

LUMINEER ACADEMY



What makes us special?

We are evolving education from teaching students to developing lifelong learners, who experience the world with joy, resilience, and curiosity.

At most schools

Students learn primarily from teachers, books, and worksheets.

Students learn set subjects and how to recall content.

Students can experience stress and anxiety as learners.

Teachers set the agenda for classrooms, curriculum, and students.

Student assessment is focused on testing and quantitative scores.

At Lumineer Academy

Lumineers learn primarily through active, collaborative, and multidisciplinary project experiences. Our Learning Explorations tie together curriculum, core skills, and character development into a cohesive whole.

We teach children how to think, reason, and deduce from first principles. By learning how to understand the most fundamental building blocks underpinning knowledge, and then learning how to construct systems and patterns, they're able to retain, integrate, and use new information much more effectively.

We're incredibly committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment for each child. Our educational philosophy is grounded in social and emotional well being, and we equip children with the tools to become resilient, self motivated, and engaged participants in their learning journey.

Children are guided in partnership with their teachers and parents to set goals, develop agency, and learn how to make choices about their learning journey. Teachers guide learners to develop their own project arcs anchored on lived experiences and personal passions.

We develop and assess the whole child as a human being, across three Whole Child Development axes: 1. Social, Emotional, and Character Development, 2. Cognitive Development, 3. Design and Making Capacity. Instead of reducing students to numbers, we share portfolios representing student project work, social and emotional growth, core skills mastery.

At most schools

Students have mandated homework.

There are rigid boundaries between school and community.

Students interact with the school in a compliance model.

Students stay in one classroom most of the day.

Students learn STEM as standalone silo'ed subjects.

Students learn through generalized, set programs.

At Lumineer Academy

We guide our learners to develop their own individual goals. We love it when children are so excited about what they're learning that they want to continue exploring these topics in out-of-school hours, but we don't mandate homework.

We believe that schools should be dynamic and porous hubs anchoring local communities. We bring in many activators and specialists to work with our children, and we encourage our children to participate in many off-campus activities. We use public parks, tennis courts, oceans rather than private facilities.

We encourage and empower our students to co-create as much of our classroom, learning exploration, and school environments alongside us as possible. It's important that students internalize agency and responsibility from even the earliest ages.

Our kids move from studio to studio throughout the day, to keep them physically, mentally, and emotionally engaged. Each of our learning studios has its own unique purpose and intention, whether it's for creative, musical, design, collaborative, or reflective work. All of our students spend time in our purpose built makerspace each day.

We teach STEM as part of a foundational whole, that underpins all learning and making, rather than as silo'ed subjects. We teach STEM in synthesis with SEL (Social Emotional Learning) and Humanities. For example, when we teach robotics, we integrate the overall context of computational data, design, engineering, human rights, ethics, civics, and algorithm design.

We develop each child to become motivated lifelong learners, and tailor learning experiences to their personal strengths, weaknesses, and passions.

At most schools

Active learning is typically contained to simulations and exhibits.

Students receive feedback once or twice a term.

Students learn how to think in a single, rigid way.

At Lumineer Academy

Our Learning Explorations have narrative arcs that synthesize over 70% of learning time, culminating in the design and creation of real products that deliver tangible impact for real world customers and stakeholders. Our children learn from day one that they have authentic agency and impact in the world, rather than merely modeling simulated experiences.

We provide iterative feedback on an ongoing basis, across our three Whole Child Development axes.

We challenge our learners to constantly learn and think in new ways, whether it's through creative expression, numerical analysis, scientific observation, dialectic, logic, negotiations, collaborative team work, and so on.
