

COMMUNITY BASED CURRICULUM + ELECTIVES

2018-2019

Please read below for information on both CBC and Electives programs. This newsletter is lengthy, yet specifically written with new families in mind. It is also helpful for returning families who need a refresher.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Community Based Curriculum (CBC) and Electives are unique Anser programs dedicated to service learning, exploring new ideas, nurturing creativity, building confidence, connecting to and through our community and cultivating stewardship of our natural world. The program builds a foundation for confident creative thinkers.

Students have the opportunity to participate in 4-8 week sessions based in STEM Education, Visual Arts, Adventure, Physical Fitness, Performing Arts, Service and Community. Modules are based on EL Education's design principles such as:

- The Primacy of Self Discovery
- The Having of Wonderful Ideas
- Empathy and Caring
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Service and Compassion
- The Natural World
- Collaboration and Competition

The CBC/Electives program also provides Anser students opportunities to experience service learning in partnership with outstanding local agencies making a difference in our community. Anser students learn the value of volunteerism, citizenship, and contributing to causes that change the world. Parents volunteer by coordinating modules, driving students off campus, and volunteering alongside children to make a difference together.

HOW IT ALL WORKS

Age Groups for CBC/Electives:

- **Intro to CBC:** Kindergarten and 1st grade
- **CBC:** Grades 2/3 and 4/5
- **Electives:** Grades 6/7/8

Once a week all Anser students leave their classrooms to explore new learning opportunities in visual arts, music, athletics, performing arts, service, STEM and more. Some may go to the Visual Arts Studio and some to the STEM lab. Others participate in modules lead by parents or community members on campus, while some (2nd-8th grade) leave campus for experiences with community partners. Each 4-8 week module is coordinated by an Anser parent, community partner, Visual Arts teacher, STEM teacher, or Physical Education teacher.

As students get older, they have more opportunity for choice in modules that pique their interest. When students reach Electives (Grade 6-8), all sessions are student choice. Before each session, students are given the opportunity to rank their module choices, and a lottery is held for module placement. Parents who commit to

teaching or chaperoning a module or driving at least 5 weeks can opt for their child to receive their first choice in the session lottery.

Parent drivers are necessary to transport students every time our students go into the community, which is where the magic of CBC happens. If every Anser parent drives two times per year, our needs would be more than covered! For working parents, we suggest planning ahead for 1-2 days each year where you might shift work hours in order to support your child in CBC. There are also ways to help outside of school hours. Watch for a Signup Genius for opportunities each session, or email Tamara for more information, treames@ansercharterschool.org.

IMPORTANT DATES – COMING SOON!

Module Choice DEADLINE!

For grades 2/3 and 4/5 CBC and 6/7/8 Electives: submit choices online for Session 1 by **Sept 7th**. *Look for module descriptions and online form link emailed home the first week of school.*

SAVE THE DATE!

CBC Primacy of Self Discovery Recital (grades 2-5) **Nov. 7th**, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
K & 1st Grade Thurs Mornings 8:45-10:15 AM	Sept 20-Nov 8	Nov 29-Jan 24	Feb 7-Mar 14	Apr 4-May 16	
2/3 Combo Wed Afternoons 1:00-3:10 PM	Sept 19-Nov 7	Nov 28-Jan 9	Jan 23-Feb 13	Feb 27-April 3	April 17-May 15
4/5 Combo Tues Afternoons 1:00-3:10 PM (Wed. for Winter Grit Session)	Sept 18-Nov 6	Nov 27-Jan 8	Grades 2-5 combine on Wed.	Feb 26-April 2	April 16-May 14
6/7/8 Electives Thurs Afternoons 1:00-2:55 PM	Sept 13 - Nov 8	Nov 29-Jan 24	Feb 7-Mar 14	April 4-May 16	

Yellow = Regular CBC/STEM/Visual Arts Sessions rotating for grades K-5

Green = Primacy of Self Discovery Sessions student choice, ends with evening performance on final week

Blue = Winter Grit Sessions student choice, option for fee-based skiing or snowboarding at Bogus Basin

Pink = Electives Choice Modules every elective session is choice-based

PARENTS – WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Volunteering: Module Coordinators, Chaperones, and Drivers We value parents and grandparents as part of the Anser Community, and believe everyone has a role to play. Volunteers are essential to the success of CBC and Electives Programs, with many roles to fill each week. Volunteering is another great way to get to know your child's friends, classmates, and fellow Anser parents. We encourage you to find a way to spend some of your time with us, whether it be a little or a lot.

Parents are invited to share their passion by coordinating modules, or co-coordinating with another parent. Do you love fly fishing, fashion design, mountain biking, or dance? We would like to talk with you about leading a module! Staff and community members are module instructors too.

Chaperones are needed for each module and are invaluable to instructors as an extra pair of adult eyes and hands. Parents are encouraged to chaperone as often as their schedule allows. This allows a parent a chance to spend time with their child, be a part of their school life and provides the electives program consistency in adult volunteers. Chaperones do not teach the class, though they sometimes may be asked to pitch in and help. Each instructor may use parent volunteers in a different capacity. Often a chaperone's primary job is to help monitor students and make sure that Anser behavior and character expectations are met. Feedback to the CBC/Electives coordinator and an honest assessment of each student's positive participation is much appreciated.

Drivers are needed every time students leave campus. Parents of preschool or younger children are free to bring them along. You are welcome to stay and watch your student's module, or just drop off and pick up. One driver must stay to chaperone with the module instructor, providing at least two adults with the students at all times.

LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES

Our team consists of a coordinator and three teachers. Each has a specific role and may be contacted with questions or concerns regarding these roles. A shared leadership model is how this program succeeds.

We work together to find classes that are enriching and exciting for our students. As a school of revision, we are always evaluating and dreaming of new ideas. We welcome your honest and constructive feedback to continue building a stronger program.

Tamara Reames: CBC & Electives Coordinator

Email: treames@ansercharterschool.org or (208) 631-6768 (cell)

In 2007, my family "won the lottery!" when my oldest child came to Anser as a 5th grader. As a parent volunteer and substitute teacher, I've grown to love this learning community. I personally won the lottery in 2016 when I became the CBC/Electives Coordinator.

I am passionate about music, performing arts, and especially service learning - working with the nonprofit community to create meaningful service opportunities for Anser students. I also volunteer in the community, and last year drove a van of teens to Mexico to build a group home for homeless adults with disabilities.

My husband Steve and I have four Anser kids: alumni Carter (BSU), Aliya (U of I), Mercia (Capital HS) and current Anser student Eliana (7th). In my free time, I enjoy cycling, playing music, and travels to the beach.

If you have a special skill or talent, a helpful heart, or a dream of something big, I would love to talk with you about finding your unique place at Anser. We value parents (and grandparents!) as part of the Anser Community, and believe everyone has a role to play. I'm here to help you find your niche!



Anne Moore: CBC & Electives Visual Arts Teacher

Email: amoore@ansercharterschool.org

I am a certified teacher with a history of 16 years at Anser Charter School. I taught kindergarten at Anser for 11 years and developed and taught the enrichment program called AAYC for Kindergarten for 4 years. I am now lucky to have the opportunity to teach and develop the visual arts program for the entire school! My dream come true! I am in charge of the Visual Arts portion of CBC and Electives and my other role at the school will be as Art Educator for grades K-6. The door to the studio is always open and you are welcome to join in the fun. I love having volunteers and will utilize your presence in ways that are meaningful to you and the students. If you are an artist, professional or not, please, please let me know!



Email me if you ever have questions about CBC or Electives concerning visual arts. If you are a new family, please find me and introduce yourself!

I have lived here in Boise for 18 years. I have a 11 year old son, Myron, in 6th grade at Anser. My husband David, Myron and I enjoy music, art, hiking, camping, biking, gardening, and reading.



Richard Incorvia: CBC & Electives STEM Teacher

Email: rincorvia@ansercharterschool.org

Rocket-fuel, lasers, robots, shampoo and bows and arrows: how can we make (and combine) these things in an educational environment to ensure that students are never bored again? Richard earned his Masters in Teaching from Maharishi University of Management. He's been in education for 13 years in both public and private schools where he became well known across the country as an education innovator, utilizing the latest technology to engage students. Recently he was the academic director of a STEM outreach program. He was the subject of the film What School Can Be. And while he is still pretty new at mixing rocket-fuel and playing with dry ice, he has all of the confidence of an expert. Also, he is a pirate.

Alyssa Munch: CBC & Electives Physical Fitness & Health Teacher

Email: amunch@ansercharterschool.org

I am beginning my 17th year at Anser, teaching PE and Health. I have 3 kids—Ollie is a 19 year old playing football at Rocky Mountain College, Edie is a 16 year old at Boise High, and Emme is in 7th grade at Anser. I love teaching children, running, yoga, coffee, teaching group exercise, and working a bit with Title 9. I also have a passion for service and help with a charity called "Community Cakes" where we deliver handmade birthday cakes for hospice patients, foster kids, veterans or anyone who might not get a cake.



EL EDUCATION DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Primacy of Self Discovery	Learning happens best with emotion, challenge and the requisite support. People discover their abilities, values, passions, and responsibilities in situations that offer adventure and the un-expected. In EL Education schools, students undertake tasks that require perseverance, fitness, craftsmanship, imagination, self-discipline, and significant achievement. A teacher's primary task is to help students overcome their fears and discover they can do more than they think they can.
The Having of Wonderful Ideas	Teaching in EL Education schools fosters curiosity about the world by creating learning situations that provide something important to think about, time to experiment, and time to make sense of what is observed.
Responsibility for Learning	Learning is both a personal process of discovery and a social activity. Everyone learns both individually and as part of a group. Every aspect of an EL Education school encourages both children and adults to become increasingly responsible for directing their own personal and collective learning.
Empathy and Caring	Learning is fostered best in communities where students' and teachers' ideas are respected and where there is mutual trust. Learning groups are small in EL Education schools, with a caring adult looking after the progress and acting as an advocate for each child. Older students mentor younger ones, and students feel physically and emotionally safe.
Success and Failure	All students need to be successful if they are to build the confidence and capacity to take risks and meet increasingly difficult challenges. But it is also important for students to learn from their failures, to persevere when things are hard, and to learn to turn disabilities into opportunities.
Collaboration and Competition	Individual development and group development are integrated so that the value of friendship, trust, and group action is clear. Students are encouraged to compete, not against each other, but with their own personal best and with rigorous standards of excellence.
Diversity and Inclusivity	Both diversity and inclusion increase the richness of ideas, creative power, problem-solving ability, and respect for others. In EL Education schools, students investigate and value their different histories and talents as well as those of other communities and cultures. Schools and learning groups are heterogeneous.
The Natural World	A direct and respectful relationship with the natural world refreshes the human spirit and teaches the important ideas of recurring cycles and cause and effect. Students learn to become stewards of the earth and of future generations.
Solitude and Reflection	Students and teachers need time alone to explore their own thoughts, make their own connections, and create their own ideas. They also need to exchange their reflections with other students and with adults.
Service and Compassion	We are crew, not passengers. Students and teachers are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others, and one of an EL Education school's primary functions is to prepare students with the attitudes and skills to learn from and be of service.