



ANDOVER SUMMER

# SUMMER SESSION

*at* PHILLIPS ACADEMY

## Lower School Institute Course Catalog

Summer 2026

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# ANDOVER SUMMER

## 2026 Lower School Course Catalog

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# LOWER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Our Lower School Institute (LSI) is designed for rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are seeking a challenging, supportive summer academic experience. With 11 interdisciplinary course offerings, students in LSI have the opportunity to dive deeply into the rigorous study of a topic of interest, guided by nurturing teachers and residential staff in an environment that balances substantial structure with developmentally appropriate autonomy. While sharing the broader campus with their Upper School counterparts, LSI students live and study with their own middle-school-aged cohort, following a special LSI schedule that includes LSI athletics, evening classes and supervised study halls, and both academic and recreational off-campus trips. Required LSI-specific social activities are offered on campus on Tuesday and Saturday evenings.

## COURSE SELECTION

During the application process, all students select a specific program to which they are applying. **All students in LSI must select one interdisciplinary course** which meets daily for up to 5 hours (spread out across 3 academic periods: 2 in the morning, and one in the evening), and may add an additional, optional SSAT course and/or music lessons to be scheduled during their free times in the afternoons.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

English Language Learning students will be part of our specialized ELL course, *Finding Your Voice, Finding Your Place*. Any student considering our ELL program should have basic proficiency in written and spoken English. As a guideline, students should have a minimum TOEFL iBT score of 60, 6.0 on IELTS, between a 95-100 on Duolingo, or at or approaching a high B1 on CEPT.

**Please note that both boarding and day students are required to attend all class sessions and mandatory LSI activities, including cluster meetings and evening class sessions.**

In the pages that follow you will find the full range of possible LSI courses that are currently being offered for the summer of 2026. Please note that final course offerings are dependent upon enrollment and staffing, and courses with insufficient enrollment may be cancelled at any point prior to the start of the summer. Students enrolled in a course that is being cancelled will be notified and given the opportunity to enroll in an alternate course, based on what remains available at that time. **Our Forests, Mountains and Beaches: Field Ecology and Nature Writing course carries an additional course fee due to the 3-night field trip to the White Mountains. Fees will be added to a student's invoice after class selections are finalized.** Course enrollment is a first-come, first-served process, with our most popular courses and programs typically filling up in February or March each year.

## COURSE CHANGES

Students may utilize our Family Portal to make course changes until May 15th. Once on campus, LSI students may not make course changes except for special circumstances and with permission of corresponding instructors and the assistant director of Andover Summer. Please refer to the LSI Blue Book for more details on course changes.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Andover Summer can provide limited academic accommodations to admitted students. These accommodations may include extended time on testing, preferred classroom seating, and/or support at an evening study center. Once admitted, families should complete the required accommodations form in our medical portal and provide all necessary supporting documentation, in order to formally submit their request. All accommodations requests must be submitted by May 15, 2026. Requests made after this date may not be considered.

## OPTIONAL COURSES AND ADD-ONS

Optional Courses and add-ons may be taken **in addition to** the required course minimum described above. These items are not included in tuition and fees.

### **Princeton Review Test Prep—\$990**

Princeton Review courses prepare students for the verbal, quantitative, and reading comprehension sections of the SSAT standardized test used for evaluation in secondary school admissions. Students will learn efficient test-taking strategies which, alongside full-length practice tests, will help relieve test taking anxiety and allow for students to maximize their score. SSAT Prep is open to all LSI students.

### **Music Lessons—\$400**

Students have the opportunity to engage in optional music lessons to keep their practice going strong throughout the summer. Students may enroll in four 45-minute lessons; practice rooms and instrument rentals are also available. Summer Session musicians are also invited to take part in an end-of-session performance.

### **Secondary School Program—NO FEE**

All LSI students are encouraged to take part in our free secondary school program, which includes a weekly workshop led by members of the Shuman Office of Admission at Andover as well as a secondary school fair. More information about the specific dates and timing of these workshops and fair will be shared upon enrollment.

A summer secondary school fair will be held on **Sunday, July 19th from 6:00-7:30 pm** and is open to all Lower School students. A list of attendees will be provided at the start of the program.

# Lower School Institute (LSI) Daily Schedule 2026

MONDAY	
7:00-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast available ( <i>sign-in from 7:45-8:15am</i> )
8:45-10:15 a.m.	Pd 1: Morning Class Block 1
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Pd 2: Morning Class Block 2
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch available
1:15-2:15 p.m.	Pd 3: Afternoon Activities
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Pd 4: SSAT Class Period A ( <i>for those registered</i> )
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Pd 5: SSAT Class Period B ( <i>for those registered</i> )
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Pd 6: Open Activities
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner available
7:00 p.m.	Initial Sign-in
7:30-8:45 p.m.	Evening Class Block
8:45 p.m.	"Paresky Late Night" break
9:00 p.m.	Final Dorm Sign-in
9:00-10:15 p.m.	Free Time/Prepare for Bed
10:15-10:30 p.m.	Quiet Time
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out
TUESDAY	
7:00-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast available ( <i>sign-in from 7:45-8:15am</i> )
8:45-10:15 a.m.	Pd 1: Morning Class Block 1
10:15-10:45 a.m.	"Milk & Cookies" break
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Pd 2: Morning Class Block 2
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch available
1:15-2:15 p.m.	Pd 3: Afternoon Activities
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Pd 4: SSAT Class Period A ( <i>for those registered</i> )
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Pd 5: SSAT Class Period B ( <i>for those registered</i> )
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner available
7:00 p.m.	Initial Sign-in
7:30-9:00 p.m.	LSI Social Activity ( <i>required for all</i> )
9:00 p.m.	Final Dorm Sign-in
9:15-10:30 p.m.	Quiet Time
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out
WEDNESDAY	
7:00-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast available ( <i>sign-in from 7:45-8:15am</i> )
8:30 a.m.-~5:00 p.m.	Academic Field Trips ( <i>timing varies by class &amp; trip</i> )
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner available
7:00 p.m.	Dorm Sign-in & Meeting
7:15-8:45 p.m.	Study Hours (in dorm)
8:45-10:15 p.m.	Free Time/Prepare for Bed
10:15-10:30 p.m.	Quiet Time
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out

THURSDAY	
7:00-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast available ( <i>sign-in from 7:45-8:15am</i> )
8:45-10:15 a.m.	Pd 1: Morning Class Block 1
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Pd 2: Morning Class Block 2
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch available
1:15-2:15 p.m.	Pd 3: Afternoon Activities
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Pd 4: SSAT Class Period A ( <i>for those registered</i> )
4-5 p.m.	Pd 5: SSAT Class Period B ( <i>for those registered</i> )
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner available
7:00 p.m.	Initial Sign-in
7:30-8:45 p.m.	Evening Class Block
8:45 p.m.	"Paresky Late Night" break
9 p.m.	Final Dorm Sign-in
9-10:15 p.m.	Free Time/Prepare for bed
10:15-10:30 p.m.	Quiet time
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out
FRIDAY	
7:00-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast available ( <i>sign-in from 7:45-8:15am</i> )
8:45-10:15 a.m.	Pd 1: Morning Class Block 1
10:15-10:45 a.m.	"Milk & Cookies" break
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Pd 2: Morning Class Block 2
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch available
1:15-2:15 p.m.	Pd 3: Afternoon Activities
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Pd 4: SSAT Class Period A ( <i>for those registered</i> )
4-5 p.m.	Pd 5 SSAT Class Period B ( <i>for those registered</i> )
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner available
7:00 p.m.	Initial Sign-in
7:30-8:45 p.m.	Evening Class Block
9 p.m.	Final Dorm Sign-in
9-10:15 p.m.	Free Time/Prepare for bed
10:15-10:30 p.m.	Quiet time
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out
SATURDAY	
7:00-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast available ( <i>sign-in from 8:00-8:30am</i> )
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Pd 1: Morning Class Block 1
10:30 -11:30 a.m.	Pd 2: Morning Class Block 2
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Lunch available
1-5 p.m.	LSI Social Activity ( <i>required for all</i> )
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner available
7:00 p.m.	Initial Sign-in
7:30-10 p.m.	LSI Social Activity ( <i>optional for day students</i> )
10:15 p.m.	Dorm Sign-in
10:15-10:30 p.m.	Prepare for Bed
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out
SUNDAY	
8:30-10:30 a.m.	Breakfast available
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Brunch available
1-6 p.m.	LSI Social activity ( <i>optional for all</i> )
5:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner available
7:00 p.m.	Dorm Sign-in
7:30-8:45 p.m.	Study Hours (in dorm)
8:45-10:30 p.m.	Dorm Meetings & Quiet Time
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out

## **The Art and Physics of Flight**

*Grades 7 and 8*

How do wings lift an airplane into the air? How do drones hover perfectly and perform acrobatic maneuvers? How can the idea of flight inspire our artistic sensibilities?

These questions and more will be tackled over our five weeks together as we investigate how unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are revolutionizing countless elements of our daily lives as a dynamic and emerging technology. As we consider the big questions of the impact of UAVs, we will also set out to design, build, and operate our own UAVS to gather information and data for analysis. In addition to data collection, you will learn to navigate obstacle courses and simulated emergency situations to hone your UAV skills. Not only will you have the opportunity to engage in applied math and physics, but there will also be a chance to develop your artistic skills as well. Through daily studio time, you will explore the idea of flight to create your own pieces of art (including some that fly!) Delve into the connections between art and science and get inspired by looking at the work of contemporary and historical artists who link the two disciplines. You will build your skills in various media and benefit from increased confidence in your own artwork. Your investigations into the science behind modern planes and rockets, coupled with a chance to express yourself through art is an experience not to be missed!

## **Beyond Robots: Engineering Design Lab**

*Grade 7 and 8*

Explore the exciting world of robotics and coding in this engaging and hands-on summer course designed exclusively for middle school students. In the Lower School Institute *Beyond Robots: Engineering Design Lab* you will discover the fundamentals of robotics, including mechanical design, electronics, and sensors. You will learn to assemble and program robots using popular platforms, fostering a strong foundation in robotics technology. In addition, you will get an introduction to the basics of computer science, becoming familiar with programming languages like Scratch and Python Programming, and you use the code you write to drive the behavior of your very own robot – which you will build yourself! You will engage in a series of robotics projects, games, and challenges that encourage collaboration and problem-solving. From building a line-following robot to designing a robot that can navigate a maze or pick up and throw various items, students will gain practical experience in building and programming robots to perform specific tasks. You'll also showcase the robots and projects developed during the course in a presentation and competition at the end of the summer, as part of the annual LSI Exhibition.

*Beyond Robots* will help you understanding the basics of coding, logical thinking, and algorithmic problem-solving through fun and interactive activities – not just those limited to building and testing your robots! You'll also apply principles of engineering design to a range of scientific puzzles and challenges by working to define a problem, develop possible solutions, and then optimize your chosen design solution. You'll explore fabrication and computation, turning your design ideas into reality in the Phillips Academy Makerspace, and you will supplement your classroom learning experience with exciting field trips to witness robotics and AI in action. This is your chance – come join us to build new skills, ignite a passion for robotics and coding, and have a lot of fun along the way.

## **Charting the Natural World: Marine Biology Meets Math\*\***

*Grade 7 and 8*

Picture yourself standing in a shallow tide pool of clear ocean water on a warm, sunny day. Hear the rhythmic crashing of the surf in the distance. Flip over a small rock and notice the teeming life beneath. Now, reach into your pocket, pull out your beaker, and scoop up a water sample. This is just one of many authentic learning experiences you'll engage in during your summer at Andover in Charting the Natural World.

In this integrated math and biology institute, you'll explore and explain the local aquatic environment. You'll learn methods of gathering and analyzing data, drawing conclusions, and communicating results. Special excursions include a visit to Boston's New England Aquarium and a trip to local tide pools for a unique opportunity to apply your knowledge of marine organisms and sampling techniques firsthand. Investigate through science. Use the power of math to analyze, solve problems, and think critically. Join us in exploring the wonders of the ocean!

*\*\*If possible, students should bring a Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 calculator.*

## **CSI Andover: Anatomy of a Crime**

*Grades 7 and 8*

In a quaint farming village, a shocking crime unfolds—the double homicide of a well-respected and prosperous couple. Time is of the essence as you encounter a scene filled with crucial evidence: hairs, blood pools, fingerprints, and footprints. The suspects stand ready for interrogation. Are you prepared to embrace this challenge and step into the role of a crime scene investigator? In this dynamic, hands-on class, you will employ microscopic investigation techniques, sharpen your deductive reasoning abilities, and apply the scientific method to master essential forensic objectives. You will engage in experiments that explore various forensic science techniques, including hair analysis, fingerprinting, crime scene investigation, blood spatter analysis, blood typing, and forensic pathology. So, don your gloves and goggles, and prepare for an exciting adventure in the world of forensic science!

# LOWER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

## **Dig This: Archaeology in Action**

*Grades 7 and 8*

Do you know a real archeological artifact when you see one? Can you look at a reconstructed dig and recreate the life of its original inhabitants? History is about more than reading old documents. It is an opportunity to evaluate the evidence and decide for yourself what happened. By taking a closer look at some crucial episodes in the development of this country, you will hone your skills as a historian and archeologist and will begin to understand the dynamic interactions that took place between native peoples and European newcomers, which continue to shape the United States to this day.

Using the collections at the Academy's Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archeology, together with extensive library and internet materials, students will actively explore a series of case studies. The complexity of this nation's history unfolds from the early native settlements along the Merrimack River to the English colony at Plymouth, from the witch trials at Salem to the Indian raids at Deerfield, from the wars in the west between the plains tribes and the United States army. Field trips to nearby historical sites will bring these stories alive. Character studies of key figures in these stories will help students understand the minds and strategies of important individuals from some of the most important events in United States history.

In this course students will develop their critical thinking, reading, and writing skills to interpret the past, using a combination of traditional written sources, electronic sources, and the archeological record. This is a unique opportunity to witness – and make - history.

## **NEW! Echoes and Originals**

*Grades 7 and 8*

What does it mean to fit in—and what happens when someone is left out? In this course, students will dive into *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *The Crucible*, and *The Magic Fish* to explore big ideas about identity, conformity, and justice. Through reading, writing, discussion, and trips to historic sites, students will discover how these stories connect to real questions of belonging across different times and cultures—and to their own experiences today.

Over the course of the five-week session, students will build skills in reading comprehension, written textual analysis, narrative structure, and argumentation. Classes will prompt students to engage in discussions and debates that encourage critical thinking and perspective-taking, and to foster open dialogue and intellectual growth.

*Echoes and Originals* will take students on a thrilling journey through the past, blending historical understanding with literary exploration. Join us for an enchanting summer of discovery!

# LOWER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

## Express Yourself: A Study of Performance and Creative Expression

Grades 7 and 8

There are poets, performance artists, and authors in all of us. In this institute, you will experience some of the many ways that we express ourselves, as human beings and as artists. You will develop skills in close reading, observation, reflection, and communication that will allow you to interpret your life in your own uniquely artistic ways.

Beginning with a study of literature, you will consider how human beings tell their stories through dramatic and narrative texts, themes you'll then apply on stage. In the performance component, you will engage not only in the role of performer, but also as director, designer, choreographer, and critic. You will stage scripted scenes as well as your own compositions. In the literature portion of the course, you'll read and analyze famous poems, narrative texts, and plays, while also working to draft, revise, and publish your own unique works. We'll supplement our classroom experiences with visits to Boston theatres, production studios, and museums. Go ahead—express yourself!

## **NEW!** English Language Learning (ELL): Finding Your Voice, Finding Your Place\*

Grades 7 and 8

Who are you, and how do you tell your story? This course invites you to explore identity, language, and the many ways stories help us connect across cultures and experiences. Through powerful graphic novels like *The Magic Fish* and *American Born Chinese*, we'll see how characters navigate translation—of words, of traditions, of themselves.

Designed especially with multilingual learners in mind, this class blends reading, discussion, and hands-on creative projects that help you discover and share your own story in your own voice. Along the way, we'll step outside the classroom for field trips: to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, where art speaks without words; to the Boston Public Library, where you'll build your research and presentation skills; and into the community, where you'll listen, interview, and learn from real voices around you. By the end, you won't just study stories—you'll create and claim your own.

*\* As a guideline, students should have a minimum TOEFL iBT score of 60, 6.0 on IELTS, between a 95-100 on Duolingo, or at or approaching a high B1 on CEPT.*

## **Forests, Mountains, & Beaches: New England Field Ecology & Nature Writing\***

*Grades 7 and 8*

From the rocky shorelines of the Atlantic Ocean to the vistas of New Hampshire's White Mountains, the ecosystems of New England have inspired scientists and writers for hundreds of years. In this course, you will spend much of your time in the field and the laboratory, studying the habits and histories of local species of plants and animals, as well as how they interact, compete, and utilize natural resources. You will learn and apply techniques used by ecologists to collect, document, and store field data and specimens in order to gain a deeper understanding of ecological processes. Simultaneously, you will be reflecting on environmental issues and the natural world, drawing inspiration from your field studies to craft creative and reflective written pieces. Studying a range of authors, you will learn to develop your own voice and personal narrative style.

By opening up the classroom, exploring the environment, and studying seminal works by nature writers, this course gives you the opportunity to reflect on the relationship between nature and culture, as well as to explore your own connection to the natural world. Day and overnight field trips, lab studies, and cumulative written pieces are integral parts of the course experience, and you should come to campus prepared to get wet and muddy, to climb mountains and explore tidepools, to capture frogs and measure earthworms, among many other once-in-a-lifetime experiences!

*\*Please note that this course has a multi-day overnight trip that is required for students enrolled in the course, with an additional \$600 camping fee associated with it.*

## **High School Prep Institute: Math and English Acceleration**

*Grades 7 & 8*

Want to make sure you are on track to build the skills you need to succeed in high school? This interdisciplinary institute is designed to provide middle school students of all ages a pathway to academic success in math and English. Focusing on close reading of both fiction and nonfiction texts, analytical writing, and moving students to the next level of mathematical skill (regardless of their starting point), the *High School Prep Institute* will help students begin their journey towards secondary school readiness. In English classes, students will dive into a ninth-grade novel and related nonfiction texts, engaging in discussion, debate, and written analysis activities designed to build proficiency with argumentation, structure, and grammar. In their math section, students will review key mathematical skills and content from middle school by solving complex puzzles, learning a range of approaches to problem-solving that will help them to manage the types of mathematical challenges that they will face in high school.

## **NEW!** Money Doesn't Grow on Trees: Economics and Personal Finance

Grades 7 & 8

When you take money out of an ATM or use a credit card, do you ever wonder where that money came from or what gives it value? Do you ever wonder how your parents make sure that there's enough money in their accounts to pay for all of your daily needs? How does a given advertisement attract customers or an influencer attract followers?

These questions and more will be answered in this five-week course as we investigate the world's financial systems. In your personal finance class, you will learn about larger topics, like what stocks, bonds and mutual funds are, and smaller topics, like how to budget the money you have. You'll even have a chance to compete with your fellow students in a stock market challenge! You'll also explore how to create a successful business in our entrepreneurship unit, which will culminate in you creating your own business proposal. Beyond that, you will learn to be a wiser consumer, minimizing bad debt while making good financial decisions. In your economics class, you'll explore various economic theories and theorists from the ancient world to the most cutting-edge modern-day economics. You'll learn about the government's role in economics throughout different societies over the centuries. Through behavioral economics, you'll see how many of these theories impact you in your everyday life and learn how to avoid traps like the sunk-cost fallacy. Come join us in *Money Doesn't Grow on Trees* to take control of your financial future!

## **Musical Minds: Strings Music Institute\***

Grade 7 and 8

There are both individual and collaborative musicians in all of us—with both musical hearts and minds! In this string focused music institute, you will play, practice, perform, and study with incredible faculty, guest artists and conductors, and forge friendships with student musicians from around the world! Falls Music Center's state-of-the-art performance hall, practice spaces, technology labs, and recording studio will be your home. You will study music theory, ear-training and music technology; have private lessons, play in a string orchestra, and chamber music groups. We will travel off campus to attend performances by groups like Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood, and Castle of our Skins. Your musical mind will be challenged, expanded and inspired!

*\*This program requires submission of a recorded audition and an additional letter of recommendation from a music instructor. Detailed instructions for this process are shared upon submission of the Andover Summer application. Limited space available.*

# LSI AFTERNOON ACTIVITY OFFERINGS

## *Grades 7 & 8*

- Basketball
- Badminton
- Cardio Kickboxing
- Dance
- Fitness
- Flag Football
- Outdoor Games
- Running
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Walking Group
- Yoga/Pilates