

Studio of Engaging Math



Parents Handbook

Academic year 2018 – 2019

Revised 9/5/2018

320 Washington street, suite 301, Brighton, MA 02135

617-903-3168 or admin@engagingmath.com

www.engagingmath.com

About:

Studio of Engaging Math is a K-8 after-school math program. Our small groups and expert teachers provide an ideal environment for developing critical thinking and advanced problem-solving skills.

Our program incorporates the best practices of the advanced math schools in the United States, Russia and Singapore. For more than a decade, our students have consistently posted top scores in international math competitions, on standardized tests and gained admission to the top colleges.

Our mission

Our mission is to cultivate students' appreciation of mathematics by fostering intellectual curiosity and problem solving skills. We tailor our teaching to small groups of students, in order to provide individualized attention, encourage civil and productive discussion, and create a welcoming environment for exploring big mathematical concepts.

We believe that:

- The best way to learn is by understanding the material, rather than by memorizing the rules. Our spiraling curriculum helps students understand relationships between mathematical concepts, providing a strong foundation for solving complex problems, instead of simply teaching rote skills.
- Spatial reasoning, and specifically the ability to mentally transform shapes, is a strong predictor of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees and careers. We encourage students to develop their spatial reasoning skills through guided play and hands-on assignments with construction sets. Our program includes puzzles, geometric games and building sets aimed at improving both two-dimensional and three-dimensional thinking.
- Students' exposure to complex, non-linear logic problems is key to developing critical thinking skills and increasing their interest in mathematics. Students find intrinsic pleasure in solving puzzles, which motivates them to think creatively. The love of imaginative problem solving we instill in our students leads many of them to great success in national and international math competitions.
- The Socratic Method (learning via collaborative exploration of questions and productive debate, as opposed to lecture) is a powerful teaching method for fostering independent thought. Our teachers facilitate meaningful discussions in small groups (averaging five students). Students learn better when they participate in discovering the answer, rather than hearing the solution from the teacher.

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Teacher contact information

Studio of Engaging Math
320 Washington Street, suite 301
Brighton MA 02135
617-903-3168

Larisa Itina - Educational Director	litina@engagingmath.com
Katherine Maslova - Managing Director	kmaslova@engagingmath.com
Administration	admin@engagingmath.com
Svetlana Brevde	sbrevde@engagingmath.com
Alexander Brook	a.brook@engagingmath.com
Rita Dunn	rita@engagingmath.com
Dalia Gommerstadt	dalia@engagingmath.com
Alexey Gonchior	alexey@engagingmath.com
Anya Itina	anya_itina@engagingmath.com
Julia Khrapunova	julia@engagingmath.com
Lilya Lantsman	lilya@engagingmath.com
Olga Nosatova	onosatova@engagingmath.com
Larisa Novikova	novikova@engagingmath.com
Anna Perelstein	aperelstein@engagingmath.com
Natalia Proskura	nproskura@engagingmath.com
Elina Starobinets	elina@engagingmath.com

Tuition for 2018 – 2019 academic year

Full group tuition (3-7 students)

Class	Time /week	1st semester	2nd semester	Full year
Grade K	1h 15 min	\$760	\$760	\$1,520
Grade 1 - 3	1h 30 min	\$920	\$920	\$1,840
Grade 4 - 5	1h 45min	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Grade 6 – 7	2h	\$1,120	\$1,120	\$2,240
Grade 8 (algebra)	2h	\$1,120	\$1,120	\$2,240
Grade 8 (geometry)	1h 30 min	\$885	\$885	\$1,770
Grade 8 (algebra and geometry)	3h	\$1,450	\$1,450	\$2,900

Due dates

- 1st semester tuition (September - January) is due on **August 25, 2018**.
- 2nd semester tuition (February - June) is due on **January 15, 2019**.

Fees

- In addition to regular tuition, there is an annual \$100 **registration fee** per student.
- A **late fee** of \$30 will be applied for all accounts if payment received after September 5th for the first semester and after February 1st for the second semester.
- A **returned check** fee is \$30.

Discounts

- Studio gives a discount of \$30/semester to all siblings who attend the classes at the studio.
- Studio gives a discount of \$40/semester to all 8th graders who are concurrently taking separate algebra and geometry classes.

Home schooling

- Studio offers home-schooling option (not on the regular basis) for \$15 per packet.

Private* and semi-private tuition (1-2 students)

Class	# students	1st semester	2nd semester	Full year
1 hour	1	\$70 per class *		
1 hour 15 min.	1	\$80 per class *		
1 hour 30 min.	1	\$90 per class *		
1 hour	2	\$970	\$970	\$1,940
1 hour 15 min.	2	\$1,055	\$1,055	\$2,110
1 hour 30 min.	2	\$1,135	\$1,135	\$2,270
1 hour 45 min.	2	\$1,225	\$1,225	\$2,450
2 hours	2	\$1,310	\$1,310	\$2,620
2 hours 30 min.	2	\$1,485	\$1,485	\$2,970

** The studio does not offer private or semi- classes on a regular basis*

Tuition Information

Our school year is divided into **two semesters**:

- Tuition for the 1st Semester (September – January) is due on August 25, 2017.
- Tuition for the 2nd semester (February – June) is due on January 15, 2018.

Studio gives a **discount** of \$40 per semester for each younger child from the same family.

If you require a scholarship or would prefer to pay the tuition in a few installments, please contact the Studio's administration. Each case will be decided on an individual basis.

Please resolve any financial concerns regarding the 2016-2017 year before August 1st, 2017. After this date, the Studio will no longer be able to address these issues.

Payment can be made **by check or cash only**. With your payment, please include the following information: the student's full name (first and last), teacher's name, the grade, and the day and time of the group. Please make out checks to the "Studio of Engaging Math."

You can either drop off the check in the studio (fill out our tuition envelope and use the tuition drop-off box) or you can mail it to:
Studio of Engaging Math, 320 Washington Street, suite 301, Brighton, MA 02135

Payment Plans

Studio offers the following payment plans.

Two checks per semester

For the first semester: the first check is due on August 25, the second check is due on November 1.

For the second semester: the first check is due on January 15, the second check is due on March 1.

Each check should be made for the amount 50% of the semester tuition.

Three checks per semester

For the first semester: the first check is due on August 25, the second check is due on November 1, the third check is due on December 1.

For the second semester: the first check is due on January 15, the second check is due on March 1, the third check is due on April 15. Each check should be made for the amount 1/3 of the semester tuition.

There is an additional fee for either of the payment plans - \$20 (per year) should be added to the first check of the year.

Please note that we do not send invoices or reminders that your payments are due.

If not received by the due dates, the late fee of \$30 will be applied to your account and the student will not be allowed to attend the class.

Registration and other Fees

A **late payment fee** of \$30 is automatically applied to your account if payment received after August 25th (January 15th for the second semester). If payment is not received in full the student will not be allowed to attend the class until the payment is received in full. There will not be any makeup classes offered for missed classes.

A **returned check fee** of \$30 will be charged for each returned check.

Please verify the correct amount of tuition and submit the payments on time. We do not send statements. If you receive an email notification after due date, your account is already past due and a late fee has been added to your account.

Registration fee is \$100 per year per student (non-refundable).

Enrollment

Studio offers free private evaluation sessions for each prospective student. Studio will try to find the appropriate group for each child. Studio cannot guarantee the availability of such group for every student. Studio enrolls all students for the current school year. Enrollment for this year does not guarantee the enrollment for the next year.

The following is required prior to attending the classes at the studio: completed registration form, submitted registration fee and tuition.

For students who start in the middle of the year

1. If a student joins the Studio between September and December 1st, the registration fee is \$100. Between December 1st and February 1st the registration fee is \$75, between February 1st and April 1st, the fee is \$50; after April 1st the fee is \$25.

2. The tuition for students starting in the middle of the year is prorated. After you let us know the date of the first class your child will attend, we will calculate the number of classes remaining and the amount due. Tuition and material fee must be paid before the first class.

3. If the student needs to catch up with a group, we offer one-on-one tutoring. On average, one class is needed for every 2-3 classes missed from the start of the year.

Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather, you will be notified of the cancellation **via email**. Our cancellations do not necessarily coincide with Brookline Public School cancellations.

If a lesson is cancelled by the studio, there will be a make-up class scheduled in June (June 13-19) and/or during the April vacation.

Missed classes

If your child is going to miss a group lesson, please send an email to your teacher ahead of time. This helps the teacher to plan the class accordingly.

If you need to cancel an individual lesson, please call or email your teacher ahead of time. If you don't cancel the lesson at least 24 hours prior, there is a \$30 fee.

If your child attends a semi-private group (two students) you can cancel one class per semester for your personal reason (in this case the class will be cancelled for both students). You will not be charged for this class.

If your child misses a class, please **pick up his homework** in the Studio's lobby **before** the next class.

Make ups

If your child misses a class it is usually possible to schedule a **free make-up session**. There is a limit of two free make-up sessions per semester.

Please pick up the student's packet in the studio's lobby before the make-up lesson.

For students in grades K – 5: to sign up for a make-up session, please email admin@engagingmath.com. We cannot guarantee that make-up sessions are private; there may be more than one student present at the session. Each make up session is 30 minutes long.

For students in grades 6 – 8: to sign up for a make-up session, please email your teacher directly. Each make-up session is 45 minutes long.

If there is a similar group, we might schedule a make-up lesson for your child in that group. The Studio does not guarantee the availability of a make-up class in all circumstances.

Homework packets

1 Students are required to complete the home work packet and bring it back on time.

If student fails to return a completed homework packet repeatedly (more than 3 times), he/she may fall behind the class. In this case, it may be difficult for the student to stay in the same group. In this case the studio reserves the right to transfer the student to a different group or to expel the student.

2. Please notify your teacher and the studio's administration, if a student is struggling to complete his/her homework. We will then suggest ways to help the student, such as scheduling a make-up or a private lesson or finding another group.

3. Students should write legibly, so that others can read their work comfortably:

- Student should use scrap paper for draft work.
- There should be space left between lines.
- Student should use sharp pencils (please have a pencil sharpener at home)
- There should not be any doodling in the packet

4. No part of the home work packet or word problems book or any other studio material can be reproduced in any form (including photocopying and scanning) without the prior written permission from the Studio of Engaging Math.

Manipulatives

1. Unless specified otherwise, please return manipulatives two weeks after receiving them. If a manipulative is not returned on time, we will not be able to give another manipulative.
2. If a manipulative is broken, lost or missing pieces, there is a \$20 fee/per manipulative.

Studio's lobby

Parents are welcome to wait for students in the lobby. We ask that students and parents keep their voices down in the waiting area and in the hallway. Please do not use cellphones in the waiting area as it disrupts the surrounding classrooms. Please do not bring your pets inside the studio, because some kids in the studio do have allergies

Student conduct

Students are expected to exhibit honesty, integrity, and respectfulness when dealing with teachers, staff, administrators, and other students. Students are expected to conduct themselves with consideration for others at all times.

- Students should pay attention during the class and follow teacher's instructions
- Students should use personal supplies, studio supplies, class space, and common space with care and respect.
- Acts of violence, vandalism, theft, harassments, threats by word or deed, bullying or dishonesty in any form, will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the studio.
- Running, yelling or screaming inside the studio or the building is not allowed.
- Studio expects all students to work assiduously to rise to their potential.

Expulsion/Dismissal

1. A teacher may dismiss a student for part (or the entirety) of a class if a student's behavior is disruptive for the educational process or in any way harmful to others, as well as for violations of the studio rules.
2. The Studio reserves the right to expel a student from the Studio for repetitive incidences of disruptive or harmful behavior, as well as for repeated violations of the Studio rules.
3. The Studio also reserves the right to expel a student for repetitively incomplete homework.
4. In the case of expulsion, the Studio will refund the unused portion of the tuition.

Withdrawal policy

1. New students can cancel their enrollment during the first 6 classes of their first semester. Your unused portion of the tuition will be returned to you. The registration fee is not refundable.
2. If you decide to withdraw your child in the middle of the school year, a written notice of termination is required 4 weeks in advance for complete refund of unused tuition. The registration fee is not refundable.

Change of class size

If, in the middle of the school year, the class size is reduced to two students (not by the parents request), the length of the class will be cut 15 min. shorter without recalculating the tuition.

If the class is reduced to one student (the group class becomes private), the Studio will offer the private class (60 min.) for this student without recalculating the tuition until the end of the current semester.

Transfer to a different group

1. Group classes in the Studio take priority over individual tutoring. The Studio reserves the right to change the time/day and/or teacher for individual tutoring if the time slot is needed for a new group.
2. If during a school year a student progresses far ahead or falls behind the rest of the class, we will try to transfer him/her to an appropriate group if one is available. Other options may include private lessons or home-schooling using Studio's materials. During the summer, all groups go through the reassessment process, and may be re-shuffled in order to ensure that students are the same level within a group.
3. If student cannot attend his/her group for some period of time (due to soccer, orchestra, etc.) the Studio cannot guarantee the availability of a space in a different group of the same level or individual classes. The studio will try to offer individual classes for this period of time, in this case the tuition will be recalculated according to the Studio's Tuition.

Getting the most out of each class

- Please make sure that the child submits his/her homework on time. This helps the teacher perform a timely analysis of current homework mistakes and facilitates with the preparation of the next class.
- We ask that you make the best effort to come to class on time.
- Please allow your child to rest and eat before the class. Tired and hungry children struggle to concentrate during the class.
- Explain to your child the importance of good behavior during class and appropriate respectful attitude towards his/her classmates.
- Please make sure that your child has good quality pencils, pencils sharpener, and a ruler.
- Studio sends feedback forms twice a year. Please fill it out. Your feedback helps us to improve the program and we appreciate your time.

Helping with homework

Please help your child complete the homework packets:

- We recommend that your child works on Studio homework at least **2 or 3 times** over the course of the week. Our homework packets take some time to complete, and leaving all the work for one day is not recommended.
- Please encourage your child to use **scrap paper** and to keep their work in the packets neat and easy to read. Being able to neatly present their work will be an invaluable skill in school. We often use scrap

paper in class in an effort to discourage the bad habit of messy and careless work – a habit that is difficult to break if not dealt with at an early age.

- As your child works on the packet, and especially once they are done with it, please check it to make sure that all pages have been completed.
- Please encourage your child to use legible handwriting, so that the teacher is able to read and understand the homework.
- If the child did not understand the material, please let the teacher know under “Parents’ Comments” on the homework’s cover sheet.
- Every week, please spend some time together with your child analyzing the mistakes found and marked by your teacher in the returned homework.
- If your **child misses a class**, please come by the Studio to pick up the homework packet so your child can still work on it.

Contact the teacher if...

- If your child does not understand the material or is having any kind of difficulty in class, please let the teacher know as soon as possible. Send your teacher an email describing the problem and/or write about it on the homework cover sheet.
- If the homework is too easy or too difficult, too small or too big, or your child lost the packet.
- If your child is going to miss a class. If you are planning to miss one or more classes for personal reasons (such as a planned vacation, or a scheduling conflict) and would like to get the homework packet(s) ahead of time, please let the teacher know as soon as possible to give them plenty of time to prepare the material. We do not guarantee that the teacher will be able to make the packet(s) for you because we follow an individually tailored program for each group, and create homework packets on a weekly basis only after checking last week’s homework.

Sickness

If your child is sick and may be contagious, please keep them at home to prevent contamination.

Pictures

The studio has a right to use pictures and work of its students for advertising purposes (web, print, etc.). If you’d like us to remove a particular picture of your child, please send us an email.

Registration Form

A link to the studio’s registration form will be e-mailed to you in the beginning of an academic year or when you join the studio. All parents need to submit the registration form before the start of the academic year. Families must notify the studio if there are any changes (including address, emails, phone numbers, medical information, emergency contact information, etc.)

Parking Information

Drop off and pick up location

Directions: enter between 308 and 320 Washington St.

Park at the designated spots for the studio.

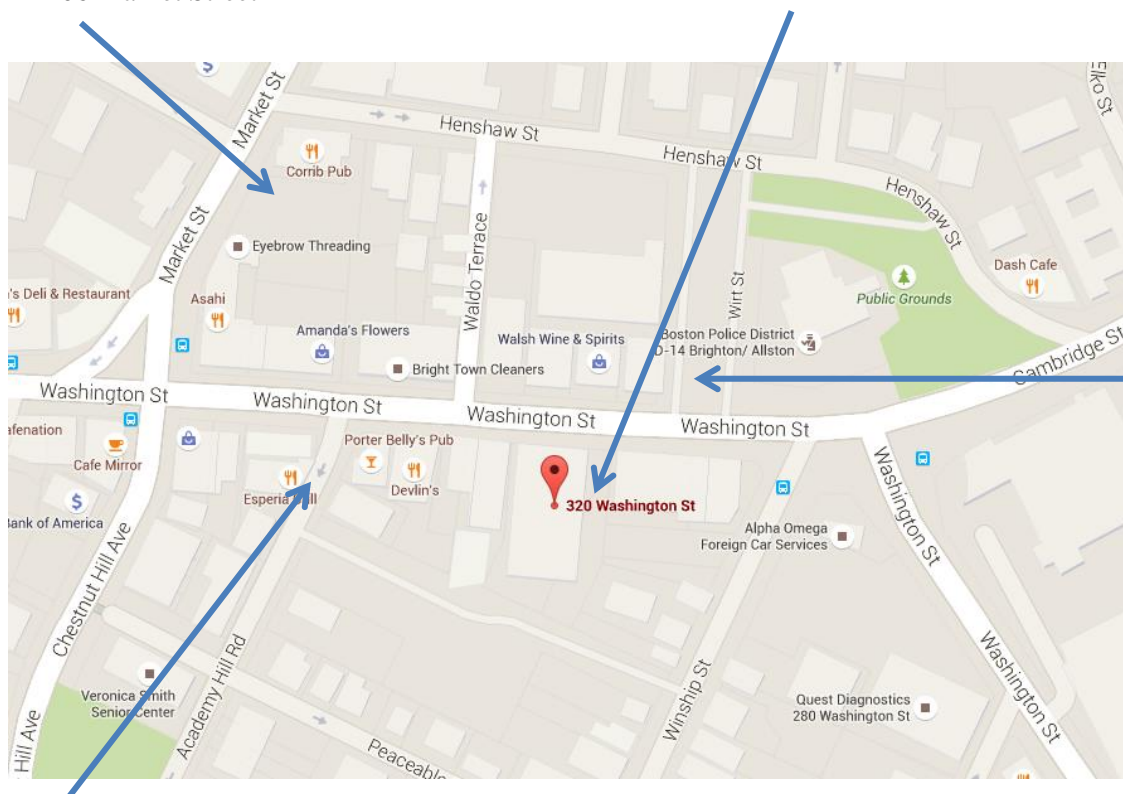
You can also park at the daycare parking spots ONLY after 6pm on weekdays and anytime on weekends

Please do not leave your car for more than 10 minutes.

The code to enter the building is 3535*

Municipal parking lot

Entrance on Market Street,
~406 Market Street



Police parking lot
~307 Washington St.

Street parking

on Washington St. and Academy Hill Rd.