



Spring 2027 Syllabus

Outside the Box -The Science of Collaboration

What can we discover when we learn to see differently and work together?

This spring, we will use surf and skate experiences to help students become curious thinkers, thoughtful teammates and confident problem solvers. Through shared STEM challenges, students will ask questions, consider different perspectives and improve ideas together.

Inspired by Unlikely Collaborators' Perception Box concept, we will explore how our experiences shape what we notice and what we assume. Our recurring question is simple: What are we missing?

Our learning approach

What? We observe and ask questions.

So What? We consider why it matters and who is affected.

Now What? We try ideas, learn from results and choose our next step.

How the semester works

The calendar begins with Skate and includes 14 weeks of classes alternating between surf and skate. Regular classes pair a 45-minute STEM lab with 45 minutes of surf or skate group instruction. Students will practice different team roles and learn to contribute through speaking, drawing, building, observing and other forms of expression. We value how students think, listen and grow alongside what they create.

Learning objectives

By the end of the semester, students will practice observing and questioning; explaining a problem from more than one perspective; contributing to a team; comparing possible solutions; using evidence and feedback to revise an idea; and describing how their thinking changed.

Semester calendar

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

January 11 through May 7, 2027

Field-experience week: February 15-19

No classes: March 15-19 and March 22-26

Weekly themes weeks 1 to 5

Week 1 Skate

Notice and Wonder

Observe closely and ask questions before jumping to an answer.

West Boynton January 11 | Weston January 13

Lot 11 January 14 | Pompano January 15

Week 2 Surf

Explore Different Perspectives

Discover how different people can see the same situation in different ways.

Delray January 18 | Pompano January 20

Deerfield January 22

Week 3 Skate

Understand Before You Solve

Listen to others and consider what they need before choosing a direction.

West Boynton January 25 | Weston January 27

Lot 11 January 28 | Pompano January 29

Week 4 Surf

Ask Better Questions

Look beyond the first answer and explore what information is missing.

Delray February 1 | Pompano February 3 | Deerfield February 5

Week 5 Skate

Imagine More Possibilities

Explore several ideas and build on what teammates suggest.

West Boynton February 8 | Weston February 10

Lot 11 February 11 | Pompano February 12

Weekly themes weeks 6 to 10

Week 6 Surf and Skate Field Experience

Expand Your View

Connect classroom thinking with new people, places and perspectives.

February 15-19 | Locations TBA

Week 7 Surf

Combine Our Strengths

Recognize what each teammate contributes and share responsibility.

Delray March 1 | Pompano March 3 | Deerfield March 5

Week 8 Skate

Make Thoughtful Choices

Weigh different needs and explain the reasons behind a team decision.

West Boynton March 8 | Weston March 10

Lot 11 March 11 | Pompano March 12

Week 9 Surf

Make Thinking Visible

Share ideas clearly so others can understand, question and improve them.

Delray March 1 | Pompano March 3 | Deerfield March 5

Spring break | No classes March 15-19 and March 22-26

Week 10 Skate

Learn by Trying

Turn an idea into something we can explore and learn from.

West Boynton March 29 | Weston March 31

Lot 11 April 1 | Pompano April 2

Weekly themes weeks 11 to 15

Week 11 Surf

Follow the Evidence

Use observations and results to decide what needs to change.

Delray April 5 | Pompano April 7 | Deerfield April 9

Week 12 Skate

Revise with Purpose

Use feedback to improve an idea and explain what changed.

West Boynton April 12 | Weston April 14

Lot 11 April 15 | Pompano April 16

Week 13 Surf

See the Connections

Explore how our choices affect people, places and the environment.

Delray April 19 | Pompano April 21 | Deerfield April 23

Earth Day week

Week 14 Skate

Share Our Learning & Carry Learning Forward

Communicate how our ideas grew through teamwork, feedback and discovery.

Reflect on our growth and consider where we can use these skills next.

West Boynton April 26 | Weston April 28

Lot 11 April 29 | Pompano April 30

Week 15 Surf/Skate Make Up Week (Weather)

TBA

Skills we will practice and why they matter

Growth is shown through participation, reflection and the way students work together. Students can demonstrate these skills in different ways, with support appropriate to their age and needs.

Curiosity and observation

Notice details, ask questions and separate what we see from what we assume. Helps us understand a problem before trying to solve it.

Perspective and empathy

Listen to another viewpoint and consider what someone else needs. Helps us create solutions that work for more people.

Communication

Share thinking clearly and check that others understand. Makes ideas easier to explore and improve together.

Collaboration

Share responsibility, invite contributions and build on others' ideas. Helps a team use strengths that no one person has alone.

Creative thinking

Explore more than one possibility and make new connections. Helps us respond when a familiar answer does not fit.

Evidence and reasoning

Use observations, results and clear reasons to guide choices. Helps us make thoughtful decisions and explain them.

Adaptability and persistence

Use feedback, revise a plan and ask for help when needed. Helps us keep learning when something does not work yet.

Reflection and responsibility

Name what changed in our thinking and consider the effects of our choices. Helps us carry learning into future challenges and everyday life.

Online Expanded Learning

Learning continues beyond the beach and skatepark. Our online expanded learning program gives families videos, activities and challenges that connect to weekly themes and encourage deeper exploration at home. Students can practice problem solving, reflect on their learning and share their work.