



# ASA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Winter/Spring 2012

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### MONDAY CLASSES

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Monday classes meet on the following dates: February 6, 13, 27; March 5, 19, 26; April 2, 16.  
Class time is 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Pizza snack included.

#### Video Game Design & Programming for Beginners & Experts (Grades 5-8)

Do you love playing video games? Have you ever wanted to create your own? In this class you will learn about the components of a game system and what it takes to design a video game that your friends will want to keep playing! Using an interactive game-design platform, you will create the game space and characters, write the rules, and set the level of challenge. You will also learn basic programming as you build a video game that you can enter in the national STEM Challenge for prizes.

#### Improvisational Acting (Grades 5-8)

Have fun improvising and playing theater games that will boost your confidence and ability to think on your feet. If you've ever wanted to be a better actor or just wanted a way to exercise your brain and make you more spontaneous while having the time of your life, "improv" is the way to do it!

#### Unlocking the Mysteries of Stem Cells and the Genome – Level II (Grades 6-8)

Note: For students who have taken the fall 2011 course. Requires teacher recommendation. The future of medicine is rapidly changing as "stem cells" and "genomes" become part of our every day conversation. Learn what these terms mean, how they are intertwined, and what their implications are for human health into the future. Under the guidance of a professional scientist and medical school professor, students will have a unique opportunity to explore and to understand the medical, economic, and human impact of stem cell and genome research. Future scientists, this course is for you!

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### TUESDAY CLASSES

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Tuesday classes meet on the following dates: February 7, 14, 28; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3  
Class time is 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Pizza snack included.

#### Journalism Workshop (Grades 6-8)

Getting the story, writing the news, exploring venues as different as traditional newspapers and Internet websites, and finding your voice is only part of what you'll be doing in our "Journalism" workshop. You'll learn to write straight news. As you get the story, write the story, and edit the story, you'll be polishing both your thinking and your writing skills while focusing on the subjects that you find most interesting – sports, fashion, TV, movies, school, cliques, friendships, you name it. This class will build upon the skills that students acquired in last semester's Journalism workshop. However, all levels of eager reporters are welcome!



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### Mock Trial (Grades 5-8)

Do courtroom TV dramas capture your imagination? Are you interested in the legal system? Learn the ins and outs of the courtroom while you assume a role, as real life cases are reenacted in this dynamic and exciting course. Students will work in teams to develop strategies for the prosecution and the defense. This course will be taught by a practicing attorney.

### Bergen Academy/COOP/BJE: Math Preparation (Grades 6 & 7)

Students will use critical thinking skills to solve challenging problems from various areas of mathematics including algebra, geometry, logic, and number theory. Many of these problems are taken from actual entrance examinations and math competitions. Students who acquire these problem-solving skills will be well-prepared to face future challenges in mathematics, as well as entrance exams for competitive high schools and honors programs.

### LEGO® Robotics (Grades 5-8)

**Brand New:** Learn to program a LEGO robot! Students will build robots that feature working motors and sensors. Using light and tilt sensors, students can program their robots to move, turn, and stop. In addition to robot races, students will be encouraged to devise new applications and ways to get their robot to execute them. The activities involved in robotics develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills, as well as language and literacy.

The AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY meets at  
Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County  
275 McKinley Avenue, New Milford, New Jersey 07646  
For more information, please call Sarah Lucinese at (201) 262-9898, ext. 215  
[www.ssdsbergen.org/asa](http://www.ssdsbergen.org/asa)

