

ENCORE

FALL 2026

Aftercare only: August 24 - September 4, 2026

Fall session of activities & aftercare: September 8 - November 20, 2026



ATHLETICS



ENRICHMENT



AFTERCARE



Fall session
registration opens
Monday, August 24
at 5:00pm

[Click here for the registration link](#)



CONTENTS

[Overview and Schedule](#)

[Activity & Aftercare Details](#)

[Meet the Instructors](#)

[Registration Tips](#)

[FAQs](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

August 24	First day Aftercare is available (no activities)
August 24	Fall registration opens at 5:00pm
August 31	Fall registration closes at 10:00am
September 8	Fall session of activities & aftercare begins
November 9	Winter registration opens at 5:00pm
November 16	Winter registration closes at 10:00am
November 20	Last day of Fall session



ENCORE OVERVIEW

Encore programs are open to elementary students, with pick-up options at 4:30 or 5:30pm. Select programs are also open to adolescent students.

Aftercare offers interactive play with peers in a well-supervised environment, serving as a non-academic extension of the school day. Encore staff and community partners also lead a variety of enrichment and athletic activities on campus each session. Off-campus activities like the fall run club include activity bus transportation to the site of the activity. Aside from run club, students participating in a 4:30-5:30 activity must participate in aftercare or another activity from 3:30-4:30 beforehand.

Fall 2026 Encore Schedule					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3:30 - 4:30	Athletic Club Fantasy Drawing Piano Aftercare	Costumes & Characters Yoga Piano Aftercare	STEM FUNDamentals Fantasy Drawing Aftercare	Costumes & Characters Chess Piano Aftercare	Yoga Piano Aftercare
4:30 - 5:30	Book Buddies Piano Aftercare	Environmental Art Book Buddies Piano Aftercare	Run Club Book Buddies Aftercare	Basketball Skills Book Buddies Piano Aftercare	



ATHLETICS

Athletic Club

Grades 1-6

Mondays, 3:30-4:30

\$145/student

Coaches from Overtime Athletics will lead their "Sports Spectacular" program, a variety athletic program featuring different sports throughout the session. Participants will sample traditional sports and other playground favorites, such as flag football, floor hockey, Gaga ball, dodgeball, Bump and Bite, and more! Students will cover all the bases with an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and fitness.

Basketball Skills

Grades 1-6

Thursdays, 4:30-5:30

\$180/student

This class is designed to provide a space for new and experienced basketball players to develop their understanding of the sport, take their skills to the next level, and grow in confidence! Coaches from Overtime Athletics will guide students to focus on essential techniques such as ball handling, shooting, passing, defensive positioning, and more through drills and scrimmages. With an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and fun, this is the perfect way for students to try playing and grow their skills ahead of the winter basketball season!



ATHLETICS

Run Club

Grades 1-9

Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45 at Morrison YMCA

\$175/student

On this co-ed running team, students will develop confidence, perseverance, and teamwork. Coaches will divide students into groups with a “run for fun and fitness” approach for beginners, while experienced runners will focus on building stamina, improving technique, and challenging themselves to achieve their personal best. Participants will have the option to train for a culminating 5k race (register separately, details available this fall). As a supportive team, everyone will celebrate each runner’s progress and have a lot of fun together!

Elementary students registered for a 3:30-4:30 Encore program and Adolescents will ride the activity bus to practice at 4:30. Pick-up is at the YMCA at 5:45pm.

Yoga

Grades 1-6

Tuesdays OR Fridays, 3:30-4:30

\$175/student on Tuesdays, \$160/student on Fridays

New and returning yoga students will develop physical coordination, balance, and self-regulation with returning instructor Brielle McLaughlin. Each class is thoughtfully planned around a theme or story and includes mindfulness and meditation, yoga postures, and movement sequences with progressive options for more experienced students. Students should bring a yoga mat to store at Encore for the session.



ENRICHMENT

STEM FUNDamentals

Grades 1-6

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30

\$260/student

Students will level up their critical thinking and problem-solving skills in this class with Play-Well TEKologies. Each week, students will tackle a new concept in physics, engineering, or architecture and apply it through a hands-on project using LEGO® materials. With plenty of room for originality in their designs, and optional extensions for students moving at a faster pace, this class will blend STEM challenges with fun and creativity.

Chess

Grades 1-6

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30

\$180/student

Instructors from the Charlotte Chess Center provide chess instruction and game play in a fun-filled environment. Lessons cover basics for beginners and more advanced strategies for experienced students, enhancing concentration, memory, and decision-making skills. Participating students will receive information about opportunities to participate in CCC tournaments throughout the year.



ENRICHMENT

Environmental Art

Grades 1-6

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30

\$180/student

In this engaging class with Omni staff member Angie McHenry, students will transform natural and upcycled materials into remarkable works of art. Creative projects will introduce a variety of artistic techniques, exploring textures, colors, and patterns found in nature while embracing a student-led approach.

Fantasy Drawing

Grades 1-6

Mondays OR Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30

\$175/student on Mondays, \$240/student on Wednesdays

Guided by returning instructor Lela Kometiani, students will learn to draw unicorns, dragons, and other magical creatures in imaginative environments. With differentiated instruction for different skill levels, lessons will emphasize drawing fundamentals and incorporate watercolors, colored pencils, and other media.

Drama: Costumes and Characters

Grades 1-6

Tuesdays OR Thursdays, 3:30-4:30

\$220/student on Tuesdays, \$200/student on Thursdays

Students will dive into the Omni costume supply for inspiration to create all kinds of characters! Through drama games and storytelling activities with instructor Darcy McDonnell, new and experienced students will develop improv skills, build confidence, and discover the fun of creating together as a supportive ensemble.



INDIVIDUAL ENRICHMENT

Piano and Book Buddies are offered in one-hour increments, which include a 30-minute lesson/reading period and 30 minutes of playtime at aftercare. These activities are scheduled separately. Email Encore Coordinator Darcy McDonnell at darcy.mcdonnell@omni-montessori.org to share your interest and availability.

Piano

Grades 1-6

One weekday per week, 3:30-4:30 OR 4:30-5:30

\$360 Mon, \$495 Tues, \$450 Thurs/Fri (no lessons Weds)

Comprehensive lessons take place in a one-on-one setting with instructor Juliana Jing and include traditional music and songs tailored to the student's interests. Music books will be suggested according to each student's experience level, and practice at home between lessons is expected. We encourage families to aim for a yearlong commitment to piano lessons, with priority registration for returning students throughout the year.

Book Buddies

Grades 1-6

One weekday per week, 4:30-5:30

\$105 Mon, \$145 Tues/Weds, \$130 Thurs

In this program provided by students in Omni's Adolescent Program, each participating elementary student will partner with an adolescent to read aloud together, either by taking turns or with the older buddy providing support as needed. Reading together in this informal setting is a great way for students to gain confidence and new vocabulary, and to have some fun sharing books!



AFTERCARE DETAILS

Aftercare

Grades 1-9

Available daily, 3:30-4:30 and 4:30-5:30

\$13/hour during registration period

\$15/hour past registration period

Aftercare offers students interactive play with peers in a well-supervised environment that serves as an extension of the school day. Most days, students enjoy outdoor play in the first hour, with board games and art supplies available indoors in the second hour or in case of inclement weather.

Families can sign up for aftercare on a regular weekly schedule, on individual dates, or a mix of the two options. While aftercare registration is available on an as-needed basis, families must register no later than 10:00am the day-of. We also encourage families to register in advance with discounted pricing during the registration period.

ENCORE AFTER-SCHOOL MISSION

- To provide a meaningful, non-academic extension of the school day for elementary students.
- To offer Omni families a flexible and convenient after-school alternative for their children in a safe and familiar environment.
- To facilitate activities to stimulate social and intellectual development, and to deepen students' connection to their community.





MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

Darcy McDonnell is Omni's Library and Encore Coordinator. She previously served on the faculty of Near North Montessori School in Chicago as drama instructor and taught arts residencies in more than 20 Chicagoland schools. She was funded by the Leverhulme Trust to conduct arts education research in London pediatric wards and at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, and she has presented at the national conference for the American Alliance for Theatre and Education about her work cultivating community in schools. Darcy graduated cum laude from Northwestern University with a BA in Theatre and holds an MA with distinction in Applied Drama in Education from London's Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Angie McHenry has been a member of the Omni community for many years, first as a parent volunteer and substitute assistant before completing Montessori assistant training and joining the staff. She currently supports the Primary level as well as Encore. Angie has worked as a professional photographer specializing in children's portraiture and has been published in several online photography magazines. Her education includes a degree in liberal arts and 15 years of experience in digital photography and retouching.

Juliana Jing is an independent piano teacher whose studio offers private lessons and performance opportunities through recitals and festivals. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance (summa cum laude) at East Carolina University, and she has received several awards including the Steinway Top Teacher Award (2023, 2024). Juliana is a member of the Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum and is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music through the Music Teachers National Association.

Brielle McLaughlin has been an Omni parent for several years, with two children currently in elementary. She started her yoga journey in 2016 and completed her 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training in 2023. Brielle enjoys sharing her love for yoga with others and personalizing the practice for any age or experience level. She currently offers private yoga classes for both individuals and small groups.



Lela Kometiani is a professional artist, educator, and illustrator who has taught at Omni for several years. She has more than twenty years of teaching experience, having worked at Virginia Commonwealth University, Montessori schools, and the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. Lela received her MA in graphic design from the Academy of Fine Arts of Tbilisi, Georgia, and her BA in Painting and Teaching from Nikoladze College of Arts, Georgia. Lela has received several first-place awards and earned recognition in both book illustration and design, including a first place - Writer's Digest National Award for book illustration and a Blackboard Children's Book of the Year Award at BookExpo America in New York, among others.

The Charlotte Chess Center & Scholastic Academy was founded in 2014 and serves as a place where members of all ages and skill levels can enjoy the royal game of chess. As an educational hub for chess in the Charlotte area, they offer camps, classes, school enrichment programs and lectures in addition to events such as weekend tournaments. Led by masters, their team of instructors are the most highly qualified in the Southeast.

Overtime Athletics uses multi-sport programs & camps for ages 3-14 to benefit children physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. Their programs introduce the fundamentals of 20 different sports in a non-competitive environment. For over 20 years, their mission has been to run safe and fun programs while giving H.I.G.H. F.I.V.E.S. (Health, Involvement, Growth, Happiness, Fun, Instruction, Value, Enrichment, and Safety). Overtime Athletics combines quality curriculum and passionate coaches to empower kids to learn, play, and grow through youth sports.

Play-Well TEKnologies is a nationwide educational enrichment organization founded in 1997 and dedicated to teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) concepts to students through hands-on building using LEGO® materials. Play-Well develops age-appropriate curricula and trains instructors to provide high-quality, engaging educational experiences for children ages 5-12. Play-Well is committed to igniting a passion for engineering and problem-solving through play.



REGISTRATION TIPS

- **Prepare in advance**
 - Plan your family's preferred schedule and back-up options before the day registration opens. Feel free to reach out with any questions! It can be helpful especially for new families to discuss activities with the Encore Coordinator.
- **Request Piano or Book Buddies**
 - These are scheduled separately by the Encore Coordinator. While we generally use a first-come-first-served approach, we offer priority registration to returning piano students and strive to schedule siblings on the same day when requested.
- **Register promptly**
 - The SignUp Genius link for registration will begin working at 5:00pm on Monday, August 24th, 2026. Spaces fill quickly for some activities, so plan to register right away when the link opens if you have strong preferences.
- **Use the wait list**
 - If an activity appears full, sign up for the wait list! Families sometimes need to change plans and a space may open up. In addition, we are often able to add more spaces for activities but may first need to secure more staff or materials. You will be contacted if we are able to accommodate your student.
- **Select multiple spaces for siblings**
 - You may sign up siblings on the same registration form, but be sure to alter the number of spaces you are claiming in an activity. Otherwise, even if you have written in both names, only one space will be claimed.
- **Register for aftercare during the registration period**
 - Registration for each activity will close as spaces fill, or otherwise on Monday, August 31st, 2026 at 10:00am. At that time, the discounted rate for aftercare will expire. While you can sign up for aftercare on an ongoing basis, the fee will be higher for the remainder of the session.



Frequently Asked Questions

How many students can enroll in Encore programs?

Enrollment maximums vary, and registration is accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. If an activity is full, please join the waiting list.

Where do Encore programs take place?

Activities and aftercare may take place in indoor or outdoor spaces on the Blakeney campus. Some athletics take place at local partner locations and include the option for activity bus transportation from campus to practices.

Does Encore provide snacks?

Students participating in Encore programs remain at school for a snack break before their first activity. A healthy snack is provided, and students may also bring their own.

Where and when should I pick up my child from Encore programs?

Encore dismissal takes place at the front car line at 4:30pm and 5:30pm, unless otherwise noted for athletics. Students will walk with an Encore staff member to transition between programs and to the car line at each pick up time.

What if I am late to pick up my child?

If you will be late, please text the Encore phone at (980) 475-0197 to let us know, as the front office may be closed. If you are more than 10 minutes late for a 4:30 pick-up Mon-Thurs, you will be billed at the rate of \$15.00 for an additional hour of aftercare and your student will join the aftercare group until you arrive.

If you arrive after 5:30pm (or 4:30 on Fridays, or the alternate end time for off-site activities), a fee of \$4.00 per minute will be charged per family.

Repeated late pick-ups will lead to ineligibility to continue participating in Encore programs.



What if I need to change or cancel my registration?

To change or cancel your registration, please contact Encore Coordinator Darcy McDonnell. Because there are limited spaces in many Encore programs, refunds are generally not available after the session's registration deadline has passed, and registration changes will not be facilitated after the deadline.

What if an activity does not meet the minimum enrollment?

If an athletic or enrichment activity does not meet the minimum enrollment required, the activity may be canceled. Families will be notified and may choose a full refund, a transfer of the registration to another available program, or a combination of the two options.

What if my child is absent from school on a day they participate in Encore?

If your child will be absent from school, please contact Encore Coordinator Darcy McDonnell. She will share the information with your child's Encore instructor.

Refunds or make-up classes are not available for activities. For aftercare, you may request a credit toward an additional date in the session only if your child is absent from school due to illness or a school trip. We will do our best to schedule make-up piano lessons when students are absent from school due to illness or a school trip, provided by either the instructor or Encore Coordinator and experienced music instructor Darcy McDonnell.

Why do fees sometimes vary for the same activity on different weekdays?

Fees may vary within activities based on the number of dates in a session.

How are fees processed for Encore programs?

On the registration form, you will select your preference to either be charged for the session through FACTS, or to receive a one-time online payment form.

Who can I contact with more questions?

Contact Encore Coordinator Darcy McDonnell at:
darcy.mcdonnell@omni-montessori.org.