safety of all the students in the classroom, discipline problems are dealt with swiftly and effectively. Students who have a number of discipline related referrals may be withheld from Project Term classes. The Dean of Students will notify the applicable students in writing and will assign the student alternate projects to complete and submit for review.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students are encouraged to participate in Black River courses. However, high school students may elect to do an independent study with approval if they seek an opportunity that the school is unable to offer. There is an informational meeting during HS CAP Flex on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**, where students will receive an **Interest Application**. Students who missed the meeting must see Mr. Wimbush for the application. The interest application is due by **Friday, December 5, 2025** to the office or directly to Mr. Wimbush. Once the project is approved, a more formal proposal will be due on **Monday, March 2, 2026**. Students who are interested in pursuing an independent study during project term should read the course description in the catalog and see Mr. Wimbush with any questions.

PROJECT TERM DATES AND DEADLINES AT A GLANCE

Priority Registration Deadline	Monday, December 1, 2025
Last Chance to Register	Friday, December 19, 2025
Scholarship Requests Due	Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Project Term Fees Due	Monday, March 16, 2026
Project Term Begins	Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Project Term Open House	Thursday, June 4, 2026
Last Day of School	Friday, June 5, 2026

The entire 2026 Project Term Catalog for grades 4-12 can be found on the website at:

<https://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/academics/project-term>

ELEMENTARY PROJECT TERM COURSES

STUDENTS MUST PICK ONE COURSE FOR EACH BLOCK (A, B, C, & D)

A Block **Grade: ES** **BOARDGAMES** **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Sliva, Kristin

Special Requirements: N/A

Do you like to play board games? Have you ever wanted to create your own? In this class, we will play board games every day! We will also research and write rules for our own game. Then, we will make and play each other's games!

A Block **Grade: ES** **BOOK TO FILM** **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Johnson, Carly

Special Requirements: N/A

Sign up for this class if you LOVE to read, because we are going to read...A LOT!!!! In this class, we are going to look at the differences between our imaginations when we read and Hollywood's interpretation of literature. Along the way, we will hold book talks, analyze story elements, and make projects about beautiful books! If you love book clubs, this is the class for you!

A Block **Grade: ES** **CLIMBING ROCKS!** **Fee: \$140.00**

Teacher: Johnson, Gina

Special Requirements: N/A

Are you an adventurous learner? Do you love to climb? In this class, we will visit Scrapyard Climbing Collective for an immersive learning experience. We will practice free climbing, auto belays, and top-rope climbing. We will play games and grow stronger each day.

There are also opportunities to explore nature and learn about rocks! Sign-up for this class if you are excited to learn and experience the art of rock climbing!

A Block **Grade: ES** **CROCHETING 101** **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Schreiber, Christy

Special Requirements: N/A

Do you love warm sweaters, beanie hats, and stuffies?

Well this may be the class for you! Crocheting is a skill that can be used in so many ways to make lots of different fun projects. Scarves, blankets, toys, and socks; many crafts can be stitched in our class. We will learn the basic stitches of crocheting, make a 4" by 4" square that will be put together into a quilt, and each student will make a final project of their choice. Join us while we all learn a new skill!

A Block **Grade: ES** **HIKING ADVENTURES** **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Davenport, Brooke

Special Requirements: *Students need shoes for hiking and a water bottle.*

Come hike, smell the flowers, feel the dirt and sand, and learn about nature in the great outdoors. Experience the outdoor wonders of West Michigan as we explore the lakes, dunes, forests, and trails. Learn about hiking and outdoor safety skills. Each student will need to bring appropriate shoes for hiking, dress for the weather, and a water bottle.

A Block **Grade: ES** **PIN PALS: THE ULTIMATE BOWLING ADVENTURE** **Fee: \$60.00**

Teacher: Davenport, Jesse

Special Requirements: N/A

Ever been to a birthday party or Friday night hangout where you tried to bowl like a pro but ended up in the gutter? Don't worry, we've all been there! But did you know that bowling is more than just rolling a ball toward some pins—it's actually a serious sport? Yep, some people even go pro! In this class, we'll dive into the wacky, wonderful world of bowling. You'll learn all about its history (yes, even bowling has history), sharpen your skills,

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and maybe even become the bowler you always dreamed of being. Forget relying on computers—by the end, you'll be scoring like a human calculator. Plus, brace yourself for daily challenges and a week-long team tournament where you'll get to show off your new moves. Pins beware!

A Block **Grade: ES** *YOUNG AUTHORS: WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY... ME!* **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Hamilton, John

Special Requirements: N/A

Do you have a story in your mind that you keep coming back to again and again? Does your creative mind feel like it is overflowing with story ideas? Let's set them free! In this class, you will get to explore just the kinds of books you love and create a story of your own featuring your own original characters and adventures. How fun is that?! We'll look to the books you love for inspiration, and then you'll set off on your own writing adventure and bring your own awesome story to life on pages of your very own published book!

B Block **Grade: ES** *ADVENTURES IN ART* **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Johnson, Gina

Special Requirements: N/A

Art is all around us! In this class, we will take walking field trips to explore art in nature, as well as human-made art in our community. We will create our own art and reflect on how we make the world a more beautiful place! Take this class if you are ready to take STEPS toward becoming the best artist you can be!

B Block **Grade: ES** *BEGINNING SAILING* **Fee: \$125.00**

Teacher: Rowe, Karen

Special Requirements: A personal life jacket is required to participate.

Do you enjoy the beauty of the lake and the feeling of wind rushing against your face? Then Beginning Sailing is the class for you! You will learn the basic skills of sailing, including how to rig and de-rig a sailboat, tack into the wind, and tie sailors' knots. These skills will prepare you to sail an Optimist sailboat on Lake Macatawa. Please come to class prepared to go out on the water each day.

B Block **Grade: ES** *COLLEGE RIVALRIES* **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Schreiber, Christy

Special Requirements: N/A

What College Will You Choose?

Many kids your age don't yet know what they want to be—or where they might go to college to achieve their dreams. In this class, we'll explore those dreams *and* the exciting world of college life, including the energy and pride that come with college sports! We'll visit several colleges—either in person or virtually—to learn what makes each one unique, from their academic programs to their school spirit and athletic traditions. Through this class, you'll learn about colleges across the U.S., explore jobs that match your interests, and get a taste of the excitement that comes with being part of a college community—whether you're cheering from the stands or chasing your own goals in the classroom. By the end, you'll have a clearer picture of your future—and maybe even your favorite college team!

B Block **Grade: ES** *CRAFTING AND NEEDLEWORK* **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Sliva, Kristin

Special Requirements: N/A

Do you like crafts? Have you always wanted to sew? Learn to finger knit? Create your own stuffed animal? Bead animals? If you like these things, you'll like this class! We will be learning many different crafts and their history. You will create and write about a final project of your choice to share at open house.

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B Block Grade: **ES** *FROLF* Fee: \$20.00

Teacher: Davenport, Jesse

Special Requirements: *N/A*

Frisbee Golf: the perfect blend of precision, fun, and "how did my frisbee end up in that tree?!" In this class, you'll learn the art of chucking a frisbee through the air with finesse (or at least in the general direction of the target).

We'll cover all the basics, from the graceful flick of the wrist to the dramatic dive to retrieve a wayward disc.

Every day, we'll hit the frisbee golf course, perfecting our throws, dodging obstacles (like trees, bushes, and, let's be honest, each other), and having a blast. By the end, you'll be a frisbee golf pro—or at least really good at laughing off your wild shots!

B Block Grade: **ES** *KOREAN POP AND CULTURE* Fee: \$0.00

Teacher: Davenport, Brooke

Special Requirements: *Optional spending money during outings.*

Step into the vibrant world of Korean pop music and modern Korean culture! Inspired by themes from the movie K-Pop Demon Hunters, students will explore K-Pop groups, choreography, fashion, fan culture, and Korean traditions. Through music videos, storytelling, food, and cultural activities, students will gain an appreciation for Korea's global cultural impact.

B Block Grade: **ES** *PUZZLE ME THIS!* Fee: \$0.00

Teacher: Johnson, Carly

Special Requirements: *N/A*

Number puzzles, word puzzles, pictures puzzles, and more! If you love solving puzzles this is the class for you. We will solve number puzzles like Sudoku as well as riddles. You will get a chance to make your very own puzzle.

C Block Grade: **ES** *BOOK AND BREAKFAST CLUB* Fee: \$15.00

Teacher: Davenport, Brooke

Special Requirements: *Students will need money for breakfast outings (this does not include the money for the course - that goes to food and supplied for making breakfast in the classroom).*

Welcome to the Book and Breakfast Club—the perfect class for book lovers and breakfast enthusiasts! In this fun and cozy class, you'll dive into exciting stories, share your thoughts in a book club, and learn to make tasty breakfast dishes along the way. From pancakes to parfaits, you'll master simple recipes while enjoying great books and good company. Plus, we'll even take a couple of trips to local book and breakfast spots! Join us for a delightful mix of reading and delicious treats!

C Block Grade: **ES** *BOOKS ALIVE* Fee: \$0.00

Teacher: Johnson, Carly

Special Requirements: *N/A*

Do you love to read? Can you envision books in your head? Then this is the project term class for you. You get to pick a book to read. Then when you finish that book, make it come to life how you imagined it. But how will you make a project for it? If you love games then make a book themed board game. If you love art, make a sculpture of a character. If you can read it and imagine it? You will do it!

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C Block **Grade: ES** **CARTOONING WITH GOOGENIUS!** **Fee: \$75.00**

Teacher: Johnson, Gina

Special Requirements: N/A

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 is the most comprehensive two week crash course in cartooning you will 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!

C Block **Grade: ES** **COED LACROSSE AND LIFE LESSONS WITH MR. BITTRICK** **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Bittrick, Brett

Special Requirements: *Students are responsible for bringing their own lacrosse stick.*

Come learn how to play lacrosse with Mr. Bittrick. You will learn the basics of the game, as well as a number of life lessons along the way. You will need to provide your own lacrosse stick. Come with a growth mindset, a bundle of energy, an exuberance of passion. See you on the field!

C Block **Grade: ES** **K-POP & KIMCHI: A KOREAN ADVENTURE!** **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Gaffney, Sarah

Special Requirements: N/A

Get ready for an exciting adventure into the world of Korea! In this class, students will discover the basics of the Korean language—learning how to read and write the Korean alphabet (Hangul), say simple words and phrases, and have mini conversations.

But that's not all—this class is also a cultural journey! We'll dive into Korean traditions, try fun crafts, learn about K-pop and Korean cartoons, explore tasty foods like kimchi and rice cakes, and celebrate cool holidays like Lunar New Year.

Through games, music, videos, and creative activities, students will explore what life is like in Korea today while building a love for languages and global cultures.

C Block **Grade: ES** **SCRAPBOOKING: MAKE YOUR OWN PHOTO JOURNAL** **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Schreiber, Christy

Special Requirements: N/A

What makes scrapbooking so fun? The photos? The memories? This course allows students to take life-long memories and put them into one place, their scrapbook! We will spend time working with color schemes, shapes and textures to create pages that are not only colorful, but also aesthetically pleasing. We will also look at various ways to lay out pages to make them flow well and emphasize one particular theme. If you are ready to use your imagination to develop a fun and creative scrapbook for your pictures, then this is the class for you! Students will need their own pictures (about 80), a scrapbook, and a creative mind.

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C Block Grade: **ES** *SOUND EFFECT STUDIO AND WRITING* Fee: \$0.00

Teacher: Sliva, Kristin

Special Requirements: *N/A*

Have you ever watched a movie and wondered exactly HOW they made it sound like it was storming? In this class, we will explore how sound effects bring stories to life. You will experiment with everyday materials to create your own sound effects and use them in an original play that you write. You will share this with the class!

C Block Grade: **ES** *STRUM AND HUM: INTRO TO GUITAR* Fee: \$0.00

Teacher: Davenport, Jesse

Special Requirements: *♫ Students must bring their own acoustic or classical guitar (NO electric guitars) or rent one from RIT Music before the first day of class.*

Ever dreamed of playing your favorite song around the campfire—or rocking out (gently) in your living room? In Strum & Hum, you'll learn the basics of acoustic guitar, including how to hold your instrument, strum, play simple chords, and read beginner music. We'll explore a variety of fun tunes while building finger strength, rhythm, and confidence. No experience necessary—just enthusiasm and a guitar!

By the end of the course, you'll be able to strum a few songs, jam with friends, and wow your family at the open house. Let's make some music!

D Block Grade: **ES** *ADVANCED STRING ART* Fee: \$20.00

Teacher: Davenport, Brooke

Special Requirements: *Students will need their own hammer and needle nose pliers.*

Explore the world of geometric design and creativity through the craft of string art! Students will learn how to create intricate patterns using nails, string, and wooden boards. This is an advanced course for those looking to add more detail and difficulty to their creations.

D Block Grade: **ES** *ADVENTURE UNLEASHED* Fee: \$100.00

Teacher: Davenport, Jesse

Special Requirements: *Students must be at least 10 years old at the time of this class to participate in all activities*

Get ready to swap your desk for dirt trails, boulder walls, and open water! In Adventure Unleashed, students will dive into the ultimate outdoor experience — learning real skills while having serious fun. Each day will be packed with action as we hike local trails, kayak calm waters, aim for the bullseye in archery, cruise on mountain bikes, and reach new heights rock climbing. We'll explore the beauty of nature while building strength, confidence, and teamwork. Along the way, you'll learn how to gear up safely, navigate new environments, and challenge yourself in exciting (and sometimes muddy) ways. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or a total beginner, this class is all about stepping out of your comfort zone and into the wild — together!

D Block Grade: **ES** *BEGINNING SAILING* Fee: \$125.00

Teacher: Rowe, Karen

Special Requirements: *A personal life jacket is required to participate.*

Do you enjoy the beauty of the lake and the feeling of wind rushing against your face? Then Beginning Sailing is the class for you! You will learn the basic skills of sailing, including how to rig and de-rig a sailboat, tack into the wind, and tie sailors' knots. These skills will prepare you to sail an Optimist sailboat on Lake Macatawa. Please come to class prepared to go out on the water each day. A personal life jacket is required to participate.

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D Block **Grade: ES** *GLORIOUS GARDENING* **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Johnson, Gina

Special Requirements: N/A

Do you have a green thumb? Do you enjoy working outside in the yard and getting your hands dirty? If yes, then this is the class for you! We're going to learn about plants and flowers as we work together to make the grounds at Black River beautiful. We will spend time weeding and cleaning up BR's campus, and each student will get to plant their own pot of flowers. These pots will be placed around campus for everyone to enjoy at the Project Term Open House. Students will also research the plants in their pot and create a project. Let's make BR beautiful!

D Block **Grade: ES** *I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!* **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Schreiber, Christy

Special Requirements: N/A

Are you ready for the coolest class ever? Join me for a learning adventure all about your favorite frozen treat! In this class, you'll get to make real ice cream, invent your own flavor, design logos and packaging, and even run your own pretend ice cream stand. We'll explore the history and science behind ice cream, discover frozen desserts from around the world, and create posters and commercials to show off your brand. The grand finale? Our Great Ice Cream Expo, where you'll present your creation to the class! This class is sweet, smart, and packed with creativity and fun—don't miss your chance to sign up before it melts away!

D Block **Grade: ES** *TEE-RIFIC PUTT PUTT* **Fee: \$25.00**

Teacher: Gaffney, Sarah

Special Requirements: N/A

America's favorite past time, the sport of miniature golf is a short game aspect of golf that focuses on the skill and technique of putting. Along with the history and fun facts about mini golf, you will visit local putt-putt courses to practice a variety of skills and tactics associated with putting. You will also try your hand at a different type of putting and natural obstacles through Frisbee golf. You will also research examples of different hazards, obstacles, and putting angles to design your own mini putt-putt course using recycled and house hold materials. Each group will design a putting hole that can be played by guests at the Project Term Open House.

D Block **Grade: ES** *THE SWEET SCIENCE OF BOXING* **Fee: \$100.00**

Teacher: Johnson, Carly

Special Requirements: *Students will need a water bottle and tennis shoes.*

Ever wanted to try a new sport? Come get fit and strong while learning the sweet science of boxing. This class is not intended to develop fighters but is intended to develop boxers.

D Block **Grade: ES** *THE TWEEN'S GAMBIT* **Fee: \$0.00**

Teacher: Lozano, Sarah

Special Requirements: N/A

Pawn, bishops, and rooks - oh my! Whether you are a chess aficionado, or have never held a chess piece before, this course is for you! Two players, 32 pieces, 64 squares and a mind-boggling number of moves (no, really - look it up!), this game has been studied and played around the world for hundreds of years. We will take two weeks to learn, practice, play and understand the game of kings. New players are highly encouraged - we will be starting at the basics and learning along the way.

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D Block

Grade: **ES**

WRITING WORKSHOP

Fee: \$0.00

Teacher: Sliva, Kristin

Special Requirements: *N/A*

Do you like to write? Have you ever just wanted to sit and type to your heart's content? In this class, we will be writing fiction, fantasy, or realistic fiction stories and sharing them with everyone. You will come up with your own idea and put your final paper in a book!