

Curiosity in Classrooms:

Exploring influences of curiosity and broader supports for learning

CuriosityInClassrooms.com

Children's curiosity is a strong indicator of both academic and non-academic outcomes, such as persistence, growth-oriented behaviors, and general life satisfaction and well-being. The goal of the Curiosity in Classrooms project is to **examine the development of curiosity in children and to understand how teaching practices may impact that development.** We hope that the outcomes from this study will provide concrete strategies that teachers can implement to support students' curiosity and more robust learning while making learning meaningful and enjoyable for both students and teachers. This study is funded by the [John Templeton Foundation](#) and is being conducted by researchers at the University of Virginia School of Education and Human Development, Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning ([CASTL](#)).

The [Curiosity in the Classroom](#) study will take place during the 2023-24 school year and will include a total of 3 hours/year requested from participating teachers (grades 2-3), mostly out-of-school time (paid).

If you decide to participate you will receive:

- Key findings report and full final study report, as well as copies of all publications.
- We are happy to partner and collect data relevant to the school or with analyzing our data in a way most informative and useful for you.
- Optional: Professional development opportunities in late fall/early winter, 2023 and summer 2024 with access to online resources for support student curiosity and engagement.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to:

- Provide a roster of teachers in 2-3 grades.

If one or more of your teachers decide to participate, they will be asked to:

- Facilitate the distribution of the parent package.
- Schedule classroom observations with their researcher contact.
- Schedule a time for a UVA team member to:
 - Administer a student survey 2-3 times a year (15 min.),
 - Implement students' hands-on-activity 2-3 times a year (20 min.).

Teacher Activity	Time required	Description <i>*Participation in all components would be \$425 in compensation)</i>	# Events
Distribute Parent package	30 mins.	Include the Curiosity in the Classroom Parent package in the student's home folder/beginning school package, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Observation Notification letter • Parent Consent Forms (survey and direct measures). 	1 time
Classroom Observations	Up to 1 hour total (email to schedule 4-10x)	A UVA team member will schedule a visit to record instruction based on the teacher's preferred time to visit; these observations will last ~1 hour. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers DO NOT need to prepare for observations (business-as-usual classroom instruction) 	1/month
Coordinating student data collection	Up to 1 hour (email to schedule)	Teachers will coordinate scheduling time for UVA Team members to collect student measures.	2-3 times
Survey and Interview Optional	1 hour (out of school time)	Teachers have the option of participating in a survey (15 minutes) and interview (45 minutes) about their experiences with curiosity and creativity in the classroom.	1 time
TOTAL	2.5 – 3.5 hours	3 hours for <i>coordinating</i> data collection; up to \$350 Optional: 1 additional hour for survey (15 min) and interview (45 min); up to \$75.	

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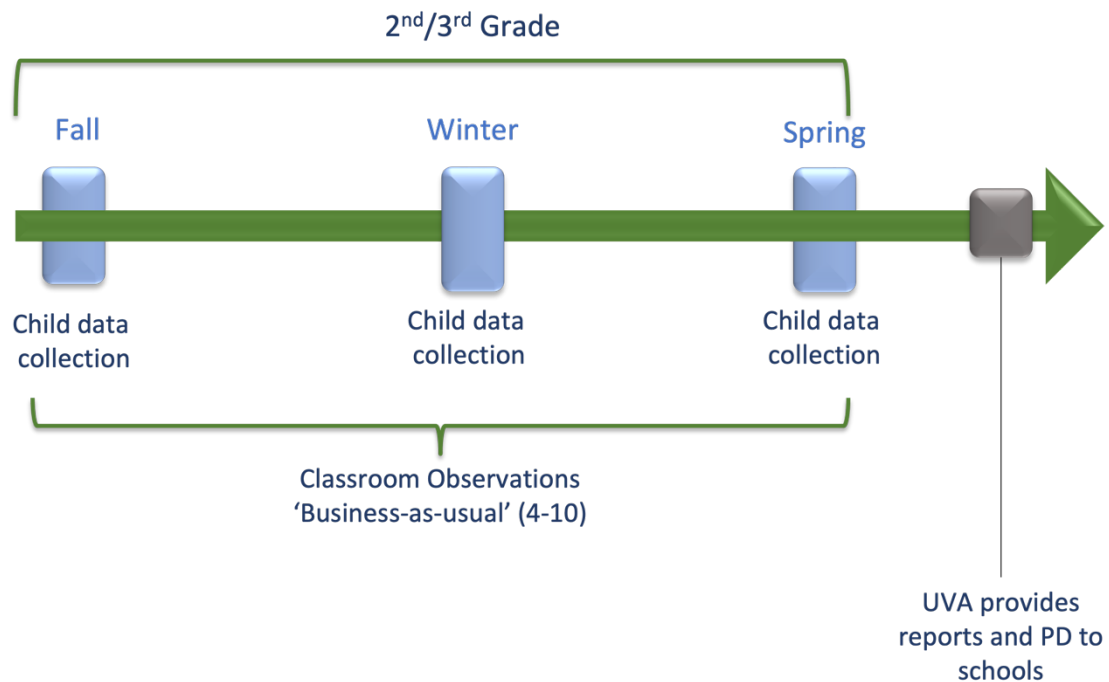
The above requests of teachers will facilitate the following student participation:

Student Activity	Time required	Description	# Events
Student Survey	1 hour (20 min*3)	A UVA team will administer a short survey of children's character strengths. Will be administered to consented students for 15 minutes at a time. This can be done as a whole group survey.	2-3 times
Hands-on curiosity and creativity tasks	1 hour (20 min*3)	Curiosity and creativity tasks will be conducted by a UVA team member and will include consented students only. Tasks last ~20 minutes. Teachers will coordinate convenient times to have a researcher come and work one-on-one with consented students, such as during choice time.	
TOTAL	1-2 hours	Up to 2 hours across the school year depending on participation (students may choose to participate in only one or the other, or both options)	

* Teachers have the **option to self-record** classroom instruction and/or administer student survey, if preferred by teacher. UVA team will provide the necessary materials and support.

Study timeline

Curiosity in Classrooms Timeline 2023-24 SY



We would love to schedule a brief Zoom meeting (~15 min.) with your team to share more details and find the best ways to partner with your school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us at curiosity@virginia.edu.