



storylines^o



Storylines Global Youth Education Program

Worldschooling Community at Sea

Travel the world from the comfort of home

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Travel is not a reward for working.
It's education for living.

Anthony Bourdain

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Introduction

Storylines Global Education is the world's first K-12 youth learning program in which students continuously travel around the world learning firsthand from real-world life experiences. Their families live on Storylines residential ship *MV Narrative* and explore exotic destinations as lifelong learners.

The program is a blended learning environment that incorporates hands-on learning, online academics and adventurous field trips to the most extraordinary places on the planet. They say, 'it takes a village to raise a child' and the onboard village is a diverse community of adventurers eager to share their wealth of knowledge by providing enrichment and mentorship opportunities for the youth onboard. Do you have a student that's interested in robotics or aviation? Chances are that there is someone on board with experience who would be more than happy to teach a class in a small group setting for those who are interested.

Storylines offers a personalized learning model with each student learning at their own pace and skill level. Each family can choose from the various elements of the program to design a learning path that is individualized for their goals. For example, families who may want a more traditional, structured and academically rigorous path might choose a full course load with our accredited online learning partner while families who are more interested in experiential global learning might focus more on our field trips, workshops and tutoring. Regardless, all our students come together twice a week in small age-group based learning pods for project-based learning about the regions we are traveling in.



About Worldschooled | Homeschooling

It is commonly said in the homeschooling world that 'there are as many ways to homeschool as there are homeschoolers.' It truly is an individualized education and can be 100% customized for each individual. There are a lot of misconceptions about what homeschooling looks like – some people imagine children sitting around the dining room table for six hours a day being taught a set curriculum by a parent. However, there are just as many parents who don't do the teaching, opting instead to take advantage of the many options for online classes, tutors, field trips, projects, clubs and learning resource centers.

Progressive homeschoolers recognize that this is the Information Age and knowledge is no longer held by a purveyor of all information standing at the front of the class. They believe that it's more important for students to know 'how' to learn and how to find the information they need to succeed in life rather than to memorize a long list of facts and figures. They believe that curiosity and imagination are more important than test scores and rigid structure. They believe that students retain knowledge when experiencing things first hand rather than just reading about them in a book. They often follow a natural, play based,

interest led, child centered educational model with flexibility in which children have more autonomy and freedom to follow their own interests with parent guidance.

Worldschooling takes the progressive homeschooling concept and adds travel as a main component. These students learn languages, geography, earth sciences, world cultures (art, theater, music), history, architecture and so much more. How do they do it? Just by visiting places, observing, inquiring and furthering their knowledge based on their questions, research, mentors and field studies at local destinations.

There are several ways to worldschool – some families are living on a boat and sailing around the world. Some are traveling by air and staying in homes or hotels. Others are traveling by land in an RV. A common way to worldschool is to live abroad for months at a time for cultural immersion before moving on to a new location. Storylines has a unique worldschooling program that we believe to be the first of its kind. [Semester at Sea](#) offers college education while traveling by ship – their motto is 'The World is Your Campus' and now [Storylines](#) expands that model to offer youth education while traveling the world by sea...

'The World is Your Classroom'.

In order to fully understand worldschooling and progressive homeschooling, let's take a brief look at the history of education and other approaches for comparison.

Background of Mainstream Education

After the agricultural revolution when children were working in the fields, they were then put to work in factories during the industrial revolution. Eventually, "industry progressed and became somewhat more automated, and the need for child labor declined in some parts of the world. Employers in industry saw schooling as a way to create better workers. To them, the most crucial lessons were punctuality, following directions, tolerance for long hours of tedious work, and a minimal ability to read and write... All of them saw schooling as inculcation, the implanting of certain truths and ways of thinking into children's minds. The only known method of inculcation, then as well as now, is forced repetition and testing for memory of what was repeated... Repetition and memorization of lessons is tedious work for children, whose instincts urge them constantly to play freely and explore the world on their own. Just as children did not adapt readily to laboring in fields and factories, they did not adapt readily to schooling.... School

gradually replaced fieldwork, factory work, and domestic chores as the child's primary job. Just as adults put in their eight-hour day at their place of employment, children today put in their six-hour day at school, plus another hour or more of homework, and often more hours of lessons outside of school. Over time, children's lives have become increasingly defined and structured by the school curriculum... Schools today are much less harsh than they were, but certain premises about the nature of learning remain unchanged: Learning is hard work; it is something that children must be forced to do, not something that will happen naturally through children's self-chosen activities. The specific lessons that children must learn are determined by professional educators, not by children, so education today is still, as much as ever, a matter of inculcation..."

Excerpted from [A Brief History of Education](#) by Peter Gray, PH.D., in *Psychology Today*.

Pedagogical Approaches

One of the many advantages of a worldschooling education is that families can choose which learning style is best suited for their child. Families choose from among the Storylines Global Education Program offerings to create an education that is unique to their child's interests and learning style. This is not a one-size-fits-all model of education, but one that is flexible and adaptable. Here is a broad overview of some pedagogies, keeping in mind that families do not need to choose any one style. Worldschooling is lifelong learning...it is constantly evolving based on each individual's needs.

Traditional | Mainstream | Transmission Educational Model

The transmission model term refers to conventional educational thinking – the dominant, mainstream approach... What defines mainstream education is its view of the learning process: Knowledge is seen as an established, objective, authoritative body of facts outside the learner's experiences or personal preferences, and the role of the educator is to *transmit* this knowledge, along with accompanying academic skills and attitudes, to the learner's mind.

The transmission model denotes a one-way, largely authoritarian process. The educator is in charge and holds the authority to evaluate learning according to how well learners meet their expectations. According to a transmission understanding of education, instruction is "delivered" and classrooms are "managed" as efficiently as possible. In public schools, the educator is backed by an entire system of demands, punishments, measuring devices, and packaging of knowledge: testing, grades, standards, curriculum units, textbooks, and much more.

Excerpted from [A Map of the Alternative Education Landscape](#) by Ron Miller

Progressive | Alternative Education Models

Here is an overview of just some of the progressive models that are alternatives to the mainstream method of education.

Waldorf | Steiner

"Music, dance and theater, writing, literature, legends and myths are not simply subjects to be read about and tested. They are experienced. Through these experiences, Waldorf students cultivate their intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual capacities to be individuals certain of their paths and to be of service to the world." ~[WaldorfEducation.org](#)

Montessori

"The Montessori Method fosters rigorous, self-motivated growth for children and adolescents in all areas of their development—cognitive, emotional, social, and physical. Montessori education is student-led and self-paced but guided, assessed, and enriched by knowledgeable and caring teachers, the leadership of their peers, and a nurturing environment. Within the community of a multi-age classroom—designed to create natural opportunities for independence, citizenship, and accountability—children embrace multi-sensory learning and passionate inquiry. Individual students follow their own curiosity at their own pace, taking the time they need to fully understand each concept and meet individualized learning goals." ~[American Montessori Society](#)

Constructivist | Project Based Learning

"Constructivism's central idea is that human learning is constructed, that learners build new knowledge upon the foundation of previous learning. This prior knowledge influences what new or modified knowledge an individual will construct from new learning experiences. The second notion is that learning is an active rather than a passive process. The passive view of

teaching views the learner as 'an empty vessel' to be filled with knowledge, whereas constructivism states that learners construct meaning only through active engagement with the world (such as experiments or real-world problem solving). Information may be passively received, but understanding cannot be, for it must come from making meaningful connections between prior knowledge, new knowledge, and the processes involved in learning." ~[Simply Psychology](#)

Democratic Education | Sudbury | Free Schools

"Education in which young people have the freedom to organize their daily activities, and in which there is equality and democratic decision-making among young people and adults. These schools and programs take many forms and include public and private alternatives and homeschool resource centers."

~[Alternative Education Resource Organization](#)

Nature Immersion | Forest Schools

"Forest School is a child-centered inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting. Its roots reach back to the open-air culture, friluftsliv, or free air life, seen as a way of life in Scandinavia where Forest School began."

~[Forest School Association](#)

Reggio Emilia Approach

Early education model through age six based on research indicating that 'children are active protagonists in their growing process'; they have many ways of thinking, expressing, understanding and encountering, and they participate and weave these all together, building upon the creative process to construct their own knowledge.

~[Reggio Emilia Approach](#)

Unschooling

Unschooling is often called "child-led learning." As this name suggests, unschooling allows children to follow their own interests at their own pace, with guidance from adults but not direction. In this sense, parents act less as teachers and more as facilitators, watching to see what the children are interested in, and then providing the environment, resources, and opportunities to explore those interests. Parents provide a wide range of resources...and strategies to maximize their child's education. Unschooling parents don't dictate what their children learn at any given time, but they do provide resources which encourage curiosity, exploration, and self-directed learning. Most importantly, the parents listen to their children about their interests, and foster growth in those fields of interests. When children become interested in a subject, they may choose to pursue it further by enrolling in an online class, finding a textbook, or using some educational software to achieve their goals.

Excerpted from [Becton Loveless on Education Corner](#)



The Storylines Youth Education Model

Here are the elements offered as various parts of the onboard youth education program. Families can choose which parts suit your needs and incorporate any of the above mentioned pedagogies that suit your child's learning style.

Teachers

The onboard teachers host four small group learning pods for students of various age groups including an early education pod for ages 3-6, elementary (primary) for ages 7-11, middle for ages 12-14 and a secondary (high school) pod for ages 15-18. These meet one or two days per week with a focus on project-based learning related to the current region. The small group learning culminates with teacher curated weekly field trips for all the age groups to come together and experience what they've been learning about in their pods. The teachers are well-versed in compassionate communication and focus on nurturing curiosity and building 21st century skills such as problem solving, leadership and critical thinking. Storylines estimates having around 50 children on board and we anticipate class sizes of up to 12 students. Keep in mind that our teachers do not separate subject matter...these are multi-disciplinary classes and field studies.

Field Trips

Science, nature and the environment come alive when traveling the world. From studying astronomy within the darkest skies in the middle of the ocean to studying conservation at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand; all ages can learn together on these weekly outings.

History comes alive in the eyes of a student when experienced firsthand, rather than just memorizing dates from a textbook. From crouching through the dark tunnels in the great pyramids of Giza to hearing the gladiator stories while wandering the Colosseum in Rome, fascinating world history is a natural part of the educational experience.

Arts and culture are best appreciated with the senses, from classical music concerts at the Schonbrunn Orangerie in Vienna where Mozart and Strauss once performed... to attending a play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. There are plenty of opportunities to explore the most famous artworks in the finest museums around the world.

Math is learned naturally through number talks and using different currencies while experiencing the sights and sounds of street markets from Morocco to Shanghai. English language arts are incorporated in a number of ways including blogging, travel journaling and writing essays about interests, destinations and newfound knowledge. A younger child might put a scrapbook together with photographs and observations while visiting the moai (carved human figures) on Easter Island while a high school student might write a paper about the decline of the Rapa Nui civilization.

Social events with local kids are also planned, including home visits, school visits, and interactive sports & games.



Physical Education

Fitness, health and wellness are a core part of the Storylines experience, for both youth and adults. Children can participate in the running club on the ship's track or the sailing club with the ship's fleet of sailing dinghies. They can swim laps in the lap pool or take part in any number of active classes and outings that are organized, on the ship and ashore.

With a focus on the great outdoors, some of the many offerings on the agenda include kayaking in the Mediterranean Sea, surfing in Waikiki, hiking in the Azores, golfing in Scotland, yoga in India, and playing cricket in South Africa with local school kids. The education program aims to keep kids active and outdoors in richly dynamic environments.

Students who are hoping to get recruited by colleges for athletics will need to spend a lot of time on shore participating in competitions where recruiters are searching. Our program does not offer competitive team sports. We do have families onboard who are participating in land-based team sports seasonally then living on board in the off-season.



Online Academics

Online academics are offered through an accredited remote learning provider so that students can keep up with their studies [at their own pace](#). The provider has credentialed teachers who host asynchronous classes that can be attended at flexible times for each family's convenience. The work can be completed independently with the learning partner's teachers while on the ship or at a land-based home. Families may choose part-time or full-time course loads. Parents can get involved in student success with the support of Storylines' academic advisor. The academics can be accomplished with

only moderate support from the ship's teachers, tutors, parents and/or mentors.

Slower and accelerated learning paths can be accommodated, and particular focus has been placed on choosing an adaptable, [competency-based](#) program rather than a 'one-size-fits-all' educational model. (These can be problematic since accelerated students are often bored and slower learners are often lost). All record keeping and transcripts are handled by the service provider for the convenience of our families. This and all other elements of the Storylines Youth Education Program are optional.



Tutoring

All subjects are available for tutoring from elementary to college including languages. One-to-one tutoring is available through a multitude of resources:

- Storylines teachers
- Storylines academic advisor
- Resident and crew mentorships
- Older students tutoring younger students
- Online tutors (our academic advisor keeps a list of resources)
- The online academics provider also offers one-on-one support with a teacher

Workshops

On the ship and on the shore, workshops are offered in many ports of call with local experts. These workshops are all designed for mixed age groups. These are just a few examples:

- African artisans teaching basket weaving
- Japanese chefs teaching kid-friendly cooking classes
- Local musicians in Brazil leading an interactive percussion demonstration
- Biologist in Panama introducing students to the flora and fauna of the rainforest
- Historian in Athens hosts a hands-on architecture workshop in which youth construct a 'temple' out of balsa wood including columns and pediments.

Resource Center | Academic Advisor

Storylines Global Education's resource center has learning supplies for a variety of ages such as math manipulatives from base ten blocks for elementary grades and scientific calculators for upper grades. You'll find a microscope, telescope, books for all reading levels and plenty of educational games. The Academic Advisor oversees the resource center, acts as the teacher's assistant and is available to support parents and students in one-to-one sessions. They are also available for homework help, tutoring and college counseling.

Facilities

Storylines ship *MV Narrative* has been designed with the unique needs of a lifelong learning community. These include:

- Event space (for lectures, workshops, etc)
- Kids & teens recreation space
- Education & enrichment studio (resource center)
- Maker space and science lab
- Art studio
- Vertical farm

- Watersports
- Golf simulator
- Sports gear
- Racquet sports
- Lap pool
- Music & video studio

Gifted & Learning Differences

Special educational needs are accommodated through our [online learning partner's curriculum](#). The curriculum also supports gifted and talented students who are on an [accelerated learning path](#) including honors and [advanced placement \(AP\)](#) classes. Our academic advisor provides a list of additional resources for those with learning differences including special educational needs and giftedness.



Mentorships

Formal and informal mentorships are a valuable part of Storylines Global Education. Older kids love sharing their knowledge with younger kids and likewise, younger kids love learning from older kids. Most parents have some experience with distance learning at this point but they should know that there are some veteran home educating parents on board who are always happy to mentor others. Other residents on board want to support, tutor and mentor our youth who have similar interests and may even consider apprenticeships.

Clubs & Classes

There are a multitude of resident-led clubs on board which are open to youth. Chess, scouts, culinary arts, trivia, robotics, fiber arts, film and book clubs are just a few examples. Residents also lead interest-based classes including dance, piano, VBS, coding and photography. Does your child have an interest and want to start a club? Encourage them to organize a new club such as Pokémon, Minecraft, or Dungeons & Dragons. Storylines Global Education includes extra-curricular activities facilitated by residents, staff, youth and adults alike.





Volunteering

There will be many opportunities for volunteering around the world. Storylines resource advisor can assist your student in assessing their interests and goals, and help facilitate these placements in various destinations. Some students may want to volunteer with animals, hospitals, food security, vulnerable youth, schools, donating supplies, beach clean-ups, tree planting and many other options depending on their age and interests.

Camps | Outdoor Education | Nature Immersion

Outdoor programming includes day camps for younger students and multi-day family camps. For older students, these are multi-day programs hosted by outside organizations such as Outward Bound and scouting organizations for an additional cost. There are many choices available that include biking, camping, backpacking, rock climbing, canyoneering, leadership, dog sledding, fishing, aquatics, ATVs, conservation, hiking, STEM, wilderness, surfing, service, scuba, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, sailing, mountaineering, skiing & snowshoeing, equestrian sports and shooting sports.





College Prep

There are several ways to get into college which can be accomplished while worldschooling with Storylines. Some people want a traditional dormitory experience while some would be happy to embark on their university path studying remotely and continuing to travel the world. Some want to take a gap year. Some might want to do an exchange program abroad or Semester at Sea. Our academic advisor is also a college advisor. The Storylines Worldschooling Education Program is flexible and designed to support high school and collegiate learners on various paths. Here are some examples.

High School/College Dual Enrollment

On this path, students take community college classes (CC) in the high school years through 'dual-

enrollment' programs. CC classes are at a similar level to high school AP classes. Many people do not know that high school students can earn **both** high school credit and college credit from the same class. Most high school students are already maxed out on course load and therefore cannot participate. However, the homeschool community takes advantage of this because one semester of a community college class is generally equal to two semesters of a high school class. Some think of it as 'double dipping'. This saves a lot of time for students who would rather be exploring exotic destinations than sitting in a classroom. Storylines' students choose remote learning CC classes. [Many states offer dual enrollment classes](#) for free to high school students. It's important to know that these classes go on the student's

permanent college transcript so remember to withdraw from classes on time if there is any chance the grade might be lower than average.

Dual enrollment students can go on to either transfer to college or enter as a freshman. If your student wants to apply as a freshman, the important thing to know is not to take any more community college classes after your student graduates high school. Storylines' academic advisor can advise you on these processes.

Freshman Applicant

This is the more competitive path to enter university so students need to make their college application stand out from the rest.

The traditional way to do that is by taking advanced placement (AP) classes, scoring high on [SAT exams](#), writing a standout essay and having a well-rounded extra-curricular life (participating in sports and clubs, volunteering, taking on leadership roles, starting a business, etc). Students who prefer this path can complete high school through Storylines' online learning partner. Science labs and [AP classes](#) are available. Parents and students should understand that this can induce [stress on teens](#).

However, college admissions officers have seen it all and they are [not just looking for the smartest students](#). They are interested in diverse students with unique life experiences who can contribute to class discussions from varying world views. Storylines' students will naturally have a competitive advantage due to their world travels. Few applicants can say that they have spent their high school years traveling around the globe. A worldschooling education definitely sets an application apart from the rest.

Storylines students can apply as a college freshman regardless if they chose the traditional high school path with our online learning partner or if they chose the dual enrollment path.

Transfer Student

Transfer students traditionally complete high school before they start taking community college (CC) classes. The CC credits then transfer to many four-year universities. It is generally a less expensive and less competitive path than applying as a freshman although some of the classes can be repetitive from high school to CC. There are fewer hoops to jump through for admissions as a transfer student than a freshman applicant because the student has already proven what grades they can achieve on college level work. SAT scores are often not required.

Storylines students can apply as a college transfer student regardless if they chose the traditional high school path with our online learning partner followed by community college classes, or if they chose the dual enrollment path.

Earned Admissions

Arizona State University

Overview. Dual enrollment classes can also be taken through [Arizona State University's earned admissions program, now titled 'universal learner' \(UL\)](#). These classes are asynchronous and online. This is a very popular program with homeschool students. ASU is a four-year school which does not grant associates degrees (AA). Up to 24 credits can be earned as part of the UL program.

Admissions. Enrolling as a high school student only requires an ID. If utilizing the 24 credits toward a four-year ASU degree, then high school and college transcripts are submitted as part of the application and [admissions are as a first year student](#) (SAT scores are optional, no essay, no letters of recommendation required).

The Path. After the 24 credit UL program is complete, students can use the credits earned in ASU classes taken in high school and continue on toward an ASU 4-year bachelor's degree or they can transfer the credits to another school.

The highly unique part of the UL program is that students don't need to pay for the class until after they see their grade. At that point, they can opt to pay (currently \$425) for the class and have it added to their transcript. If they don't like the grade, they don't pay for it and it doesn't go on their transcript.

Harvard Extension School

Overview. This is not a dual enrollment program and students cannot be enrolled in any other programs. [Harvard Extension School](#) (HES) is an earned admission program for undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees and pre-medical. It can be completed online or in person with only a brief on-campus requirement. It includes access to all Harvard resources and clubs on campus and online including libraries.

Admissions. This progressive program only requires a high school diploma (or equivalent) to enroll in classes. (No application required). If students earn a B or better in three courses, they qualify for admissions. (No SAT, no AP classes, and none of the usual pressures that a high school student would usually undergo to get into Harvard.) *"We believe the best way to prove you can succeed in the program is by first succeeding in the classroom."* (The [postbaccalaureate premedical program](#) has a traditional application process.)

The Path. Students can transfer up to 64 credits from other schools such as community colleges or ASU. Harvard Extension School is intended for adult learners and students can apply five years after graduating high school. It is up to the parents of homeschooled students to decide when their child has finished high school and many do so early, about the age of 16, in which case they are eligible for HES enrollment at age 21. Between the ages of 16 and 21, they can be taking just two classes online per semester at other colleges while traveling the world and having time to enjoy these experiences due to a lighter workload. This path earns a total of 12 credits per year over five

years then transfers those 60+ credits to Harvard at age 21. This means they have completed half of a bachelor's degree at a similar age to a traditional freshman student while studying only part time.

Harvard Extension also has a unique ['joint undergraduate and graduate program'](#) for an accelerated path to earn both a bachelor of liberal arts (ALB) and a master of liberal arts (MLA) in a shorter amount of time due to four courses counting toward both degrees. On this path, students would likely switch to full time studies upon enrolling at Harvard at age 21 to complete the remaining 64 credits of undergraduate work. (Classes are four credits. Four classes per semester equals two years). This path results in earning a Harvard ALB at age 23 and a Harvard MLA at age 24. The MLA requires 40 credits. Classes are four credits each which would normally be a total of 10 classes but four of them are already counted with the ALB on the 'joint' path, so that's just six additional classes to earn an MLA. If taking three classes per semester, that's one additional year. (21 yrs at enrollment + 2 yrs to earn an ALB + 1 yr for an MLA = 24 yrs old.)

Quotes / Testimonials

"Families have been boatschooling and worldschooling for countless years on an individual family level and they have often cited the need for having other like-minded families for shared social and educational experiences. Now students of all ages can come together and travel the world in what we believe is the first ever world traveling youth education program for ages 4-18."

- Lorena Aloe, Storylines special programs director

"Fundamentally, this program is a pioneering group of people living and educating ourselves and our children in an unprecedented way. Scientific evidence shows us that enrichment is the exponent of learning. When you add the sights, smells, tastes, sounds, people and geography of a different place - all of that adds to learning. What the ship offers and what the lifestyle offers is a fluid and moving education...just like the water it sits on. The benefit of the program isn't in the specific elements, but rather in the unique opportunities that living and educating at sea poses. Everyone on board is learning in a liberating way that is dependent on where the vessel takes us. It's the ship. It's the motion. It's the fluidity that is going to pioneer this new platform, this new way of educating not only ourselves but our children and extended families. I believe there is an opportunity for everybody on board, owners and employees, to provide our young people with an unparalleled educational experience."

-Heidi from Montecito, California

"Most worldschool parents don't choose this life as a means for having a structured education; we choose this life because we believe that lifelong learning happens outside the four walls of a classroom. It isn't necessary to have our children sit in a school five hours every day in order for them to learn. For our family, learning happens intuitively all the time, every day of the week out in the real world."

-Sarah P, worldschooling parent

"Storylines really does have everything that you need in your community - a bank, post office, theater, market, dry cleaner, library, restaurants...and now it has a school, too!"

-Mark from London

"By living full or part time on a ship that is continuously circumnavigating the globe, our students are worldschooling as true global citizens who quite literally have the whole world as their classroom. They are learning all around the world and Storylines is the only program that offers this experience for this age group."

-Storylines CEO Shannon Lee

Instruction needs *"to become more student centred than teacher-centred, to connect the school to real-life situations, and to focus on understanding and thinking rather than on memorization, drill and practice."*

-International Academy of Education & International Bureau of Education

Resources

Case Study

Ad Astra | Astra Nova

From [Interesting Engineering](#): “In 2014, Elon Musk pulled all his five children out from their private school. By doing this, he gave the first step in changing the future of education. The first step was to unschool them then create a little school according to their needs for the future. The school was conveniently created in the SpaceX facilities in California...As someone with a vision into the future and someone working exclusively toward building the technologies that are going to be essential... Elon Musk knows that the traditional school system is not working any longer.”

Ad Astra grew and became Astra Nova.

From the [website](#): “Curiosity is one of the most essential of human traits - a constant need to understand the world around us through uncertain tinkering and wandering journeys. We exploit this hard-wired trait to promote self-directed and inquiry-based learning, tapping into students’ natural curiosity to re-calibrate their relationship with the unknown and unlock their boundless potential...Participants take part in a dynamic curriculum that develops evidence-based reasoning skills and capitalizes on each student’s instinct to explore. We foster a growth mindset, and build upon the benefits of playful, project-based, iterative learning.”

From [Interesting Engineering](#): “The current education system in most countries is doing nothing to prepare the workforce and leaders of tomorrow. It is time for a change. ...Online learning is fast, efficient, prioritizes students’ own learning pace, adds flexibility, and lets each individual student learn at their own best time. As individuals, we are not all the same. One of the best advantages of online learning is that it becomes a resourceful way to help students learn remotely no matter where in the world they are. As long as they have an Internet connection and a computer, learning can happen at any time right from the comfort of their home...The Astra Nova School’s pillars include caring about community, focusing on student experiences, and sharing the work they do with the world.”

FAQs

Do I have to teach my child?

Some parents want to be more involved than others. Most parents will likely leave the teaching to other adults so they can focus more on socio-emotional skills, connected parenting, global life experiences, and executive functioning (helping the student stay organized with their studies.)

What about social skills?

There is a myth that homeschoolers do not have friends and social skills because they are isolated at home doing schoolwork all day with no peer group. This may be true for some families but it is laughable to progressive homeschoolers who are constantly meeting with friends and peer groups to take classes, go on field trips, and attend park days and social outings.

Friendships are easily formed within Storylines’ small group, community environment with the teacher having time to dedicate toward team building and collaboration in a more nurturing environment than a traditional classroom. Worldscool students are very good at making friends of all different ages, communicating with adults, and connecting with people of diverse backgrounds.

There are other social interactions that come with traditional schools that can be avoided such as bullying, peer pressure, conformity and other negative influences. Children are free to be themselves when they are not in a competitive, conforming environment.

Students will also be able to stay in touch with their land-based friends through video calls, gaming, texting, social media, etc.

Is the Storylines Youth Education Program an accredited school?

Our students who participate in the full-time academics portion of our program are enrolled in an accredited online school. Our students who are not participating in the online academics, or are not taking a full course load through our partner, will register in their state or country as homeschoolers. Our academic advisor assists with registering and reporting to your local bureau, as well as record keeping and providing transcripts. You can see [state guides here](#) and [country guides here](#).

Why don’t the teachers teach the academic classes in the learning pods?

Some of our families live on board part time and want to keep up with academic programming when they are not on the ship, which is one of the main reasons that learning pod time is not exclusively dedicated to academics. Also, academics are faster learned in a one-on-one environment. Our educational model recognizes that travel as a lifestyle and learning methodology is the most unique part about our students’ educational experience so experiential destination education is the main focus of our learning pods.

How will my children complete the online academics if we are out sightseeing most days?

Families can choose how many online classes their children take to keep work loads manageable. Some families may choose to complete academic work on a daily basis with a consistent schedule, perhaps an hour or two per day. Others may choose to take a few months off from academic work while traveling with Storylines then complete the work when they are at their land based home on a more accelerated schedule, perhaps a few hours per day to ‘catch up’. [Similar to how student athletes and child actors are

known for completing academics only in the off-season.] There are many other options, but the main thing to know is that the program is optional, flexible and it's self-paced, so you don't need to complete a class in a certain timeframe such as a semester.

Will my child stay at grade level?

Yes, if you choose to follow a full course load with the online academic provider or one-to-one tutors.

Will my child be able to get into a regular high school or college?

Yes, check with the school's admission department for their exact requirements. Our academic advisor can help with this (and also with record keeping and transcripts). Some of our families will be on a traditional education path with our accredited online learning partner and admissions will be the same for them as anyone else. Some of our other families will be on a non-traditional education path similar to homeschool and unschool students - they can often complete a competency test as part of the admissions process for high school. 'See the College Prep section for additional details about university admissions.'

Conclusion

Storylines Global Youth Education is the first K-12 worldschooling community that actually travels the globe. It is a one-of-a-kind experience: a well-rounded, real-world learning environment that allows plenty of time for family connection, social endeavors and time to develop individual interests and skills. It is an inquiry-based model that is highly adaptable to each child's individual learning style and offers families a lot of flexibility. With worldschooling, parents can feel confident, knowing they are providing a safe environment away from the negative influences that come along with a traditional school setting. It is experiential global learning that is fun and engaging - an education that students love. It offers them the opportunity to experience other cultures, learn how people live in other parts of the world, play with local kids, learn global languages and volunteer in various communities. It is a highly unique global education in which families can learn alongside each other - a truly priceless lifelong learning experience and a world-class education unlike any other.

Alternative Education Resources

[Race to Nowhere](#) - a film that challenges current thinking about how we prepare children for success

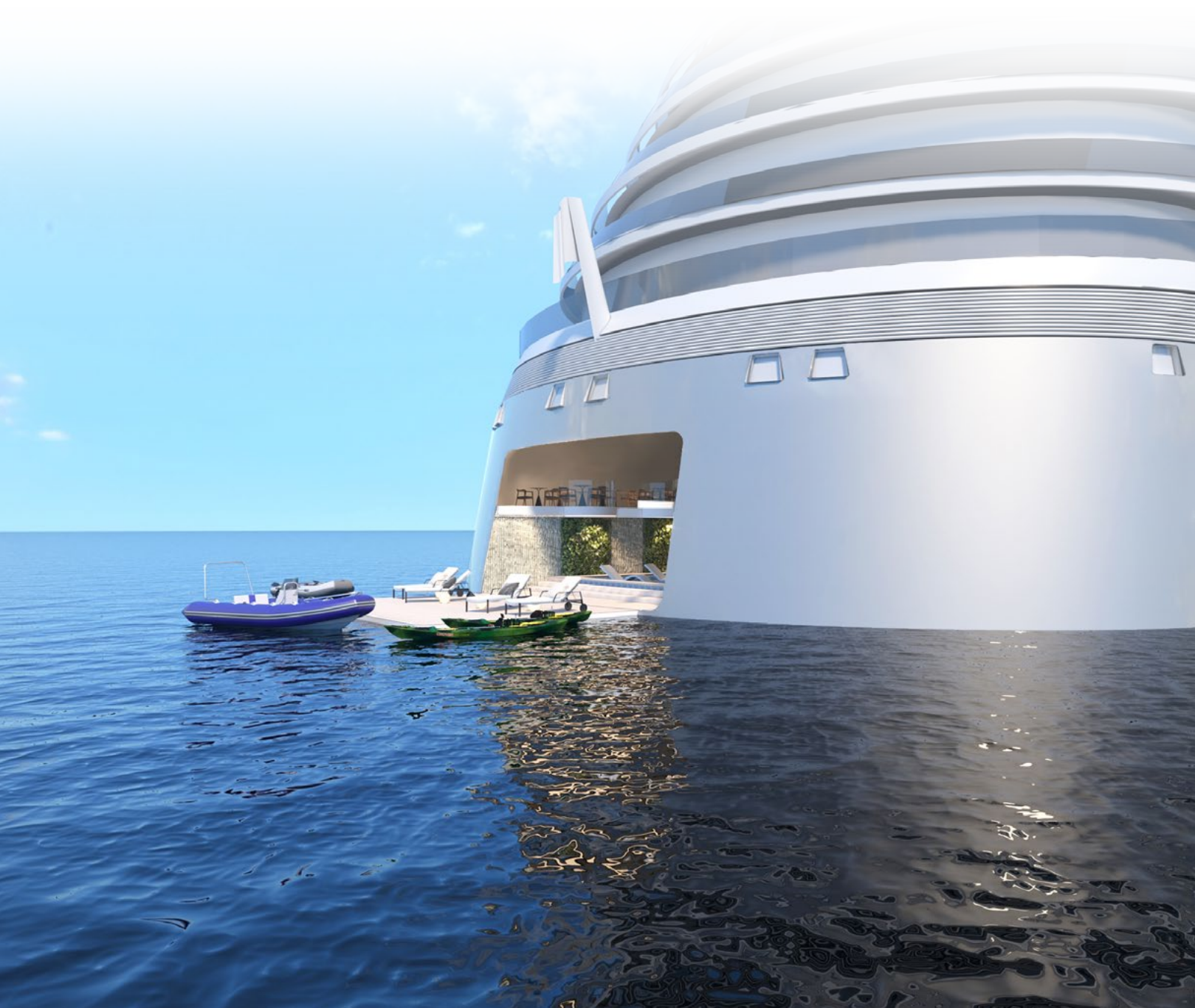
[Class Dismissed](#) - a film about learning outside the classroom

[Given](#) - a film about a traveling family that experiences different cultures around the world

[Changing Educational Paradigms](#) - TED talk by Sir Ken Robinson

[Dumbing Us Down](#) - book by John Taylor Gatto

[Exponential Wisdom Episode 95: Transforming the Educational System](#) - podcast with Peter Diamandis





“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do.”

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