

ELLEMERCITO

Learning Community

Restoring wonder, curiosity, and joy in learning.

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WELCOME



We're so glad you're here. This guide is designed to help you learn more about Ellemercito — who we are, what we value, and how we support children through joy, curiosity, belonging, and meaningful experiences. Whether you're preparing for a tour or simply exploring our learning community, we're honored to walk alongside your family.

OUR STORY



Ellemercito Learning Community has served families through a hybrid homeschool model since 2021. Our microschool approach creates opportunities for meaningful relationships, personalized learning, collaboration, and experiences that connect education to the world around us.

We believe learning should be more than completing assignments. It should help children develop confidence, think critically, explore their interests, and become thoughtful, compassionate members of their communities.

OUR MISSION & VISION

OUR MISSION

To provide a real-world, highly personalized, and transformative education through project-based learning that nurtures critical thinking, cultivates a growth mindset, and develops profound empathy.

OUR VISION

We envision an education that inspires the next generation of thinkers, creators, leaders, and world changers to dream boldly and take meaningful action.

OUR BELIEFS AND COMMUNITY CULTURE

At Ellemercito, our community is built on shared values that guide how we learn, work, and grow together.

- **Every learner matters.** We strive to create an environment where each child feels safe, seen, heard, and valued.
- **Curiosity drives learning.** We encourage questions, creativity, experimentation, and the exploration of new ideas.
- **Relationships build belonging.** We nurture kindness, empathy, collaboration, and respect.
- **Learning connects to real life.** We value meaningful projects, authentic problem-solving, and experiences beyond the classroom.
- **Growth takes practice.** We encourage perseverance, reflection, responsibility, and learning from mistakes.
- **Families are partners.** We believe children benefit when families and educators communicate openly and work together.

OUR TEAM



Lizette Valles, M. Ed.

Founder & Executive Director

Ask me about: big-picture questions, thought partnership, learner advisory, homeschool support, individualized learning plan, admissions, community partnerships, and more.



Oscar Valles

CFO, Program Director, & Lead Learning Guide

Ask me about: financial inquiries, daily program, curriculum, classroom questions & learner's progress



Roxanda Yancor

Learning Guide

Ask me about: classroom questions & learner's progress.



Miranda Yassa

Learning Support Aide & Family Enrollment Coordinator

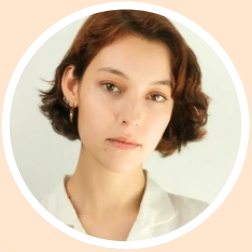
Ask me about: classroom questions, learner's progress, and discovery call inquiries.



Veronica Bracamontes Lopez

Learning Support Aide

Ask me about: classroom questions & learner's progress.



Olivia "Via" Marie Forman

Performing Arts Director

Ask me about: performance opportunities, skills development and progress of child and theatre program expectations.



Marie Reyes

Administrative Assistant

Ask me about: Illumine, calendar events, school logistics, and questions for Mr. or Mrs. Valles when they're unavailable.

WHAT MAKES ELLEMERCITO UNIQUE









- Personalized learning journeys
- Hands-on, project-based experiences
- Trauma-informed and emotionally safe environment
- Nature-inspired, community-based learning
- Performing arts and creative expression
- A warm, connected community where every child is celebrated

OUR ORIGIN







These two questions inspired the creation of Ellemercito:

Why not reimagine education?

What if we followed the child's delight?

OUR PROGRAMS





Instructional Program (Hybrid Drop-Off)

Core academics, workshops, SEL, performing arts, and Thrive Thursdays.

Community Membership Program

8 hours per month for enrichment, creative labs, workshops, and nature days.

Independent Study Program

Personalized learning plan
Weekly 1-hour check-ins
Curriculum support and academic guidance

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM



Our Instructional Program combines personalized academic learning with enrichment and, where included, community-based learning experiences.

Depending on the agreed schedule, learners may participate in:

- Academic instruction and small-group learning
- Curriculum planning and homeschool support
- Workshops and enrichment activities
- Nature Days and field trips
- Creative projects and hands-on experiences
- Other scheduled community learning opportunities

Participation schedules and included experiences are confirmed with each family during enrollment.

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP



Community Membership offers access to eligible workshops, enrichment activities, and community learning experiences.

Current program materials describe membership as providing up to eight hours of eligible activities per month. Experiences may include workshops, Nature Days, Field trips, and other scheduled opportunities.

Availability, registration requirements, and fees depend on the current membership terms. Please confirm which activities are included before registering.

INDEPENDENT STUDY



Independent Study may provide opportunities for independent learning, homeschool planning, and academic support, depending on the agreed arrangement.

If you are considering this option, our team can discuss the expectations, available support, and opportunities for participation in community experiences.

THRIVE THURSDAYS







Twice a month, Thrive Thursdays take learning beyond the classroom through nature outings, field trips, and community-based experiences. On alternating Thursdays, learners stay on campus for focused ELA and math, plus time for passion projects, the makerspace, and the music room.

Depending on the schedule, activities may include:

Exploration experiences

- Nature Days and outdoor learning
- Field trips and community exploration
- Place-based learning and hands-on discovery

On-campus learning and enrichment

- Academic support and small-group learning
- Makerspace and creative projects
- Music and other enrichment activities

FLOURISH FRIDAYS



Fridays may provide time for family-supported learning, independent work, extended projects, and other experiences according to the learner's program.

Homework packets or additional learning materials may be available upon request, where appropriate.

Please confirm your child's Friday expectations with the team so your family understands which activities, assignments, and participation requirements apply.

WORKSHOP & SPECIAL PROGRAMS







Throughout the year, Ellemercito may offer workshops and experiences in areas such as art, animation, content creation, performing arts, robotics, Spanish, entrepreneurship, and other areas of interest.

Schedules, enrollment, and costs vary by activity. Families will receive information about registration and any additional requirements through official announcements.

OUR HYBRID HOMESCHOOL MODEL

Ellemercito combines scheduled in-person learning with independent or family-supported learning, depending on the learner's program.

Our approach brings together academic instruction, small-group learning, projects, creative exploration, and real-world experiences. Learners have opportunities to build foundational skills while developing curiosity, independence, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities.

Families remain important partners in the learning process. We work together to understand each child's needs, support learning goals, and create meaningful opportunities for growth.

Our current program materials describe a learning community serving Grades 3–12. Please contact us to confirm grade-level availability and the programs currently offered.

CURRICULUM AND LEARNING AREAS

Learning experiences may include the following areas, depending on the learner's grade level, program, and schedule.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- Reading comprehension and literature
- Writing, spelling, grammar, and vocabulary
- Communication and written expression

MATHEMATICS

- Foundational math skills
- Mathematical reasoning
- Problem-solving and practical applications

SCIENCE

- Observation & investigation
- Experiments and hands-on discovery
- Exploration of the natural world

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

- History, geography, people, and cultures
- Community and real-world connections

WORKSHOPS & ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Spanish Class, Theatre Arts, STEM and Makerspace Experiences, Entrepreneurship and Passion Projects, Workshops, Guest Speakers, Field Trips and Nature Days.

ELLEMERCITO
Learning Community

PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

COMPETENCIES



A MINDFUL LEARNER

Demonstrates self-awareness,emotional regulation, reflection,andwellbeing.



A SOLUTION SEEKER

Applies inquiry, research, and critical thinking to real-world challenges.



AN INSPIRED INNOVATOR

Engagescreativity, curiosity, andpurpose to generate andrefine ideas.



A SKILLFUL COLLABORATOR

Communicates effectively,shares responsibility,and buildscommunity.



AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

Listens deeply,expresses ideas clearly,and adapts communication across contexts.



A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Acts with empathy,ethical responsibility, cultural awareness,and stewardship.

PORTRAIT OF AN ELLEMERCITO LEARNER



We craft an individualized, custom-made education plan for each child!

BLENDING A STUDENT'S UNIQUE LEARNING STYLES, INTERESTS, AND DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS.

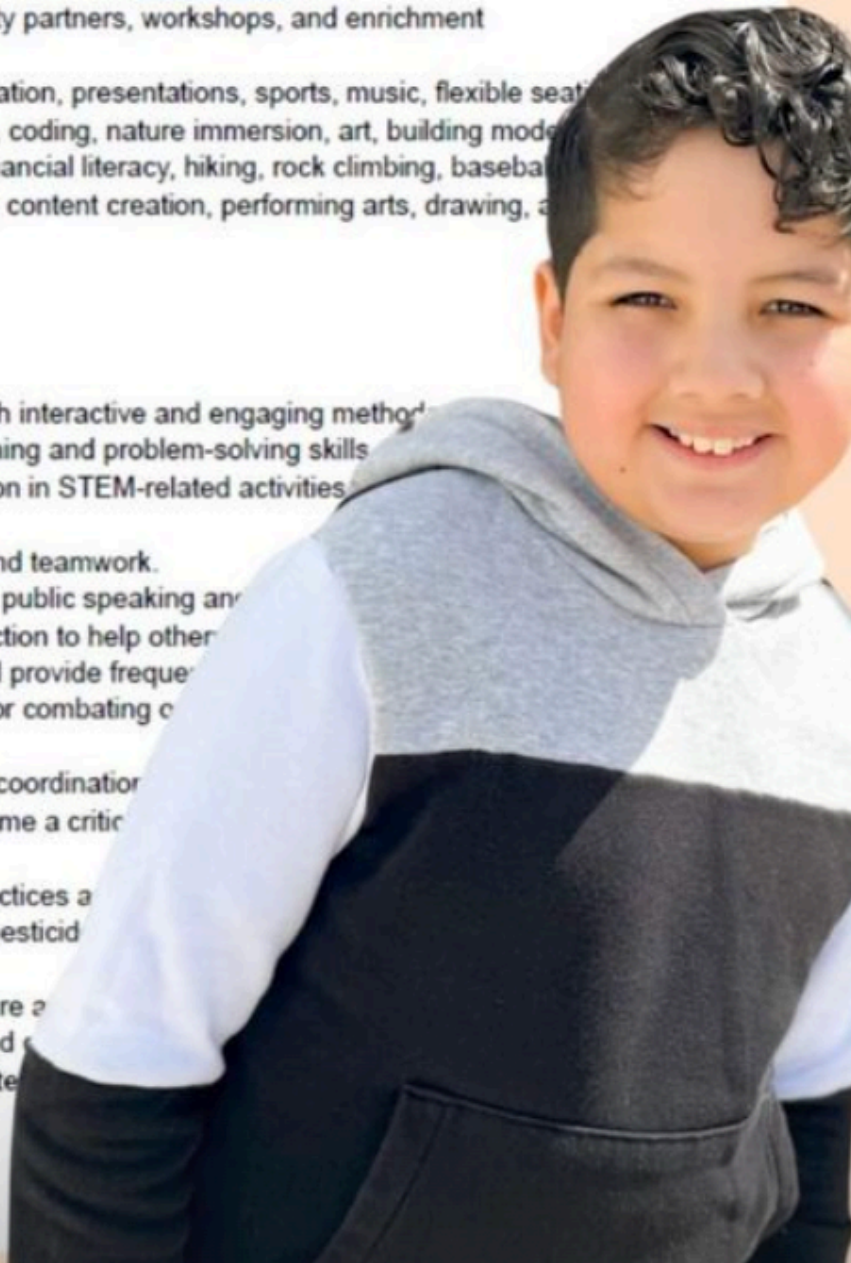
Grade: 5

Student Profile:

- **Learning Styles:** Kinesthetic, Linguistic, Naturalist
- **Love Language:** Quality Time, Physical Touch, & Words of Affirmation
- **Flex program**
  - **In-Person Teacher:** Facilitates learning and experiences on-site, provides 1:1 instruction, and handles progress monitoring, goal setting, and parent/caregiver communication.
  - **Core Curriculum:** ASU Prep Global (Virtual M-Th & Academic Support Fridays)
- **Apprenticeship & Mentorship Opportunities:** Power Club
- **Industry Experts:** Various community partners, workshops, and enrichment opportunities
- **Interests:** Reader's theater, collaboration, presentations, sports, music, flexible seat tinkering with circuit boards, robotics, coding, nature immersion, art, building mod creative writing, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, hiking, rock climbing, baseba architecture, animation, videography, content creation, performing arts, drawing, a creative writing.

Goals:

1. **Academic Development:**
   - Enhance literacy skills through interactive and engaging metho
   - Develop mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills
   - Foster creativity and innovation in STEM-related activities
2. **Social-Emotional Development:**
   - Improve collaborative skills and teamwork.
   - Build self-confidence through public speaking an
   - Develop empathy and take action to help other
   - Nurture a growth mindset and provide freque
   - Foster positive coping skills for combating c
3. **Physical Development:**
   - Promote physical health and coordinatio
   - Understand food labels, become a critic healthy eating options.
   - Learn about farm-to-table practices a
   - Learn about the dangers of pesticid
4. **Nature Integration:**
   - Foster a connection with nature a
   - Conduct risk assessments and
5. **Entrepreneurship and Financial Lite**



STUDENT PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT

We want families to understand how their children are growing—not simply what they have completed.

Our guides may consider:

- Daily work and learning activities
- Projects and demonstrations of learning
- Observations and participation
- Assessments and skill development
- Individual learning goals and areas for continued practice

The current program provides quarterly progress reports. Families may also request a conversation with a learning guide or the Program Director to discuss progress, strengths, concerns, and next steps.

We value open communication and encourage families to reach out whenever they have questions about their child's learning.

OUR LEARNING SPACE









A warm, creative learning space designed for belonging, exploration, and hands-on discovery.

ENROLLMENT JOURNEY

1. INQUIRY FORM
2. INTAKE CALL
3. ELLEMERCITO TOUR
4. PREVIEW DAY
5. ENROLL

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Families may be asked to complete or provide:

- Ellemercito Readiness & Fit Questionnaire
- Family Handbook & Agreement
- Family Partnership & Contribution Form
- Applicable registration payment
- Curriculum contribution or approved payment arrangement
- Additional current forms, permissions, or information requested by the office

If your child has an IEP, 504 plan, information about therapies, or other relevant learning-support documentation, please discuss it with our team. This information can help us understand your child's needs and have an informed conversation about program fit.

Your child's placement is confirmed once the required enrollment documents, payments, and approvals have been completed.

HOMESCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES





Ellemercito's hybrid homeschool model involves a partnership between the program and each family. During enrollment, please discuss your family's homeschool responsibilities and any required documentation with our team.

Families are also required to accomplish the Private School Affidavit (PSA). Families should confirm the requirements that apply to their individual homeschool arrangement and follow the current guidance provided by the appropriate authorities.

PREPARING FOR YOUR FIRST WEEK





Once your enrollment is confirmed, use this checklist to prepare for your first day:

- Complete all required enrollment forms.
- Review and sign the Family Handbook & Agreement.
- Confirm your child's program and attendance schedule.
- Review your family's contribution and payment arrangement.
- Join the BAND App and enable notifications.
- Save the office contact information.
- Review the master calendar and upcoming events.
- Confirm emergency contacts and authorized pickup information.
- Prepare your child's daily supplies, lunch, and water bottle.
- Confirm any required devices, chargers, headphones, or activity-specific materials.

FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS



Instructional Program: $100/day

Community Membership: $195 (8 hours)

Independent Study Program: $500/month (includes four weekly 1-hour check-ins)

WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY CONTRIBUTION SUPPORT



Depending on your program and agreed participation arrangement, family contributions may support:

- Personalized and small-group instruction
- Curriculum planning and homeschool oversight
- Workshops and enrichment
- Nature Days and field trips, where included
- Transcript support, when applicable
- Program planning and learning resources

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FEES



Your family's financial arrangement may include a registration fee, curriculum contribution, and program contribution based on your child's agreed participation schedule.

Each families contribution varies due to the number of days per week their child participates. Contribution amounts and billing details may vary by program and enrollment arrangement.

Your enrollment documents and confirmed payment schedule will outline the amounts applicable to your family.

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP AND WORKSHOP FEES





Community Membership provides access to eligible experiences under the applicable membership terms.

Some workshops, field trips, or special activities may require separate registration or additional payment. Please review each activity announcement to understand what is included and whether additional costs apply.

If you are unsure whether an experience is covered by your program, please ask the office before registering.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT



Enrollment at Ellemercito is a full academic-year commitment from September through June, with monthly contributions serving as installments toward the family's annual financial commitment.

We follow a monthly billing schedule in which invoices are sent around every 18th and payment for the following month's program is due on the 25th.

Because payment arrangements and enrollment timelines may differ, please rely on the schedule provided with your enrollment documents and the terms of your signed agreement.

Please note that late payment fees and refund guidelines are outlined in the Family Handbook Agreement Form.

A DAY AT ELLEMERCITO
OUR DAILY RHYTHM



MORNING | ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS
Literacy, math, and core learning through small-group and personalized instruction.

MIDDAY | MOVEMENT & RESET
Outdoor play, movement, and intentional transitions that support focus and regulation.





AFTERNOON | EXPLORATION & WORKSHOPS
Community workshops, student-led clubs, performing arts and music, and passion projects

CLOSING | COMMUNITY CIRCLE
Reflection, connection, and relationship-building to close the day together



OUR WEEKLY RHYTHM



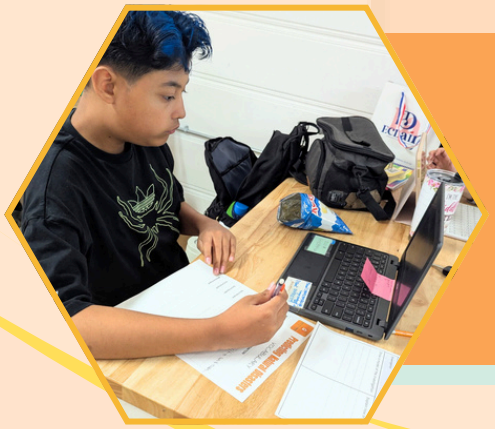
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY: CORE LEARNING DAYS

These days generally include academic learning, enrichment, collaborative projects, creative expression, and social-emotional development.

THURSDAYS: THRIVE THURSDAYS

Thursdays may include outdoor exploration, field trips, hands-on learning, or on-campus instruction and enrichment.





FRIDAYS: FLOURISH FRIDAYS

Friday experiences may include family-supported learning, independent work, extended projects, or other activities according to the learner's program.

WHAT WE REQUIRE STUDENTS TO BRING



Please prepare the supplies required for your child's program.

Common daily items include:

- Backpack
- Personal school supplies, such as pencils, a binder, and notebooks
- Labeled water bottle
- Labeled lunchbox and lunch
- Comfortable, safe footwear for movement and outdoor learning
- A personal learning device and charger, if required
- Headphones, if required
- Additional materials or clothing requested for a specific activity

Please label your child's belongings and check announcements for any special requirements.

DROP-OFF AND PICKUP



We ask families to follow the arrival and dismissal times communicated by the program.

For a safe and smooth transition:

- Arrive within the designated arrival window.
- Pick up your child promptly at dismissal.
- Ensure all authorized pickup adults are listed on your child's records.
- Follow the current identification and family passcode procedures.
- Keep emergency contacts and pickup information up to date.
- Notify the office of changes to pickup arrangements.

Dismissal is at 2:15 PM, with a 15-minute grace period, and a late-pickup fee after that period. Please review the current Family Handbook & Agreement for the applicable policy and fee.

DRESS CODE





We encourage learners to wear clothing that allows them to participate safely and comfortably in academic activities, movement, and outdoor learning.

Please ensure that clothing:

- Provides full torso coverage.
- Has shorts and skirts that reach at least mid-thigh.
- Allows safe and comfortable movement.
- Is suitable for hands-on activities and outdoor experiences.
- Does not display profanity, offensive imagery, or messages promoting hate or harm.

Additional requirements may apply to particular activities. We will communicate these whenever possible.

HEALTH, ILLNESS, AND MEDICATION





Your child's health and safety are important to us. Please keep the office informed of relevant allergies, health concerns, medication needs, and emergency contact changes.

When your child is sick: Follow the current health policy and keep your child home when they meet the program's illness exclusion criteria. If your child becomes ill during the day, we will contact you or your authorized contact to arrange pickup.

Medication: Please contact the office before sending medication to confirm the required documentation, labeling, storage, and administration procedures.

Emergency information: Keep your child's health and emergency information current so our team can respond appropriately when needed.

For specific requirements, please refer to the Family Handbook & Agreement or contact the office.

OUR COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS





We encourage learners to:

- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Respect personal space and physical boundaries.
- Follow reasonable directions related to safety and supervision.
- Use respectful words and actions.
- Care for shared spaces and materials.
- Ask for help when a problem arises.
- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Participate in reflection and repair when harm occurs.

We also ask families and adults in our community to communicate respectfully and work collaboratively with staff and one another.

REDIRECTION, REPAIR, AND CONTINUED PARTICIPATION

We recognize that mistakes and challenges are part of learning. When concerns arise, our goal is to help learners understand what happened, consider how their actions affected others, and practice more appropriate responses.

Depending on the situation, support may include reflection, problem-solving, making amends, communication with the family, or additional support planning.

When a concern affects safety or significantly disrupts learning, staff may need to take immediate action and contact the family.

Serious or repeated concerns may affect a learner's participation in accordance with the Family Handbook & Agreement and other applicable program policies.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with families while maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive community.

OUR FAMILY PARTNERSHIP





Families play an important role in creating a meaningful learning experience.

We encourage families to:

- Share relevant information about their child's learning and well-being.
- Communicate questions and concerns respectfully.
- Stay connected with their child's learning guide.
- Participate in meetings or support conversations when needed.
- Keep contact and emergency information current.
- Review announcements and important documents.
- Work collaboratively with the team when challenges arise.

Your perspective matters. We welcome conversations that help us better understand your child and strengthen the partnership between home and Ellemercito.

Ways To Get Involved



Volunteer for activities. Families may have opportunities to support approved field trips and community events, subject to program requirements and availability.

Share your skills and interests. If you have a profession, hobby, or area of expertise that could enrich our learners' experiences, let us know.

Participate in community events. Join celebrations, showcases, and other opportunities to connect with fellow families.



Encourage your child's interests. Help learners explore their ideas and connect their projects to meaningful experiences outside the program.

Stay connected. Review announcements, respond to relevant communications, and keep your family's information up to date.

Have an idea for a workshop, community partnership, or learning experience? We would love to hear from you.

CONTACT & NEXT STEPS



Experience the difference a personalized, holistic education can make. At Ellemercito Learning Community, your child's joy and limitless potential are our priority.

Ready to take the next step?

Schedule a tour and discover a truly enriching, inspiring learning experience.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

(562) 600-8406

ellemercito.org

info@ellemercito.org

ellemercito.community

10544 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90241

WE LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING WITH YOU



Thank you for taking the time to get to know Ellemercito Learning Community.

Whether you are considering joining us or have already begun the enrollment process, we are grateful for the opportunity to connect with your family.

We believe meaningful learning grows through curiosity, relationships, creativity, and shared responsibility. Every learner brings something valuable to our community, and every family helps shape the experiences that make it special.

We look forward to a year filled with discovery, meaningful connections, new challenges, and moments of growth.

Together, let's restore wonder, curiosity, and joy in learning.

Warmly,
The Ellemercito Learning Community Team