

FALL



2026



WELCOME BACK!

We are thrilled to present the 2026 Fall Workshop catalog, with many classes now running for 8 weeks! Registration will open on Tuesday, August 25th at 8:00am and will run through Tuesday, September 1st at 3:00pm. Our registration form allows you to rank your preference (1st-4th) for multiple classes, and everyone who registers by September 1st will have an equal chance of getting into a high preference class. Please rank only one class as a first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. Registration confirmations will be emailed on or before Tuesday, September 8th. Late registrations will be offered only if spots remain.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://forms.gle/LB2FBjxqDi2uucQ79>

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"The quality of a public school is the mirror of the community: it affects the future of the community, the people it attracts, and the values of the community."

-Zenas Block, SOAR
Founder

For more information:

soarkids.org

Important Information

DATES/TIMES

Take note of dates and times of each workshop. They vary by workshop and are not consistent from class to class.

EXTRAS CREDIT

On the registration form, please indicate the days your child is attending EXTRAS. EXTRAS families will receive a one-time \$15 SOAR credit per child on their invoice. This credit applies only to children who are enrolled in both EXTRAS and a SOAR class on the same day. If your child is enrolled in EXTRAS and their SOAR class is on a different day, no credit will be applied.

SIBLING DISCOUNT

We offer a discount to families with multiple children enrolled in classes.

- 2 children - 5% off total bill
- 3 children - 10% off total bill
- 4+ children - 15% off total bill

WHAT TO BRING

Pack additional healthy snacks on the days your child attends SOAR. Food sharing is not allowed and we do not provide snacks (unless listed in workshop description).

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones must remain in backpacks at all times. If a student has a cell phone out during SOAR, it will be collected and returned at the end of class. All communication can be made through a SOAR employee.

ABSENCES

We kindly ask that you notify the SCS office and the SOAR Executive Director if your child will be in school the day of their workshop but will not be attending their SOAR class.

PICK UP

Pick up your child promptly. Pickup is from the upper building circle, unless otherwise noted. If your child is going home with someone other than the individual listed on the registration form, please inform the Executive Director prior to dismissal.

CANCELLATIONS

SOAR workshops are automatically cancelled if SCS closes early or cancels after-school activities. Every effort will be made to make up SOAR classes, but this is not always possible.

FEES & PAYMENT

Invoices from SOAR will arrive in your inbox in October and must be paid within two weeks. Changes to registration must be made prior to the first day of the workshop. We are unable to offer a refund once workshops begin.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available thanks in part to Salisbury Family Services. To request confidential support, check the box on the registration form. Salisbury Family Services is here to help anyone in our community get through difficult times. Please visit salisburyfamilyservices.org to learn more.

FALL WORKSHOPS

Register here:

<https://forms.gle/LB2FBjxqDi2uucQ79>

HIGH FIVE HEROES: Grades K-2 (Tuesday)

Are you a kid in Kindergarten through Grade 2? Join the High-Five Heroes to play imaginative, collaborative games and activities that also build important life skills such as cooperation and communication. Fly high on a runaway magic carpet that lands safely when everyone is working together! Cross a raging river to reach the treasure on the other side – and make sure nobody falls in on the way! Stretch your creativity to draw and paint as a team. There will be plenty of fun, encouragement, and high-fives to go around.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
High Five Heroes	K-2	\$65	Tuesday 3:15-4:00	9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3	10	Project Sage

LEGO DINO DESIGN: Grades K-2 (Monday)

Travel back to the Jurassic era in this hands-on STEM adventure powered by LEGO®! Guided by our enthusiastic Play-Well instructors, young builders will use LEGO® to bring the time of the dinosaurs to life. Design and engineer secure habitats for gentle herbivores, embark on daring expeditions to track down elusive species, and uncover the secrets of powerful predator dinosaurs. Get ready for a dino-sized adventure packed with building, problem-solving, and imagination!

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
LEGO Dino Design	K-2	\$80	Monday 3:15-4:15	9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16	12	Play-Well

BOOMSHAKALAKA: Grades K-2 (Wednesday)

BOOMSHAKALAKA is back for another round with SOAR; open to Kindergarten thru Second grade. Each little artist will create their own book connecting their feelings with color and various art modalities. Each book will be unique to each artist of course, and we can have fun identifying a variety of feelings, and pairing those feelings with different art techniques. At the end of the course, the artists can bring home their books and share their story.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Boomshakalaka	K-2	\$65	Wednesday 3:15-4:15	9/9, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/28, 11/18	8	Tara Higgins

LE PETIT RANCH: LEARNING WITH ANIMALS: Grades 1-3 (Tuesday)

In this playful and heart-centered after-school class, students build emotional intelligence, literacy, mathematics, communication, confidence, and social skills through meaningful interactions with our animal partners. Guided by Marjorie Borreda, a French-American certified Animal-Assisted Therapist, Educator & Coach, children will explore weekly themes through stories, movement, cooperative games, creative activities, and hands-on learning with our trained Spanish greyhounds, joyful guinea pigs, friendly chickens, and other animal partners. Please note that the 10/20 session will take place at Le Petit Ranch for Ranch Life 101, where students will meet miniature horses and donkeys, explore ranch routines, and celebrate everything they have learned. Families will be responsible for transportation to and from the Ranch.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Learning with Animals	1-3	\$80	Tuesday 3:15-4:30	9/15, 9/22, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20 (at the ranch), 10/27, 11/3, 11/10	8	Marjorie Borreda

FUSION DANCE: Grades 1-3 (Friday)

Fusion Dance invites students to discover a variety of dance forms from around the globe while building confidence, creativity, and movement skills. Through hands-on instruction, students will explore African dance, Latin dance, Flamenco, Bharatanatyam (classical Indian dance), and modern dance, discovering how different styles connect and influence one another. Participants will learn foundational techniques such as patterns, turns, jumps, and expressive movement while exploring choreography and dance improvisation. This engaging workshop encourages students to develop physical awareness, creativity, and a deeper appreciation for the cultural stories and traditions expressed through dance.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Fusion Dance	1-3	\$60	Friday 3:15-4:15	9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 11/6	12	Anna Mayta

DESIGN THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING: Grades 1-4 (Monday)

How do real-world inventors, engineers, and creators come up with their best ideas? They use something called "Design Thinking"—a hands-on framework for solving tricky problems that builds empathy, resilience, and critical thinking skills. In this interactive class, students will become real-world problem solvers. Through a dynamic mix of games, group discussions, and creative projects, students will learn how to look at the world around them, identify everyday challenges, and brainstorm creative solutions.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Design Thinking & Problem Solving	1-4	\$65	Monday 3:15-4:15	10/5, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16	12	Kathryn Zdan

SQUASH: Grades 2-4 (Thursday)

Join us for a fun and engaging 8-week squash program designed for both beginners and returning players. Students will learn the fundamentals of squash, including proper technique, rules of the game, foundational tactics, fitness, and basic refereeing skills. Each class introduces a new skill or strategy, beginning with instructor-led drills and ball feeding before progressing to fun conditioned games and match play, helping students build confidence, consistency, and sportsmanship with every session. Practices also include solo drills, fitness activities, and enjoyable squash challenges to keep learning active and exciting. Squash racquets will be provided; however, participants must bring clean, non-marking athletic shoes (not street shoes) and approved eye protection. Please note that this workshop will be held at Hotchkiss School. Transportation is not provided, though carpooling with other families can be arranged.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Squash	2-4	\$65	Thursday 3:15-4:15	9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12	8	Bobby Burns

PUNK TACO HANGOUT: Grades 2-4 (Wednesday)

Punk Taco Hangout! (A Graphic Novel & Illustration Club) is the perfect after-school workshop for readers, artists, and graphic novel fans! Students will dive into the world of Punk Taco through lively book discussions, creative drawing challenges, games, and hands-on art activities. Along the way, they'll meet author and illustrator Adam Wallenta during a virtual visit to learn about creating memorable characters, telling stories through words and pictures, and the graphic novel publishing process. With snacks, a taco party, and plenty of opportunities to create and share original artwork, this club celebrates reading, imagination, and creativity in a fun and welcoming environment.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Punk Taco Hangout	2-4	\$50	Wednesday 3:15-4:15	9/9, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/28	10	Kyla DeRisi

FOOD, FARMING, & FUN: Grades 3-4 (Tuesday/Thursday)

SOAR's collaboration with Hotchkiss resumes with twice-weekly visits to Fairfield Farm. SCS students will be partnered with Hotchkiss students working side by side harvesting crops, visiting with friendly chickens and cows, and building/repairing farm structures. Transportation to the Farm is provided, but pick-up is at the Farm promptly at 5:00pm.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Food, Farming, & Fun	3-4	\$45	Tuesday/Thursday 3:15-5:00	9/15, 9/17, 9/22, 9/24	8	Bridget Lawrence-Meigs

ACRODANCE: Grades 3-5 (Friday)

Acrobatics is defined by athleticism and artistry while also featuring elements of gymnastics and dance. Students will learn the foundations necessary to perform acrobatic feats of tumbling and stunting while in a safe and supportive environment. Ms. Erin is an experienced state-certified dance instructor, safety certified by USA Gymnastics, and is First Aid & CPR/AED certified by the American Heart Association. Weekly acro-dance classes will follow nationally accredited best practices set forth by Acrobatic Arts for a safe and nourishing acrobatic education. Please have your child dress in clothes that they can freely move in.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Acrodance	3-5	\$65	Friday 3:15-4:15	9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13	10	Erin Mahoney

MAPS Art Studio: Grades 3-5 (Thursday)

MAPS (music, art, puppetry, sound) creates a loving environment for art and play! While diving head first into art-making, we will draw inspiration from contemporary and historic artists as we create works of our own. Projects will be multi-media and multi-disciplinary. We love doing new things including sculpting, painting, making puppets or masks and creating joyous, wacky art!

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
MAPS Art Studio	3-5	\$60	Thursday 3:15-4:30	10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/19	10	Rachel Sherk

LEGO ROBOTICS & CODING: Grades 3-6 (Thursday)

Rise to the challenge to build and program robots using the LEGO® Spike Prime system! Learn about mechanical and software design, loops, conditional statements, problem solving, and teamwork skills. Design and construct your robot to avoid obstacles, pick up and carry objects, and play sounds. Projects are structured so that students work in an open-ended, investigative environment while having fun. Returning students welcome as new projects will be introduced.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
LEGO Robotics & Coding	3-6	\$80	Thursday 3:15-4:30	9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19	12	Play-Well

CREATE YOUR OWN PICTURE BOOK: Grades 3-6 (Wednesday)

In this hands-on workshop with award-winning picture book author, Caroline Nastro, students will make their own picture books! Using a theatrical, playful approach adapted from the 52nd St Project, students will learn all about the process of making a picture book from start to finish. With sketches and illustrations from *The Bear Who Couldn't Sleep* as guiding examples, students will create storyboards, sketches and illustrations, learn about story arc and character development, collaborate with their fellow authors and illustrators, and write and illustrate their own picture books. The focus of the workshop will be on exploration—brainstorming, asking what if questions, trying out new ideas, imagining stories in action, and mining the student's fertile imaginations. The workshop will culminate in the publication of the students' picture books for circulation in the school library.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Picture Books with Caroline	3-6	\$70	Wednesday 3:15-4:30	9/9, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/28, 11/18	12	Caroline Nastro

IMPROV WITH STEPH: Grades 4-8 (Thursday)

With an extensive background in and love for theater and drama, Steph Hahn will once again bring her many talents to SCS. Improvisation is the art of creating theater spontaneously without any preparation or planning. In this class, participants will learn to freely trust and embrace their creative impulses. Through the exploration of improv games and exercises, everyone will learn to say "Yes" to their ideas, their imagination and their inspirational sources to create full rich characters and scenes. Participants will foster their spontaneity and build confidence. Whether you are new to drama and theater arts or you have been passionate about them for a while, this class is perfect for anyone who wants laugh and be joyful..

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Improv with Steph	4-8	\$55	Thursday 3:15-4:15	9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5	10	Steph Hahn

PORTRAIT PAINTING: Grades 4-8 (Thursday)

Discover the art of portrait painting in this creative and engaging workshop! Students will explore the timeless tradition of portraiture by creating paintings of themselves, family members, friends, or loved ones using photographs or live observation with a mirror. Along the way, they will experiment with a variety of artistic styles, from realistic rendering to abstract interpretations, while incorporating mixed-media techniques such as collage. Through guided instruction and creative exploration, students will develop their drawing and painting skills, learn to capture expression and personality, and discover that there are countless ways to tell a story through portrait art.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Portrait Painting	4-8	\$70	Thursday 3:15-4:30	9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12	8	Nikko Sedgwick

SQUASH: Grades 5-8 (Monday)

Join us for a fun and engaging 8-week squash program designed for both beginners and returning players. Students will learn the fundamentals of squash, including proper technique, rules of the game, foundational tactics, fitness, and basic refereeing skills. Each class introduces a new skill or strategy, beginning with instructor-led drills and ball feeding before progressing to fun conditioned games and match play, helping students build confidence, consistency, and sportsmanship with every session. Practices also include solo drills, fitness activities, and enjoyable squash challenges to keep learning active and exciting. Squash racquets will be provided; however, participants must bring clean, non-marking athletic shoes (not street shoes) and approved eye protection. Please note that this workshop will be held at Hotchkiss School. Transportation is not provided, though carpooling with other families can be arranged.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Squash	5-8	\$65	Monday 3:15-4:15	9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9	8	Bobby Burns

READING AND WRITING POETRY WITH DARCY: Grades 5-8 (Friday)

Channel your inner Robert Frost or Emily Dickinson by joining Darcy for this 7-week poetry extravaganza. We will read, analyze, and discuss a wide variety of poems. As we discuss style, form, themes, poetic devices, and learn about the poets themselves, we'll get inspired to write our own poetry, with structured prompts as well as more open-ended assignments.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Reading & Writing Poetry with Darcy	5-8	\$60	Friday 3:15-4:15	9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13	8	Darcy Boynton

HORROR FILMS: Grades 5-8 (Tuesday)

From brainstorming the concept to editing the final cut, children will have an opportunity to work alongside Hollywood directors, screenwriters, producers, and actors to learn what it takes to make a movie. The children will work together to create their own short film by acting, directing, and editing. The workshop concludes with a screening at The Moviehouse on October 25th where family and friends will be able to watch the final product and celebrate their success as filmmakers!

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Horror Films	5-8	\$65	Tuesday 3:15-5:00	9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/25* (*film screening)	10	Jeremy Boviard

PHOTOGRAMS: Grades 5-8 (Friday)

A Photogram is the most basic form of photography. You don't need a camera and you don't need an enlarger. All you need is light sensitive paper (photo paper) and chemistry. Kids will be able to bring in a cherished object, their favorite toy, or just their hands to put on top of the photo paper which will be exposed to light. When developed there will be a perfect silhouette of that object. But there are many different ways to play and be creative such as multiple exposures, shining the light source at different angles, as well as putting the completed photo in a color bath to imbue the image with color. There are many ways to make the photos really interesting.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Photograms	5-8	\$65	Friday 3:15-4:30	9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13	6	Nikko Sedgwick

OUTDOOR COOKING: Grades 5-8 (Monday)

Learn how to cook over an open fire with Ed Thorney in this fun, hands-on outdoor cooking workshop! Students will discover the essentials of campfire cooking, including how to safely build and maintain a fire, create the perfect bed of coals for cooking, plan a meal, choose the right cookware for each recipe, and follow recipes to prepare delicious food. Using cast iron Dutch ovens and other campfire cooking techniques, participants may make hearty soups, stews (beef, chicken, fish, or vegetarian), roasted meats and vegetables, fruit cobbler, and, of course, everyone's favorite campfire treat—s'mores! The class will take place using a portable fire pit and a rock fire ring beside the brook, providing an authentic outdoor cooking experience.

Class	Grades	Fee	Day/Time	Dates	Max	Instructor
Outdoor Cooking	5-8	\$75	Monday 3:15-4:45	9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19, 10/26	6	Ed Thorney

Week at a Glance

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lego Dino Design (K-2)	High Five Heroes (K-2)	Boomshakalaka (K-2)	Squash (2-4)	Fusion Dance (1-4)
Design Thinking & Problem Solving (1-4)	Learning with Animals (1-3)	Punk Taco Hangout (2-4)	Food, Farming, and Fun (3-4)	Acrodance (3-5)
Outdoor Cooking (5-8)	Food, Farming, and Fun (3-4)	Create Your Own Picture Book (3-6)	MAPS Art Studio (3-5)	Photograms (5-8)
Squash (5-8)	Horror Films (5-8)		Lego Robotics (3-6)	Reading & Writing Poetry with Darcy (5-8)
			Improv with Steph (4-8)	
			Portrait Painting (4-8)	

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

All students attending Salisbury Central School are welcome and eligible to attend SOAR workshops. While attending these workshops, the same behavioral expectations that exist during the school day are also expected during all SOAR workshops, whether they take place at SCS or off-site. All students attending SOAR workshops are expected to: **Be Respectful**, **Be Responsible**, and **Be Safe**.

Be Respectful

- Stop, listen and pay attention when someone speaks to you
- Follow directions of instructor and/or other adults
- Use quiet voices as directed, especially when inside
- Use good manners
- Be kind with your actions and words
- Take care of school/SOAR property
- Tell the truth

Be Responsible

- Arrive for your workshop ready to learn
- Be an active participant in class
- Complete all activities/projects as assigned
- Leave no trace

Be Safe

- Walk inside classrooms and the school building
- Maintain personal space and body awareness
- Follow school safety procedures
- Be sure an instructor/adult knows where you are at all times

Most of the time SOAR instructors are able to handle minor infractions and no further action is required. However, there are times when a behavior is more serious or persistent and will require intervention by the SOAR Executive Director. Depending on the situation, the Director will determine the appropriate response. For more serious incidents, the parents of all children involved in the situation will be contacted and an incident report will be written. When appropriate, this report will be shared with SCS administration. SOAR and the school can then work together to determine the best course of action. **All students participating in SOAR workshops as well as their caregivers, will be required to acknowledge the behavior expectations during registration.** SOAR strives to create a positive experience for all students. If your child has any special needs (learning/behavior, etc), please inform the Executive Director. We will work together to provide appropriate support and guidance so your child and others can get the most of their SOAR experience.

Our History

For over 25 years, SOAR, has been offering high quality enrichment programming to the children at Salisbury Central School (SCS) in Lakeville, CT through after school workshops, in-school programming, special events, and teacher mini-grants. The organization's mission is to augment the school's existing daily curriculum and to promote the self-discovery, talents, and learning of every child at SCS.

SOAR was founded in 2000 by Zenas Block, a chemist, entrepreneur, and business school professor who served on the Salisbury Central School Board of Finance for many years. Block envisioned an enrichment program that would bolster and augment the school's existing curriculum, and with the help of the school's principal at the time, C. Zbynek Gold, and SOAR's first program director, Karen Lundeen, he made that vision come to life.

Over his lifetime, Block built many businesses, was awarded nineteen patents, and developed some of the first research and graduate-level courses on entrepreneurship. SOAR was his final project and one he held very dear. Block's legacy lives on in every student who benefits from SOAR'S program. Each year, The Zenas Block Award for Excellence in Science is given to an 8th grader as a way to honor Zenas' legacy.

Our Team

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lauren Brown

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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