

## SEEING THE PROGRAM IN ACTION



VIBRANT MINDS



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# LEARNING SHARING, & CARING TOGETHER

**TK-6  
CHARTER  
SCHOOL**



# VIBRANT MINDS CHARTER SCHOOL

## BIG LABS: THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT ENRICHES SCHOLARS

Vibrant Minds Big Labs After-School Program for Grades 3-6 provides scholars with opportunities to identify and nurture their interests and talents and transform them into strengths through electives in the areas of VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts), STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), and Life Skills. Additionally, there is a strong focus on Project-Based Learning, which supports our scholars' growth in the 5 Cs: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Character/Compassion.

During our Big Labs Program on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, our scholars choose electives in which they are mentored by specialists in a small group setting. They may sign up for different electives each trimester. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, meaningful PBL experiences are offered. Electives and PBL are driven by our scholars' interests.

## BIG LABS ELECTIVES

The Big Labs After-School Program provides scholars with many opportunities to discover their strengths through a variety of engaging electives. Electives are taught by mentors with a wealth of knowledge in their field and a passion for positively impacting youth. The electives below are examples of offerings.

### Music

Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Levels for courses including:

- String Instruments
- Keyboards
- Vocal Training
- Brass Instruments
- Woodwind Instruments

### Visual and Performing Arts

- Art (Drawing/Painting)
- 3-Dimensional Art
- Dance
- Photography and Videography

### Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

- Circuit Creations
- Digital Animation
- Video Production
- Competition Robotics
- Webpage Development
- Young Astronauts
- Minecraft

### Life Skills

- Culinary Arts
- Fashion Conservatory
- Homework Club/Typing
- Servant Leadership
- Cross-Aged Tutoring

## THE BIG LABS EXPERIENCE

Learning should be engaging. Testing should not be the be all and end all. All students should have a broad curriculum that includes the arts and enrichment. Students should have opportunities to work in teams and engage in Project-Based learning. And student and family well-being should be front and center.

– Randi Weingarten

Vibrant Minds Charter School's scholars in Grades 3 through 6 have the opportunity to enroll in our Big Labs After-School Program and can expect:

- An opportunity to discover interests and talents and transform them into strengths through character development and mentoring
- Multiple elective opportunities daily
- Flexible scheduling options on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday based on chosen electives
- Full participation from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday to support Project-Based Learning
- Development of strong mentor/scholar relationships
- Performance and showcase opportunities each trimester
- Hands-on skill-building through a variety of medium
- A free, healthy snack for all enrolled scholars

## RESOURCES AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

These links and references are just a small sample of what has inspired Vibrant Minds Charter School's strength-based approach to teaching/learning and after-school enrichment.

VIA Character Strengths  
[www.viacharacter.org/www/#nav](http://www.viacharacter.org/www/#nav)

The Leader in Me  
[www.theleaderinme.org](http://www.theleaderinme.org)

StrengthsFinder  
[www.strengthsquest.com/home.aspx](http://www.strengthsquest.com/home.aspx)

Growth Mindset  
[www.mindsetworks.com/science](http://www.mindsetworks.com/science)

Benefits of After-School Programs  
[www.youth.gov/youth-topics/afterschool-programs/benefits-youth-families-and-communities](http://www.youth.gov/youth-topics/afterschool-programs/benefits-youth-families-and-communities)

The Specials: Curriculum Enrichment Builds a Positive School Culture  
[www.afterschoolalliance.org/sel-toolkit.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/sel-toolkit.cfm)

An Ideal Opportunity: The Role in Social and Emotional Learning  
[www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/issue\\_sel\\_71.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/issue_sel_71.pdf)

The Critical Ingredient: Caring Youth-Staff Relationships in After School Settings  
[www.youthtoday.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2016/04/04\\_HLTH\\_SRHHR\\_articles-Research\\_The-Critical-Ingredient-Caring-Youth-Staff-Relationships-in-Afterschool.pdf](http://www.youthtoday.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2016/04/04_HLTH_SRHHR_articles-Research_The-Critical-Ingredient-Caring-Youth-Staff-Relationships-in-Afterschool.pdf)