

Fairfax Collegiate  
2026 Summer Program  
Stop-Motion Animation Course Syllabus  
Rising Grades 4-6



Course Description

*Tell stories with short animated films.*

Create a hero out of clay or Legos, and send them on a journey with a plot, conflict, and resolution.

Use still cameras, mics, and Clipchamp to bring characters to life. Share films with family and friends.

Students in this course tell stories, build objects, and experiment with creative technology. They take on imaginative projects and bring characters and worlds to life through animation. With plenty of hands-on practice, students grow confident as they learn each step of the stop-motion filmmaking process.

Students brainstorm story ideas, write scripts, and create detailed storyboards before building their own sets and characters. They learn how to animate movement frame by frame, take well-planned photographs, record sound effects and dialogue, and edit their footage into a polished final film. Along the way, they experiment with visual storytelling, audio design, and simple music composition, discovering how each element helps shape a compelling animated short.

At the end of the course, families receive a copy of the students’ completed stop-motion film. Students leave proud of their creations and excited to keep exploring animation, storytelling, and hands-on digital art.

Learning Objectives

Course Goals	<p><b>Stop-Motion Animation:</b> Students learn how to create the illusion of animation to tell a story with a series of pictures.</p> <p><b>Production:</b> Students learn how to produce and edit a stop-motion film and create audio for it.</p>
Course Topics	<p><b>Brainstorming:</b> Students generate ideas for a stop-motion film that can be accomplished with given resources.</p> <p><b>Animation:</b> Students learn how to create animation using photographs.</p> <p><b>Scriptwriting:</b> Students learn how to write a script then make a storyboard for their stop-motion</p>

	<p>film.</p> <p><b>Set and Character Creation:</b> Students learn how to construct sets and characters for their film.</p> <p><b>Photography:</b> Students learn and practice the techniques of photographing for a stop-motion film.</p> <p><b>Audio:</b> Students learn how to incorporate recorded audio into a stop-motion film.</p> <p><b>Editing:</b> Students edit their film footage and learn how to discard unnecessary material.</p> <p><b>Music:</b> Students learn how to compose music for use in their stop-motion film.</p>
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## Course Schedule

<b>Class Meeting 1</b>	<p><b>Introduction to Course:</b> Students introduce themselves and learn the schedule of the course and a general overview.</p> <p><b>Viewing Examples:</b> Students see examples of stop-motion animation to gain inspiration for their own films.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 2</b>	<p><b>Idea Pitch:</b> Students present ideas for short stories to each other and select one or two for production.</p> <p><b>Animation:</b> Students animate a series of images they have taken to create the illusion of movement.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 3</b>	<p><b>Scripting:</b> Students write a script for the stop-motion film they will produce.</p> <p><b>Material Preparation:</b> Students discuss the necessary materials and casting for their stop-motion film.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 4</b>	<p><b>Construction:</b> Students create the sets and characters to prepare for photography for their film.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 5</b>	<p><b>Principal Photography:</b> Students take pictures for their stop-motion films.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 6</b>	<p><b>Continue Photography:</b> Students continue taking pictures for use in their stop-motion films.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 7</b>	<p><b>Audio Effects:</b> Students begin recording audio to incorporate into their stop-motion films.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 8</b>	<p><b>Final Production:</b> Students complete photography and audio recording to prepare for editing in post-production.</p>

<b>Class Meeting 9</b>	<b>Edits:</b> Students edit their film footage and add audio to the visuals. <b>Music:</b> Students compose music to use in their stop-motion films.
<b>Class Meeting 10</b>	<b>Exportation:</b> Students export their films onto a DVD so they can be viewed.