

Enrichment Clusters and E-slots



Enrichment Clusters:

Enrichment Clusters provide our students the opportunity to pursue a personal interest in a small group setting and to use them and produce group projects to explore real world applications of the knowledge they are learning in school. Enrichment clusters are non-graded groups of students who share common interests and who come together once a week to explore these interests during a 6-8 week time frame once a year.

What this looks like at LME:

- 8 weeks for 2nd-5th grade.
- 6 weeks for K and 1st grade.
- Enrichment cluster topics based on interest surveys from beginning of year.
- Small groups made up of students with same interests.
- Student choice.
- Student driven, teacher is the facilitator.

Examples of Enrichment Clusters

Scraps of Cloth (4/5)

Did you ever wonder how quilts came into existence? Who dreams up their shape and purpose? Join us to design, cut, stitch and quilt a dream. If you can draw a straight line with a ruler, you can learn to design and create quilts. What will you create? How will it be made? Who will it warm on a cold day? What it looks like it up to your imagination and creativity.

Animal Home Builders Association (4/5)

Are you interested in providing one of the three basic necessities needed for helping promote a successful wildlife habitat? If so, the Animal Home Builders Association is for you. Come join us and work with other like minded individuals in developing animal home designs for wildlife.

Your creative ideas will come together through a process of research and deliberation to help you design and construct your very own animal home that will provide an important necessity needed for promoting a healthy wildlife habitat.

Engineers for Tomorrow (4/5)

Have you ever wondered what an engineer does? Do you like building robots to accomplish tasks? Join the robotics team to find out what it means to be part of a team and solve difficult problems.

Voyage into a Volcano (2/3)

Does red fiery lava spewing out the top of a volcano make your eyes wide open? Does the rumbling sound of the earth make your heart stop beating? Join us as we explore some of the most famous volcanoes around the world and go through the phases of a volcano eruption. We'll have an explosion of fun.

Clay Creations (4/5 and 2/3)

Do you like working with your hands? Does the idea of molding squishy earth make you happy? Then, come and discover the art of working with clay. In this cluster we will explore the techniques of working with clay, working on the pottery wheel, and creating original works of art. The possibilities are endless. Bring your imagination and creativity!

Scripts, Storytelling, Stars (K/1)

Fairy Tale Reader's Theatre will be an exciting way to learn to read as though you are on stage in a play. Become a character in "The Troll Bridge", "Mr. Wolf and the Three Pigs", "To Kiss a Frog" or other Fairy Tales. Practice your many voices for the different characters! Our stories will have action and humor as we become fantastic storytellers, making our stories come alive! We will also compare our stories to the original ones in books. Sign up for a great time!

Lego Cluster (K/1)

Do you like to build with Legos? Are you good at problem-solving? If so, then the Lego Cluster is for you! You can follow instructions to make a drill, a clock and a bridge. You can design and create models on your own. Share your ideas and creations with others who like to build with Legos!

E-slots:

When students are not participating in an Enrichment Cluster they are taking part in weekly E-slots (Enrichment Slots). The E-slot is a time when students participate in enrichment activities that range from service projects to student chosen electives to individual research projects based on the students' interests and talents.

What this looks like at LME:

- Based on students' interests.
- Whole class, small groups, individual.
- Looks different class to class, grade level to grade level.
- Another chance to explore what students are interested in.
- Students sharing talents or interests.
- Parents sharing talents or interests.
- Short term or long term.
- E-slot electives.
- Service projects.
- Can be related to curriculum.

Examples of E-slot Activities

- Philanthropy lessons
- Gardening
- Preserve work
- Yearbook
- We Flap
- Student Enrichment Cluster helpers
- IIM
- Renzulli Learning System
- "Food for the Foodless" food drive

- Special guest speakers
- Robotics
- KPAW script writing
- Art Studio Time
- Golf Club
- Musical
- Read-a-thon
- Electives
- Activities connected to curriculum
- Activities based on student interests
- Parents sharing talents/passions
- Interest Center

- KIDS Kits
- Class newspaper
- Community building
- Lion Hearts
- Service Learning Projects
- Photo Story
- Power Point
- Libraries of Love
- PRIDE education
- Family history project
- Pen pals, etc.....

Overall Value

- Fundamentals stressed as foundation of education.
- Unique opportunity for students to explore interests, advance knowledge, increase self-esteem, connect with community, gain self-awareness and understanding of world.
- Variety of resources and tools to understand and motivate students.
- Endless learning opportunities.

What Can I Do to Help?

- Complete "Parent Resources" on SEM website.
- Volunteer to help with an Enrichment Cluster (let Mrs. Levitan or teacher know)
- Volunteer to present for an E-slot (let teacher know)
- Volunteer to help with an E-slot (let teacher know)
- Ask your children about what they did during E-slot or enrichment clusters
- Come for an Enrichment Cluster tour
- Come for the Enrichment Cluster Showcase
- Contribute to the Excellence Fund