

Middle School Activities, Enrichment and Classes

Are you looking for activities, classes, or enrichment for your child? This comprehensive guide features a wealth of opportunities to meet your family's needs. There are virtual and in person activities, games, courses, and attractions, geared towards middle school students. The offerings are categorized into the following areas:

- Athletics and Recreation
- Cultural and the Arts
- STEM
- Language and Literature
- All & Other

Each entry includes a link to the resource, a brief description, pricing information, and the type of programming offered.

Please preview these offerings before sharing them with your children; some virtual resources may contain ads and should be viewed with discretion. Since the information in this guide is subject to change, we encourage you to visit each program's website to get the most up to date details.

Carnegie Mellon University



Athletics & Recreation

Athletic Camps

Description: There are variety of camps and clinics available, including soccer, basketball, volleyball, swimming, and diving. Age ranges for camps vary by sport, but start as young as age 5 and go up to 12th grade.

Pricing: Varies by camp

Type of Programming: Summer Camps, CMU-affiliated

British Swim School

Description: The program operates at several pools in the Pittsburgh area, and teaches water safety and swimming skills in addition to offering a swim team for experienced swimmers.

Pricing: Varies by program

Type of Programming: In Person, Classes

Pittsburgh Ballet Theater

Description: The Pittsburgh Ballet Theater offer classes and programs from children ages 18 months – 17 years. Certain classes require an audition.

Pricing: Varies by specific program

Type of Programming: Virtual, Classes, Workshops, Summer, School Year

Pittsburgh Soccer Academy

Description: PSA offers individual and small group training, virtual training, and camps and clinic to develop soccer skills for children age 5 through High School.

Pricing: Varies by specific program

Type of Programming: Virtual, In Person, Sumer, School Year, Classes, Workshops

The Scoring Factory

Description: Located on East Carson Street, this gym offer classes, clinics, and camps to help improve children's basketball skills and development for children in grades 2-12.

Pricing: Varies by program; memberships are also available starting at \$15/month.

Type of Programming: In Person, Camps, Classes

YMCA Youth Programming

Description: The YMCA offers a comprehensive suite of programs for every age and skill level, including swimming, sports, dancing, and the arts. Specific lesson offerings vary by location.

Pricing: Varies by type of class

Type of Programming: In Person, Classes

Switch and Signal Skatepark

Description: an indoor skatepark in Swissvale that offers private and group lessons, rentals, and camps. This location also has a skate shop, café, and a strong desire to build community.

Pricing: Varies by program

Type of Programming: In Person, Camps, Classes

Gymkhana Gymnastics Schools

Description: With locations in Point Breeze, Bethel Park, Monroeville, and Wexford, Gymkhana provides high quality gymnastics fun for all ages and skill levels.

Pricing: Varies by program

Type of Programming: In Person, Camps, Classes

Kennywood Amusement Park

Description: Located in West Mifflin, this traditional amusement park features 7 Rollercoasters, A 14-Ride Kiddieland & Several Other One-Of-A-Kind Attractions.

Pricing: Junior (Under 46") \$39.99 + tax, Regular (46" and Taller) \$59.99 + tax, Senior (60+ Years of Age) \$24.99 + tax. Season passes start at \$85.95 and go up from there.

Type of Programming: In person

Sandcastle Water Park

Description: Located in West Mifflin, this traditional amusement park features 7 Rollercoasters, A 14-Ride Kiddieland & Several Other One-Of-A-Kind Attractions.

Pricing: general admission is \$39.99, children age 3 and under are free. Season Passes start at \$66.99.

Type of Programming: In person

Athletics & Recreation

The Wheel Mill

Description: Located in Homewood, this indoor park provides a safe space for children and adults to ride bikes on various tracks. Lessons are available for first time riders, as well as those hoping to learn MTB and BMX riding. Summer camps are also available.

Pricing: Day passes are \$23 for adults and \$18 for children 12 and under on weekdays, \$29 for all ages on the weekends. Memberships range from \$45 to \$95 per month. Private lessons are \$70 + tax per session and includes a day pass for riding after instruction.

Type of Programming: In person

USA Professional Karate

Description: Located in Squirrel Hill, this program offers specialized Kids Karate classes that address the unique skills and challenges that children of all ages face. Classes are available for ages 13 and up, as well as younger children.

Pricing: \$19.95 for introductory class and about \$129 a month for regular classes.

Type of Programming: In person, classes

Ascend Pittsburgh

Description: Located in South Side, this program offers youth climbing lessons for children ages 6-13 with supervision and 13-17 without. An instructor will cover climbing technique, lingo, bouldering, top-roping, belaying, training for climbing, and more!

Pricing: Classes range from \$80 to \$97.60 per month.

Type of Programming: In person, classes

The Rink at PPG Place

Description: From November through February, the Plaza between Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue transforms into The Rink at PPG Place, a spectacular one-of-a-kind outdoor ice skating rink.

Pricing: Adults \$11, Seniors \$10, Children \$10, Skate rental \$5

Type of Programming: In person, Activity

Pittsburgh Fencers' Club

Description: Located in Point Breeze, this club focuses on bringing competitive fencing to Pittsburgh. It features classes for children ages 6 to 12 as well as teens to adults. They also offer private lessons as well as some zoom lessons and camps are available in the summer.

Pricing: drop in classes are \$25 per class, a pack of 4 classes is \$99 for a single child, \$167 for a family. A month of unlimited fencing is \$150.

Type of Programming: In Person, Virtual, classes

First Tee Pittsburgh

Description: A non-profit youth development program that delivers life skills and character education to young people ages 5-18 through the game of golf. Participants join us for lessons in putting, chipping, pitching, full swing and on course play while they also learn healthy habits, goal setting, respect, courtesy, confidence and more.

Pricing: \$60 per session per participant for households earning \$50,000 per year or more, AND only \$30 for households earning less than \$50,000 per year. However, no kid is ever turned away for the inability to pay.

Type of Programming: In person, classes, activities

The Penguins Skating Academy

Description: Located in Cranberry, this program hosts Learn to Skate USA, the only learn to skate curriculum endorsed by USA Hockey. Their certified coaches offer year round classes with small ratios and interactive lesson plans for all levels. Classes are open to all skaters ages 3 to 16 and cover skating, hockey, and figure skating lessons.

Pricing: Learn to skate USA membership required (\$16), classes range from \$120 to \$160

Type of Programming: In person, classes, camps

Cultural and the Arts

Art in Motion Pittsburgh

Description: This dance studio offers classes live and in person classes for a variety of dance styles and skill levels.

Pricing: You can do a drop in class for \$10, or sign up for class packages

Type of Programming: In person, Virtual, Classes

CMU School of Music Preparatory School

Description: This offers classes on piano, strings, guitar, and percussion for various age groups and skill levels.

Pricing: Tuition varies based on specific program

Type of Programming: Classes, Virtual, CMU-affiliated

Pittsburgh Glass Center

Description: The program's hands-on courses are structured specifically for young people (ages 12 to 18) and are taught in one of the United States' premier glass facilities. SiO2 students not only create glass art and learn the scientific principles of glass, they experience valuable life lessons through studio practice. While learning and creating, students are shown the fundamental significance of teamwork, discipline, communication, and mutual respect.

Pricing: Classes start at \$100 for one day workshops,

Type of Programming: In person, classes, camps

Carnegie Museum of Art

Description: Connected to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, The Carnegie Museum of Art has a robust collection of over 30,000 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, and decorative design. The Carnegie Museums also have a curated list of virtual offerings.

Pricing: Adult tickets are \$19.95, tickets for children 3-18 are \$11.95, and children under 3 are free. Offerings such as workshops, classes, and summer camps are available at additional cost. You could also purchase a membership for all four Carnegie museums to receive free general admission.

Type of Programming: In-person, Virtual

Artissima Art Studio

Description: Offers mommy and me classes for children ages 2.5 to 4, and art classes for children and teens ages 4 to 18. Students will experiment with different media, develop new techniques, and be inspired by art and art history in a fun, energetic environment. They focus on quality and aim to inspire and guide the children to reach their creative and artistic potential.

Pricing: One day workshops start at \$40, classes and camps start at \$230.

Type of Programming: In person, Classes, Camps, Virtual

Met Kids

Description: The Metropolitan Museum of Art has developed an online hub for children, which includes an interactive map, a "time machine" to explore arts from different eras, and educational videos.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual

Pittsburgh Girls Choir

Description: The Pittsburgh Girls Choir welcomes girls, ages 6 to 18, of all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds into our supportive community committed to artistic excellence through an exemplary music education program. In addition to the choir, they also offer summer camps and outreach programs.

Pricing: there is a sliding scale for tuition

Type of Programming: In person, Classes, Camps

Gaynor's School of Cooking

Description: They offer a large selection of age appropriate children's programs throughout the year in both cooking and pastry and baking as well as tenn cooking classes. They also run a number of seasonal themed classes such as Gingerbread Houses, Easter Treats & Candies and Scary Halloween Treats.

Pricing: Classes range from \$280 to \$360

Type of Programming: In person, Classes, Camps

Cultural and the Arts

School of Rock

Description: Offers music, performance and song writing lessons to children ages 3-18. Rock 101, performance and songwriting are all available to middle school aged children. Classes generally consist of one private lesson and one group rehearsal each week. Many of their classes are now also available in an online format and summer camps are also available.

Pricing: Classes range from \$250 to \$300 per month. Summer camps are \$300 per week.

Type of Programming: In person, Classes, Camps, Virtual

CMU School of Music YouTube Channel & Play in Place Series

Description: In this running series, Play-In-Place, the talented artists of the School of Music are submitting performances recorded in their living rooms, porches, offices, back yards, or wherever they are. They also have performances available to view on their YouTube Channel.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Videos, CMU-affiliated

Board and Brush Pittsburgh

Description: This studio offers customized wood sign painting workshops for children and adults. To have a child under the age of 16 attend, you will need to book a private event geared towards children. You can also purchase "kits for kids" to do at home!

Pricing: Kits are \$55; prices for workshops vary.

Type of Programming: Virtual, In person, Classes, Activities

East End Performing Arts

Description: Located in Regent Square, this program offers private lessons, group classes and summer camps for children in grade 6 through 9 to build appreciation and understanding of music and theatre.

Pricing: \$58 per month

Type of Programming: In person, Classes, Virtual

Assemble

Description: This is a space where childrens ages 6-15 can learn, explore, and engage in classes and activities related to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). They offer both school year and summer program programming in addition to in person and virtual options.

Pricing: Many of the virtual offerings are free, and all programming is free for Garfield residents. For summer camps, in person camps are \$250 and virtual is \$100, with scholarship available.

Type of Programming: Virtual, In person, Summer Camps, Year-Round

Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

Description: Official site for Benedum Center and Byham Theater, presenting PNC Broadway Across America, children's theater and events. The Trust also facilitates several large cultural events in the city on a yearly basis and supports art galleries as well as public art installations. It also encompasses the Harris Theater, featuring independent film as well as classes and programming for children and teens.

Pricing: Prices vary depending on venue and event

Type of Programming: In person, Classes

North Hills Art Center

Description: Offers classes for adults, teens and children. Sessions run Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Class offerings are updated seasonally and occasionally additional classes are added. Children's classes are designed to be age appropriate for children 7 to 18 and summer camps are available. Classes cover sculpture, pottery, drawing, painting, and more.

Pricing: Classes for children range from member pricing starting at \$70 per class to \$100 non member pricing.

Type of Programming: In person, classes, camps

STEM

Alice - Tell Stories. Build Games. Learn to Program

Description: Alice is an innovative block-based programming environment that makes it easy to create animations, build interactive narratives, or program simple games in 3D. It is designed to teach logical and computational thinking skills, fundamental principles of programming and to be a first exposure to object-oriented programming.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities

Architecture Explorations

Description: The Center for Architecture Explorations offers workshops, summer camps, and courses for students in grades K-12.

Pricing: Varies by specific camp or workshop

Type of Programming: Workshops, Year-Round (Saturdays), CMU affiliated

Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy

Description: The Robotics Academy trains educators on how to use robots in the classroom, and also offers educational materials and workshops for students to encourage an interest in STEM.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities, CMU-affiliated

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Description: Connected to the Carnegie Museum of Art, The Carnegie Museum of Natural History is one of the top history museums in the country, and offers explorations and exhibits related to science, nature, and world cultures. The Carnegie Museums also have a curated list of virtual offerings.

Pricing: Adult tickets are \$19.95, tickets for children 3-18 are \$11.95, and children under 3 are free. Offerings such as workshops, classes, and summer camps are available at additional cost. You could also purchase a membership for all four Carnegie museums to receive free general admission.

Type of Programming: In-person, Virtual

Carnegie Science Center

Description: The Science Center features exhibits and programming about science and technology. The museum also offers Carnegie STEM Girls, which provides reading; math and science remediation and enrichment; hands-on project-based STEM activities; life skills development; mentoring; pre-college experiences; and STEM career exploration. A feature of this program, Tour Your Future, is available to girls ages 11-17, and provides the opportunity to visit exciting workplaces and explore diverse careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM Stars is a school based portion of the program operating in 20 sites in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Woodland Hills School District, McKeesport Area School District, and Propel Schools.

Pricing: For the museum, adult tickets are \$19.95, children (3-18) are \$11.95, and children under 3 are free. Offerings such as workshops, classes, and summer camps are available at additional cost.

Type of Programming: In-person, Virtual

Daily Challenge

Description: CMU Math Professor Po-Shen Loh tackles math questions from viewers and provides engaging videos on fundamental concepts

Pricing: You can watch videos for free on YouTube, but you can also purchase module packs that provide a comprehensive set of lessons and guides. Most modules are \$149.

Type of Programming: Virtual, Live Videos, On Demand Classes, Activities, CMU-affiliated

First in Math

Description: This website offers ways to play "The 24 Game" both online and offline. Order a deck of 24 Game cards, or purchase a subscription to play virtually.

Pricing: Virtual subscriptions are \$19.95 for 6 months or \$29.95 for 12 months. Card decks range from \$10.95-\$21.95

Type of Programming: Virtual, Game

STEM

The Gelfand Center for Service Learning and Outreach

Description: Designed to promote STEM education and academic enrichment for students in grades K-12, The Gelfand Center runs various workshops and also has a collection of free, digital educational resources.

Pricing: Digital modules and remote lessons are free

Type of Programming: Workshops, Resources, Year-Round, Virtual, CMU affiliated

Hawaiian Volcano Virtual Tour

Description: Explore a Hawaiian Volcano from the comfort of your home! A guide from the National Parks Service explains different aspects of the volcano, as you click on the various places and features to learn more.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities

How Does the Brain Work?

Description: BrainFacts presents interactive modules on various neuroscience topics.

Price: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities

MySTEM Academy

Description: This offers summer camps and school year programming for children ages 8-12 to learn about robotics and coding.

Pricing: Varies by workshop/program

Type of Programming: Virtual, In person, Activities, Classes

School of Computer Science Outreach Roadshow

Description: This is an interactive presentation, for children in grades K-12, is offered by Women@SCS. It highlights all computer science has to offer and hopes to engage children in learning experiences.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Workshops, Virtual, CMU-affiliated

Scratch MIT

Description: Scratch is a programming language, designed by MIT, that allows young learners to create their own games and animations.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities

Summer Engineering Experience for Girls (SEE)

Description: This is a summer workshop that teaches middle school students how to make the world a better place through engineering.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Summer, CMU-affiliated

Virtual Dives

Description: From the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), take a virtual dive where you can swim with sea lions, see coral reefs, and even explore a shipwreck!

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities

Code.org

Description: A nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to computer science resources for students, parents, and teachers - including videos, fun tutorials, and projects!

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities, Classes

Language and Literature

Book Club for Kids

Description: A podcast where middle grade readers interview authors and talk about their favorite books.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Podcast

Newsfeed Defenders

Description: Designed to middle and high schoolers help understand news and journalism, this website allows you to run a fictional social media platform and try to spot false information and fake posts.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual

Circulo Juvenil de Cultural

Description: This is a Spanish Heritage Outreach Program to support cultural literacy and Spanish language learning for children of Latino families in Pittsburgh.

Pricing: N/A

Type of Programming: Virtual, Resources, Year-Round, CMU-affiliated

Duolingo

Description: A free website and app to help adults and children in elementary through high school learn new languages. There is a large selection to choose from and it is self-paced learning.

Price: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual

The Writer's Studio

Description: This studio offers editing, tutoring, and creative writing workshops for a variety of ages and interests.

Pricing: Editing and tutors services range from \$60-\$70/hour; Almost Authors workshop is \$160.

Type of Programming: Virtual, Classes, Summer, Year-Round

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Description: The library system provides residents with free access to books, movies music and more. Most branches also have a dedicated children's and teens sections with activities and programming specifically geared towards different age groups. Find your local branch, or visit the main branch in Oakland to enjoy these benefits. There is also a Large Print Teen Literary Journal created for teens, by teens, where aspiring writers can submit their work.

Price: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, In person

NaNoWriMo Young Writer's Program

Description: Based on the challenge for National Novel Writing Month each November, this website provides resources for young writers to participate and also offers smaller challenges year-round.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities

Cast of Wonders

Description: This is a young adult short fiction market that specializes in fantasy. It shares work via a speculative fiction podcast that welcomes submissions from young writers under the age of 18.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Podcast

Young Writers Institute

Description: This is a summer experience for students to get coached in writing. For 2021, it is virtual with an optional in person date.

Pricing: \$100, scholarships available

Type of Programming: Virtual, In person, Summer

All and Other

Khan Academy

Description: This nonprofit offers free, self-paced courses in a variety of subjects and grade levels.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, On demand classes

Youth Engaged in Service (YES)

Description: Run by the nonprofit Pittsburgh Cares, YES helps young people get engaged in community service. You can serve on the Youth Advisory Council, request a customized community service project for your school or group

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: In person, activities

PROGRESS

Description: The Program for Research and Outreach on gender Equity in Society (PROGRESS) aims to teach women and girls the art of negotiation. They partner with schools and community groups to offer workshops targeted towards girls ages 8 -13.

Pricing: N/A

Type of Programming: Workshops, CMU-affiliated

The Queen's Gambit Chess Institute

Description: This organization teaches innovation and creativity through the game of chess. Classes available for beginner and experienced players.

Pricing: Varies based on class

Type of Programming: Virtual, Live Classes

Sarah Heinz House

Description: The Sarah Heinz House offers programming for children in preschool through high school. There are after school programs, summer camps, and special events that feature a variety of subjects.

Pricing: Varies based on program

Type of programming: In person, Summer Camps, Year-Round, Classes

Tech Nights for Girls

Description: Women@SCS run Tech Nights for Girls, which is a series of on demand videos aimed to expand diversity of interest in computing in middle school students.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Videos, CMU-affiliated

Venture Outdoors

Description: This nonprofit inspires children and adults alike to explore nature and engage in a wealth of activities, classes, and programs

Pricing: Varies by program

Type of Programming: Virtual, In Person, Activities, Classes, Camps, Summer, School Year

Lauri Ann West Community Center

Description: This community center offers an array of art, science, and athletics programs for children up to age 12.

Pricing: Varies, but most are start at \$105 for members

Type of Programming: In person, Classes

The Frick Pittsburgh Classroom Resources

Description: The Frick Pittsburgh offers online activities, informational guides, and worksheets around Henry Clay Frick, life in the late 1800s, and art and culture.

Pricing: Free

Type of Programming: Virtual, Activities

Outschool

Description: Sign up for live classes and special interest clubs on a variety of topics for children ages 3-18.

Pricing: Prices start at \$10/class

Type of Programming: Virtual,