



Zealous Builder Learning Collective

Dear Families,

We are so glad you are here! This informational packet was created to give you some helpful information about our learning collective, what you can expect from us, and how we partner together to support your child's education.

We know many families choose homeschooling because they want flexibility, personalization, and a strong voice in their child's education. At the same time, we understand that families often desire consistency, routine, academic guidance, and community. Our program exists to bring those two worlds together.

Our learning collective is designed to feel like a school in rhythm and structure—while remaining fully aligned with New York State homeschool regulations. Families remain the primary educators and decision-makers, while our team provides daily instruction, professional teaching support, and a consistent learning environment.

This partnership model allows families to:

- Maintain homeschooling flexibility and autonomy
- Receive support navigating New York State requirements
- Provide their children with a structured, social, and engaging learning experience
- Join a supportive community of like-minded families

Inside this handbook you will find:

- Program expectations and routines
- Communication guidelines
- Health and safety policies
- Homeschool compliance support information
- Operational procedures and family responsibilities

Our goal is to create an environment where students feel safe, known, challenged, and excited to learn—and where families feel confident, supported, and informed.

We are honored to partner with your family and look forward to further conversations!

Warmly,
Hailey Cox - Program Director
Zealous Builder Collective



Mission

Zealous Builder Collective develops boys into disciplined, emotionally intelligent, and compassionate leaders through structured learning environments where movement, reflection, responsibility, and community are foundational.

Vision

We envision learning environments intentionally designed around how boys grow best — where movement and emotional development are essential, leadership is cultivated in diverse expressions, and success is defined by character, contribution, and lifelong impact.

Our Learning Philosophy

At Zealous Builder Academy, we recognize that boys express their thinking in many different ways—through building, movement, drawing, storytelling, problem-solving, and collaboration. Inspired by the idea that children have many “languages” of learning, we design environments where these different expressions can emerge. We believe boys learn best when they can move, build, question, and reflect. By observing how boys think and create, we help them develop confidence, discipline, and leadership through meaningful experiences.

The Builder's Path

Build • Lead • Serve

Build themselves → Lead others → Serve their community.

Our Learning Environment

Built on four foundations:

- Movement
- Reflection
- Responsibility
- Community



Equity Statement

Zealous Builder Academy advances equity by addressing structural gaps in how boys experience learning environments. National and local data consistently show disparities in discipline, engagement, and leadership access for boys — particularly boys from historically marginalized communities. Our model responds by intentionally designing structured, movement-centered environments that affirm identity, cultivate emotional intelligence, and normalize leadership expectations. Equity, for us, means building environments where boys are not disproportionately penalized for developmentally typical behaviors, but are supported in transforming their energy into discipline, contribution, and purpose. Through culturally aware mentorship and community partnership, we expand access to environments where boys who have historically been underserved in traditional learning environments are affirmed, supported, and equipped to thrive.



Daily Routine Example For Prospective Families

8:00 – 9:00

Arrival + Breakfast

- Rolling breakfast
- Light socializing
- Soft start activities available (journals, puzzles, quiet build bins)
- Staff informal check-ins

This prevents chaos before movement.

9:00 – 9:25

Collaboration & Movement

- Competitive team drills
- Cross-body coordination
- Relay challenges
- Call-and-response energy resets

Purpose:

Regulate nervous systems before splitting.

9:25 – 9:35

Transition

- Hydrate
- Quick reset
- Move to designated rooms
- Visual schedule posted



9:35 – 9:50

Emotional Check-In + Leadership Roles

- Emotional vocabulary board
- Pair share
- Identify group leaders
- Clarify expectations

9:50 – 10:45

Academic Block 1 (Literacy, Math, Arts or Science)

High-focus work:

- Math OR Literacy
- 15–20 min instruction
- 30–35 min applied work
- 5 min reflection

10:50 – 11:00

Transition Micro Movement Reset

Quick:

- 5-minute circuit
- Brain gym
- Partner relay review

11:00 – 11:30 - Lunch

11:30 – 12:15 - Resting, quiet activities



12:30 – 12:55 - Outside

Post-Lunch Regulation Reset - Recess

Lower intensity:

- Walk & reflect, stretching, team rhythm drills

12:55 – 1:05 - Handwashing

1:05- 1:45

Academic Block 2

Second core subject.

More collaborative.

Less direct instruction than morning block.

- Wins
- STEM Challenge
- Passion Projects
- Leadership reflection
- Tomorrow preview

1:45 – 2:00 - Free Play Planning

Have boys plan what they would like to play with.

- Parents join in with their play
- Observe and take notes of play
- Use vocabulary and prompts for literacy growth

2:00- 2:30 - Free Play



Instructional Hours and Future Program Offerings

Our program runs on a **10 month calendar** year and all observed holidays and breaks reflect the RCSD Calendar year.

Required core subjects across all homeschooling and supplementary learning instruction:
(Literacy, Math, History, Science, Health & Wellness, Arts, Bilingual education optional)

Parents are required to complete 900 hours of learning across all subjects. Here is an outline of the **approximate number of hours** our program can accommodate for supplementary instruction based on the schedule option chosen by each child's parent(s)/caregiver(s).

Each day children that attend, we accommodate **2.25 hours** of learning.

Full Time Instructional Hours (5 days): **407.25 hrs/10 month Calendar Year**

Part Time (4 days) Instructional Hours: **325.80 hrs/10 month Calendar Year**

Part time (3 days) Instructional Hours: **244.35 hrs/10 month Calendar Year**

To reach the required number of hours, it is recommended that parents plan for:

Additional Instructional Hours Across **All Subjects**. Zealous Builder Collective will work with families to discuss the subjects they would like to teach at home and the subjects they'd like support with from the program:

1.5/day (FT5)

1.5/day + 2.5hrs (PT4)/week

1.5/day + 5hrs (PT3)/ week

Contact info:



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