



2025- 2026

ACRES MICROSCHOOL AND HOMESCHOOL HYBRID

We believe children are creative, curious, and capable of far more than we can imagine. Each child is on a unique journey to become the person they are meant to be. Join us and let's see what they can do!

Currently serving kids age 5-13
Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-3:30
Lauren McDaniel-Carter
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growwithacres.com
(870) 530-6326

Dear Parents,

I understand the weight of making educational decisions for your child. There are many good options in Northeast Arkansas, but they are all similar versions of basically the same thing. As a teacher myself, I want more for my own child in her school journey. That's why ACRES exists. I wanted to create a different option that is flexible and adaptable to truly meet the needs of the kids it serves.

ACRES is unlike any school in this area. We are committed to learning with purpose and in a meaningful context. We envision an environment that is learner-driven and self-paced, where students are guided to set goals and work at their own pace to achieve them. We believe that learning should be applied through hands-on projects where students use their skills to solve actual problems in creative ways. And we will foster excellence through challenges and exhibitions.



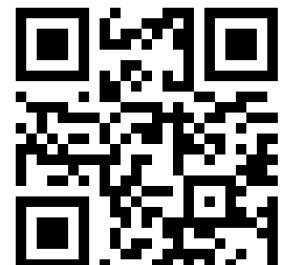
ACRES exists to serve our community and provide a unique educational option. Our organization is a work in progress, but one hundred percent dedicated to providing an excellent alternative to traditional education. These past two years have been truly formative for our school as our identity and values have begun to solidify. I would like to personally invite you to check out all we have to offer and schedule a time to visit and see if ACRES might be a good fit for your child and family. I look forward to potentially partnering with you on your child's educational journey.

Sincerely,

Lauren McDaniel-Carter

**Lauren McDaniel-Carter**

Founder and Director

 growwithacres.com growwithacres@gmail.com (870) 530-6326 Brookland, AR

Choice | We believe in the value of choice. No one is ever compelled to choose our program and is always free to make a different choice for any reason. Likewise, we support choice within our program. We aim to offer a variety of options for enriching academic and life experiences for everyone and to empower them to make wise choices that promote their personal growth and development.

Flexibility | We believe in the importance of flexibility. Nothing set in stone and everything can be changed, modified, or scrapped completely. This ensures an environment is not “one size fits all.” Our space and process bends and molds to meet the needs of the individuals we serve as well as the community as a whole.

Growth | We believe in prioritizing growth over achievement. We recognize the real struggle of growing pains and value this productive struggle as the catalyst of authentic learning. Likewise, we do not emphasize objective benchmarks, but celebrate all growth, whether great or small.

Individuality | We believe in honoring each person’s individuality. We recognize that everyone is on their own journey through life. Our role is to support each person academically, socially, and emotionally as they become the people they are meant to be.

Community | We believe in the power of community. While every individual is unique, no man is an island. All learning happens in the context of community and navigating social dynamics is an education in itself.

Personal Responsibility | We believe in emphasizing personal responsibility. It is critical for each individual to recognize what is and is not within their power to control as well as recognizing their role and responsibility in all situations.



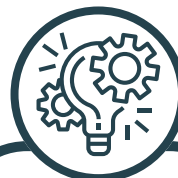
SELF PACED

Students work at their own pace to meet academic goals. Each child is treated as an individual. No one is behind or ahead- they simply are where they are.



MASTERY BASED

No grades here! Students either master the skill and move on, or they continue working. Progress is measured through learning reports and student work samples.



PROJECT BASED

Inquiry based projects provide context for students to apply their developing academic skills in science, social studies, and special interests.



COMMUNITY FOCUSED

Students work, play, and learn in mixed age groups to build character, encourage growth, and foster leadership.

ACRES is a hybrid model microschool. Read about what this means and expectations below.

Microschool is simply a reference to the size and age composition of the school. We use a multi-age model where kids of different ages learn with and from each other. The cohorts are kept intentionally small to ensure that teachers are able to truly know your kids, where they are at academically, socially, and emotionally, and to ensure personalized attention that can be difficult to get in a traditional classroom.

Hybrid means part time school, part time homeschool. All students are registered homeschoolers, but ACRES will provide core instruction and curriculum in reading and math as well as opportunities for project based learning in a variety of other areas.

ACRES Responsibility

- Provide Reading and Math curriculum and materials
- Provide instruction and learning on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- Provide project based learning opportunities and organize occasional field trips
- Monitor student progress through formative (informal) and summative (norm referenced) assessments
- Provide ample opportunities to play and explore with friends.
- Provide technology for student use at school.

Family Responsibility

- Facilitate learning on Monday and Friday using recommended and self-selected resources
- Provide any enrichment opportunities outside of school hours that your kids may be interested in (ex. music, karate, dance, sports, etc.)
- Provide technology for student use outside of school.
- Provide and arrange for any needed support services such as therapy or tutoring.
- Participate in family engagement opportunities at school.



Daily Schedule

8:20-8:45

Arrival | Students may choose from a variety of quiet indoor activities like board games, building with blocks, drawing, or approved technology based activities and gather whatever they will need to start the day.

8:45-9:30

Block 1- Social Emotional Learning | Students will engage in a variety of activities that focus on social-emotional health. This important time sets the tone for the day and provides students and teachers with language and attitudes to be used throughout the school day and beyond.

9:30-10:15

Morning Snack and Break | Students may eat a snack brought from home and engage in supervised, unstructured free time in one of the many spaces on the property.

10:15-11:00

Academic Learning Block 1 | Students will work on literacy or math, depending on grouping. This block of time will include a combination of technology, independent work, group work, and time to work with the teacher. This will vary daily depending upon the needs of the students.

11:00-12:15

Lunch and Break | Students will eat a lunch brought from home and engage in choice time. Break will be taken outside as often as possible.

12:15-1:00

Project Based Learning Block | Students will engage in the study of social studies, science and art through thematic units and project based learning. Students will be grouped according to age, ability, interest, and affinity, depending upon the unit of study.

1:00-2:00

Afternoon Snack and Break | Students may eat a snack brought from home and engage in supervised, unstructured free time in one of the many spaces on the property.

2:00-2:45

Academic Learning Block 2 | Students will work on literacy or math, depending on grouping. This block of time will include a combination of technology, independent work, group work, and time to work with the teacher. This will vary daily depending upon the needs of the students.

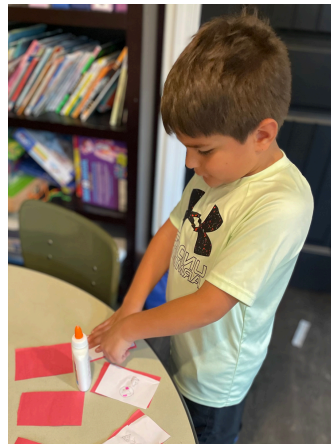
2:45-3:00

Pack and Clean | Students will prepare for dismissal by helping to clean the learning spaces by picking up messes, sweeping, wiping tables and packing their own things.

3:00- 3:30

Choice Time and Dismissal | Students may engage in a variety of activities. Depending on the day, this may be involve indoor or outdoor play

**Times and activities reflect our current schedule beginning in January 2025. We are actively working on making shifts towards more flexibility, choice, and student directed learning.*



ACRES offers several curriculum options for students depending upon age and ability, and to some extent preference. We may add to our curriculum options from time to time as needs and interests develop. Explore some of our curriculum options below. Teachers also develop units and courses of study that students may also participate in.

Language Arts



MindPlay



Logic of English



Math



ZEARN



ST Math



Math·U·See

Multi-discipline



Khan Academy

Project Based Learning



rock by rock



LearningBlade

Powered by eDynamic Learning

Social Emotional Learning



Career Exploration



Alison
EMPOWER YOURSELF

Assessment



i-Ready

Students will also compile portfolios with work samples to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and growth throughout the year, including reports and assessments generated by the learning programs used daily.

Tuition and Fees

- \$5,800 Yearly Tuition (Paid in 4 installments for EFA families)
- \$350 Curriculum and Supply Fee (due in June)
- \$50 Application Fee (non-refundable, due with application)
- \$6,200 Total paid to ACRES



***In addition to tuition and fees, families will also be responsible for school supplies as well as any additional cost related to field trips or special events throughout the year. ***

Arkansas Educational Freedom Accounts

ACRES is an approved provider for the Arkansas Educational Freedom Account program. This allows families to access state funds for non-public education expenses. This program is open to all students in 2025-26 and will completely cover the cost of tuition and fees for those who participate.

Enrollment Steps

Fill out the Interest Form | This is an important information collecting step that gets you a spot in line. There is no fee or commitment, but you cannot proceed with enrollment without first filling out this form.

School Visit | This is an informal visit where you are able to check out the learning space and ask any questions you may have. Events will be scheduled during the enrollment season or you can set up a private meeting. Be sure to bring your child!

Complete Application for Enrollment | This is the formal application. This indicates that you want to enroll your child(ren) at ACRES. At this point you will fill out all required paperwork, including the family handbook acknowledgement, and pay the registration fee.

Please note, completing the application does not guarantee acceptance. Space is limited and we will accept students we have the capacity to serve. If you are not accepted, we will keep your application on file and notify you immediately if we are able to accommodate you.

Parent Workshop | We want to partner with parents through providing workshops that provide insight into our methods so that the school and families can better coordinate to ensure we educate the whole child.

Submit EFA Documentation | If using EFAs, you will be need to submit documentation of your account. If you opt not to use EFA's, first tuition installment is due July 30.



Find out more about EFAs!



Start Here!
Fill out the interest form

Space is limited. Inquire Today!