



## Overview

Small by design, we focus on creating an education that excites children's curiosity for learning. Every day, our learners reason, create, and do; they make choices, take on challenges, and reflect, learning from both successes and failures. In addition to building a strong academic base, these key curricular pieces support children in developing the 21st-century skills that matter most: curiosity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking.

## At A Glance

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**Web:** [www.arcstudioschool.ca](http://www.arcstudioschool.ca)

**Enrolling:** Children ages 4-12 years (roughly Pre-K through grade 7)

## Our Model

- Each on a Hero's Journey
- Learner-Led Studios
- Individualized Learning
- Collaborative, Real-World Challenges
- Socratic Guidance

## Our Beliefs

- Every child has the potential to change the world.
- Children are capable of — and benefit from — driving their own learning.
- Learning to Learn, Learning to Do, and Learning to Be are at least as important as Learning to Know.
- Learning is more powerful when we discuss, question, and create as a community.

## Our Culture

- We strive to grow a learning community that celebrates intellectual curiosity.
- We grow a love of learning first, and from that, a desire to drive our own learning.
- We value relationships and know that learning happens best when we're active collaborators in and out of the studio.
- Learners are mentored by Socratic Guides and peers, learning to ask deep questions and find their own answers; we develop a Growth Mindset and embrace failure as an important part of learning.
- We attend to the whole person, not only academic development; we break for two hours daily to have lunch and play as a community.

## Our Curriculum

- We focus on reading, writing, mathematics, and civilization — "core skills" — and bring them together through complex, collaborative science, engineering, and design challenges.

- Learners are held accountable by peers, always working to produce their best work and improve on their last iteration.
- Curiosity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking are practiced daily through Socratic discussion, collaborative work, and self-governance of the Studio.

## Assessment

- Learners at ARC are not graded by teachers and do not write tests; rather, they use excellence criteria ("Is this your best work? Is it better than the last time?") to evaluate their own and each other's work.
- They earn badges for completion of a large body of work, create portfolios to showcase their best work, and produce Exhibitions at each session's end to share their learning experience with family and friends.
- Twice a year, learners meet with their parents/guardians and guide in a Journey Meeting, from which the guide prepares a Narrative Report. The meeting is an opportunity for the learner to show their parents their work, answer their parents' questions, and plan the next steps on their learning journey.
- Most importantly, the final day of each session is reserved for reflection. Learners self-reflect and provide peer-to-peer feedback, reflecting on the challenges and successes of the present session and setting goals for the next.