
Magic Valley Commonwealth School

<https://magicvalleycommonwealth.wordpress.com>

Mission Statement:

Magic Valley Commonwealth School (MVCS) assists parents in bringing like-minded youth together to experience a leadership education as they prepare for a mission-driven future of public and private service.

School Philosophy:

Magic Valley Commonwealth School is a privately-funded facilitator of parent-led Leadership Education Classes for home-schooled youth and their families. The guiding philosophy of the school is presented in A Thomas Jefferson Education by Oliver DeMille. Building on training from the Leadership Education Mentoring Institute (<http://lemimentortraining.com>), Magic Valley Commonwealth School creates and adapts curriculum to meet needs and interest in our community.

Introduction:

Founded in 2007 by a handful of visionary local families, the Magic Valley Commonwealth School has grown to become an important part of the educational lives of many students and families in the valley. A parent-run cooperative commonwealth school, we meet once weekly for classes, two semesters a year. In addition to our focus on leadership education, students and families network together to share experiences and ideas, and they form strong bonds of friendship. In addition to this introductory information, please see our Bylaws and our Policies and Procedures. Up to date information can also be found on our website: <https://magicvalleycommonwealth.wordpress.com>

Parental Involvement:

As the Magic Valley Commonwealth School exists to help families in their quest for education, it is imperative that there is much parental involvement. There are many ways for parents to be involved such as teaching a class, serving on the school board, being a teacher's aide in a class, helping at extra activities or field trips, etc. It is expected that a parent in each family volunteers for at least one activity or position each year.

Student Participation:

When a student enrolls in a class, it is expected that he/she will participate in class, be respectful to both peers and mentors, and make every effort to do the outside work. Students can expect that they will have out-of-class reading and writing assignments. Each mentor will present the specific expectations in class. Only students who desire to participate and learn should enroll in classes.

Mentors:

Those who teach classes at the MVCS are called mentors. Those who mentor find it a rewarding experience. Opportunities to mentor and responsibilities for mentors are outlined in the Policies and Procedures and the Bylaws.

Classes:

For reference, the following classes have been offered in past years, and/or may be offered in future years.

<https://magicvalleycommonwealth.wordpress.com/classes/>

Annual Calendar

Each year the calendar will be finalized by the Board.

- Tuition is due two weeks before the start of class each semester

Typically:

- The deadline for mentors to post required books and materials is three weeks prior to the start of classes.
- All mentors should attend Mentor Training, held two weeks prior to the start of fall classes (typically on a Thursday evening).
- Parents new to the school will be required to attend one session of orientation.
 - The first session will be held two weeks prior to the start of fall classes (typically on Thursday, just following Mentor Training).
 - The second session will be held just prior to the Opening Social.
- Fall classes start the day after Labor Day; and spring classes the first Tuesday in February.
- The opening social is the first Friday or Saturday after classes begin
- There are no classes the week of Thanksgiving or CSI Spring Break.
- There are 14 class periods per semester.
- The closing social is the first Friday or Saturday after the last class of spring semester

Lunches:

Students taking both morning and afternoon classes should bring their lunches with them. Students should bring only water to drink. Two adults need to be present at all times, including during lunch and other breaks from classes.

Supervision:

Students and/or younger siblings are not to be left in the building or on the grounds unattended. Please ensure that your children are in class or that they have proper supervision during the school day.

Magic Valley Commonwealth School Parent Discussions and Family Gatherings:

Throughout the year the board and/or mentors may coordinate parent discussion nights and student and family gatherings. These provide families an opportunity to mingle throughout the year. Functions range from academic settings, informational meetings, and student-led evenings, to purely social gatherings. These are typically held the 2nd weekend of October, November, March and April.

Associated Activities:

Many Commonwealth families participate in classes and activities that are not an official part of the Magic Valley Commonwealth School even though some may be taught at the same location or on the same day as Commonwealth.

Board Members:

The Magic Valley Commonwealth School Board of Directors are elected by the families and serve for 2 years. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer make up the Executive Board. The other positions compose the advisory board.

Facilities:

We are always grateful to those who rent their facilities to us, and we expect all our students and families to treat them with respect. Any messes need to be promptly cleaned up. We also follow rules and guidelines for facility use.