

# ACRES

ASPIRE | CREATE | REVOLUTIONIZE | EXPLORE | SUCCEED

## A new type of school for Northeast Arkansas

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!



Expanding service to kids age 5-12  
Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-3:30  
1538 CR 761 Brookland, AR  
Lauren McDaniel-Carter, Founder  
(870) 530-6326 | [growwithacres@gmail.com](mailto:growwithacres@gmail.com)  
[growwithacres.com](http://growwithacres.com)

**Dear Parents,**

You may have already made your decision about where to send your precious child to school. There are many good options in the Jonesboro area, 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 I have founded ACRES. 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.



I would like to personally invite you to see if ACRES might be a good fit for your child. I am so excited to bring such a unique educational option to our area and I hope that you might join us on this adventure. I would be truly honored and humbled. Please feel free to reach out with questions you may have. I look forward to potentially partnering with you on this journey!

**Sincerely,**

*Lauren McDaniel-Carter*

**Lauren McDaniel-Carter**

Founder and Director

 [growwithacres.com](http://growwithacres.com) [growwithacres@gmail.com](mailto:growwithacres@gmail.com) (870) 530-6326 Brookland, AR

### WHAT MAKES ACRES DIFFERENT?



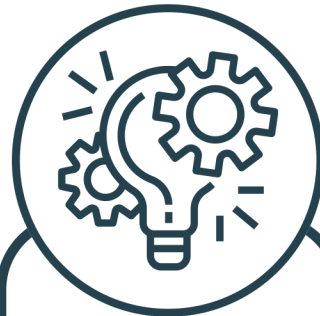
#### SELF PACED

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.

**Mission** | The mission of ACRES is to develop goal-oriented, problem-solving, critical-thinking individuals who are prepared for a world that does not yet exist and have the tools to help shape what it will become.

**Vision** | We want students at ACRES to develop a strong foundation of core skills, curiosity, and drive to what they love and are good at.

**Philosophy** | Learn by doing; do something because it matters to you.



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 Brookland, AR

**Thank you for considering ACRES.**

**We hope to serve your family soon!**





### Daily Schedule

**8:00-8:30**

**Arrival** | Students may choose from a variety of quiet indoor activities like board games, building with blocks, drawing, or approved technology based activities

**8:30-8:45**

**Group Launch** | Students and teachers will begin the day with a morning meeting.

**8:45-10:00**

**Core 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.

**10:00-10:45**

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

**10:45-12:00**

**Core 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.

*\*Students will switch to whichever subject they did not complete during the first learning block.*

### Academic Calendar

**Session 1** | August 13 - October 10

**Session 2** | October 15 - December 19

**Session 3** | January 14 - March 15

**Session 4** | March 25 - May 24

**Thanksgiving Break** | November 26-28

**Christmas Break** | December 24-January 9

**Spring Break** | March 18-20

*\*Most major holidays fall on Monday or Friday, therefore do not affect our operating schedule*

**12:00-1:30**

**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.

**1:30-2:30**

**Project Based Learning** | 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, and interest, and affinity, depending upon the unit of study.

**2:30-3:00**

**Closing** | Students will finish their tasks, pack their bags and eat a snack brought from home.

**3:00- 3:30**

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

*\*Schedule and times are flexible to maximize engagement*





ACRES offers several curriculum options for students depending upon age and ability. Each student will complete a pre-assessment as a part of the enrollment process. This will serve as a baseline for academic progress as well as inform curriculum decisions. Final decisions about curriculum will be made jointly by the director and parents to make sure your child is getting the education they need and deserve and focuses on what you as a family find important. Explore the curriculum options below.

### READING/ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



**Logic of English** | Students who are developing or struggling readers will use this phonograph based reading program. It systematically teaches all of the sounds of the English Language to give students a strong foundation in decoding while also fostering comprehension.



**Institute for Excellence in Writing** | Students who are proficient readers will use this systematic writing course to ensure the development of strong communication skills. Students will also be expected to read independently and apply their communication skills to discuss or write about the literature they read.

### MATH

**ST Math** | Students who are developing number sense, working on basic math skills, and fact fluency will typically use this visual an interactive online math program. It is designed to build a strong understanding of basic math concepts and gradually increases in difficulty as kids master skills.



**Math-U-See** | Students working in ST Math will also utilize portions of this program. This is a mastery based program that utilizes manipulatives will be used to reinforce important foundational math concepts in small group or one on one instruction as needed.



**Khan Academy** | This is an compilation of online, self-paced math courses that includes video instruction, practice, and assessment through a gamified points based system. Students using this program, will need proficient reading skills in order to complete tasks.



### PROGRESS MONITORING



**i-Ready** | This diagnostic and assessment suite will be used to determine proper curriculum placement, monitor progress mid year, and provide end of year assessment data that is required by the state if using EFA funding.

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



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 classes 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 social studies, science, and art.

### 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 using curriculum provided by the school and keep records of work on Monday and Friday. (or Saturday or Sunday, whatever works for your schedule)
- 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. (Arrangements can be made to use school technology upon request and for a fee)



## Tuition

ACRES will be able to accept Educational Freedom Account funds in the 2024-2025 school year as a homeschool expense. Tuition will be handled on a case by case basis, based on whether your family qualifies for funding. Your family may qualify for EFA funding if your child meets one or more of the following criteria. EFA funding will be open to all families in 2025-2026. Applications to apply for the EFA program are tentatively set to open in March.

- Students who are entering kindergarten for the first time
- Students who have a diagnosis covered under IDEA
- Students who are or have ever been considered homeless
- Students who are or have ever been in foster care
- Students with a parent in the household who is active duty military, veteran, or reservist
- Students with a parent in the household who is law enforcement or a first responder (fire, police, EMT, including volunteer positions)

## 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.



Start Here!

Fill out the interest form

### In Person Meeting at the School

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 your bring your child!



Links to EFA Information

### Application and Registration Fee

\$50 Fee covers the cost of on-boarding and pre-assessment.

### Placement Testing

This will take place over the summer and is required for correct curriculum placement.

### Receive Handbook and Sign Contract

The handbook outlines all the policies, practices, and expectations. Upon reviewing, you will sign a contract indicating your agreement.

### Pay First Month's Tuition or Submit EFA Documentation

First month's tuition is due by July 30. If using EFA funds, this payment will be handled through the state portal.

*Space is  
limited.  
Enroll  
Today!*