

All Programs Course Descriptions 2025-2026



Homeschool Academy: Page 2
Monday Creative Options: Page 11
Wednesday Creative Options: Page 18

Homeschool Academy



Homeschool Academy (T/Th) Course Schedule 2025-26

9:15-9:25	Drop-Off						
9:30	Circle Time						
9:35	Creative Explorations (5-8 yrs) Required for kindergarteners and recommended for 1 st and 2 nd grade	Creative Explorations (5-8 yrs) Additional section for advanced 1 st grade and 2 nd grade students	Literature Adventures (7-9 yrs)	Learning Strategies (8-12 yrs)	X Factor Math (10-15 yrs)	Media Makers (13+ yrs)	Artistic Expression in the Visual Arts (14+ yrs)
10:35			Wild Weather (7-10 yrs)	Who Was? Famous People in History (8-13 yrs)	Book Club: Choose Your Own Adventure (9-13 yrs)	Career Exploration (12+ yrs)	Dissecting Nature: A Hands-On Anatomy Lab (14+ yrs)
11:35	Lunch and Discovery Play						
12:35	Playful Thinkers (5-8 yrs)	Animal Ecosystems (6-9 yrs)	Archimedes' Artists Math Class (7-11 yrs)	Science Lab with Science Fair (8-12 yrs)	Modern Masters Art (9-13 yrs)	Chemistry in the Kitchen (12+ yrs)	Literature: Historical Fiction (13+ yrs)
1:35	Sensory Science (5-8 yrs)	Word Wizards (6-8 yrs)	Storybook Art Studio (7-10 yrs)	Chemistry in the Kitchen (8-12 yrs)	Wild Weather (9-13 yrs)	History of Dance (12+ yrs)	Civics & American Government (14+ yrs)
2:35	All Program Discovery Play						
3:00	Pick-Up						

Homeschool Academy Course Descriptions

Homeschool Academy: 9:35-11:35 2 Hour Block

Creative Explorations

Ages: 5 - 8

Required for K-1st Graders, Recommended for 2nd Graders

Creative Explorations is a dynamic class designed for children aged 5 to 8, where reading, writing, and creativity come together in an exciting, hands-on learning experience. In this class, students will explore the foundations of reading using the curriculum UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute), while building writing skills and developing fine motor abilities through engaging, interest-based activities. This class takes learning outside, and all-weather clothing is a must! Whether it's exploring nature and playing imaginatively, or taking a storybook adventure outdoors, kids will enjoy fresh air and open spaces that help reinforce learning in a fun, interactive way.

This course is required for kindergarten and 1st grade students. 2nd grade students are encouraged to join as well, as specified literacy lessons will assist all students to work on their grade-appropriate academic goals.

Additional Materials: raincoat, rain boots, snow pants, snow boots & waterproof gloves.

Homeschool Academy: 9:35-10:35 Block

Literature Adventures:

Around the World in Picture Books

Ages: 7-9

Explore the world with us through children's literature! We'll study a variety of countries and their cultures by reading stories, studying maps, cooking and sampling foods, listening to music, and understanding different cultural celebrations. Students will record their discoveries in a journal to reinforce and expand literacy skills.

Learning Strategies

Ages: 8 – 12

Students will dive into exploring multiple intelligence, learning about how their brains and bodies learn, as well as get real life practice implementing learning strategies to help them in learning and life. Topics like breaking down a task into steps, brainstorming techniques for problem solving, calming their mind and body, and using tools like schedules, skim reading, note taking, and even games to help them learn.

Homeschool Academy: 9:35-10:35 Block (continued)

X-FACTOR Math

Ages: 10-15

Explore the unknown in math as students find the X factor in this pre-algebra-based course. This year's focus will be on early algebra and pre-algebra concepts brought together with the Mighty Roots hands-on, active approach to learning. Students who enroll in this course should understand and be able to complete advanced addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. *If a student has not yet mastered these skills, it is recommended they take Archimedes' Artist.*

Media Makers

Ages: 13+

Photojournalism and graphic design—all using mobile phones. Throughout the year, students will develop basic skills in capturing images, editing and designing layouts. Students will work together to create a seasonal newsletter that showcases their design work, photos and writing skills which will be shared with their peers and families at MRA. By the end of the course, students will also complete a designed yearbook for Mighty Roots.

Additional Materials: Students will need to provide their own smartphone and/or tablet. iPhone and iPads are preferred. (Preferably models that are no older than 5 years)

Artistic Expression in the Visual Arts

Ages: 14+

Artistic Expression in the Visual Arts is an advanced and dynamic art class designed for middle and high school students who are eager to develop their artistic skills and explore a wide range of techniques and mediums. In this class, students will experiment with drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media, expanding their skill set and learning how to translate their ideas into finished works of art. Through hands-on projects, constructive feedback, and mentorship, students will hone their technical skills, improve their creative processes, and gain confidence in their work. While the focus is on artistic exploration and growth, students will also have the option to prepare their work for submission to a national art competition, offering them an opportunity to showcase their talents at a larger level.

Homeschool Academy: 10:35-11:35 Block

Wild Weather

Ages: 7-10

From fire tornadoes to raining frogs, the weather can be as wild as it is fascinating! In this course, students will explore some of history's most extreme weather events while also learning about the everyday weather patterns that shape our world. Through hands-on experiments, engaging discussions, and research, students will discover how meteorologists predict the weather, the tools they use, and how to read the skies—like identifying clouds to anticipate storms. We'll also examine weather folklore, such as the Farmer's Almanac, and compare it to modern forecasting techniques. While we'll explore the power of nature, we'll also learn why understanding the science behind weather helps us respect it rather than fear it. With today's advanced technology and knowledge, we can better prepare for and protect ourselves from extreme weather. Whether your child loves science, mysteries, or the great outdoors, they'll love diving into the world of Wild Weather!

Who Was? Famous People in History

Ages: 8-13

Students will learn about the people who have changed and shaped the world, utilizing the "Who Was?" book series. Presenting true, biographical life stories in an accessible way, these books will be the springboard for fun living history projects. With a focus on immersive experiences and hands-on learning, history isn't boring! **Students may be asked to provide up to 4 "Who Was?" books for the year (Books cost approx. \$5 each).**

Book Club: Choose Your Own Adventure

Ages: 9-13

In this interactive book club, students will read classic Choose Your Own Adventure books and explore how choices shape storytelling. Students will explore different plot paths, discuss character decisions, and develop their own branching narratives.

What to Expect:

Reading: Weekly reading assignments from classic CYOA books to be completed at home.

Writing: Students will write their own CYOA stories with multiple paths and endings.

Discussion & Analysis: Exploring alternate outcomes and story structures.

Collaboration: Group storytelling projects and peer feedback.

This course will involve a significant amount of writing and requires an independent reader of chapter books reading level.

Additional Materials: Students will provide their own copy of each book studied.

Homeschool Academy: 10:35-11:35 Block (continued)

Career Exploration

Ages: 12+

This dynamic and engaging course is designed for students ages 12-18 who are eager to explore various career paths and learn about entrepreneurship. Through a combination of hands-on projects, guest presentations from industry professionals, and practical tools, students will gain the skills and confidence to manage their career development and explore their entrepreneurial potential.

Dissecting Nature: A Hands-On Anatomy Lab

Ages: 14+

Dissecting Nature is a hands-on, comprehensive course designed for high school students interested in exploring the structure and function of mammalian organ systems. Through comparative analysis, students will examine the similarities and differences between human and animal anatomy, gaining a deeper understanding of biological form and function. Hands-on dissections of various animal specimens will provide practical experience in anatomical study, reinforcing key concepts. This course is designed to enhance students' knowledge of anatomy, from cells and tissues to organs and systems.

Homeschool Academy: 12:35-1:35 Block

Playful Thinkers

Ages: 5-8

Playful Thinkers is an exciting and interactive learning games experience for kids aged 5 to 8, where curiosity is a must, and learning never stops! In this class, students will embark on a fun-filled journey that combines play and education. We'll explore new ideas, discover the world around us, and nurture a love for learning through engaging board games, hands-on activities, and imaginative play. This class will incorporate early learning concepts such as numbers, letters, patterns, and problem solving. There is no subject off limits: we'll play with geography, biology, outer space, math, language arts, and so much more!

Animal Ecosystems

Ages: 6-9

In this course, students will learn about animals and their environments through hands-on experiences using STEM (science, technology, engineering and art). Students will have the opportunity to learn about the earth's different climates and ecosystems, exploring animal behaviors and their connection to their natural environments. Students will have the opportunity to learn about conservation and the purpose of zoos and aquariums.

Homeschool Academy: 12:35-1:35 Block (continued)

Archimedes' Artists Math Class

Ages: 7-11

Explore the beauty of math with art! We'll learn about qualities of numbers, types of lines, shapes, patterns, fractions, symmetry, and more by creating unique works of art that help students integrate mathematical concepts in a holistic way. We'll also explore the stories of mathematicians and artists across history that have helped us gain a better understanding of our universe. These projects will help students begin to build the foundation of understanding that math is all around us.

Science Lab with Science Fair

Ages: 8-12

Experiment, Explore, and Discover! In this hands-on science lab, students will dive into exciting experiments, explore key scientific concepts, and develop observation and inquiry skills. Through interactive activities and journaling, students will document their discoveries, make predictions, and analyze results. As the year progresses, students will also conduct their own science fair experiment, learning how to design an investigation, record data, and create a science fair board. The class will culminate in a science fair where students can present their findings.

Modern Masters Art

Ages: 9-13

Modern Masters is an exciting and creative class designed for upper elementary and middle school students who are eager to dive into the world of modern art. In this course, students will study the work of contemporary artists from diverse backgrounds and cultures, gaining an understanding of how these artists use various techniques, styles, and mediums to express their unique perspectives. Through hands-on projects, students will explore a wide range of materials, from traditional paints and pencils to innovative mediums like fiber and sculpture. Students will be encouraged to experiment with their own artistic voice and reflect on the meaning and themes of modern art, using inspiration from contemporary artists. The course will culminate in a capstone project, where each student will apply their skills and creativity to produce a unique, personally meaningful final piece.

Homeschool Academy: 12:35-1:35 Block (continued)

Chemistry in the Kitchen

Ages: 12+

Unleash your inner scientist and chef in Chemistry in the Kitchen, where food and science come together in exciting and delicious ways! This hands-on course explores the chemistry behind cooking and baking, showing students how temperature, pH, molecular structures, and chemical reactions transform ingredients into the meals we eat. Through interactive experiments and real-world applications, students will gain a deeper understanding of chemistry while developing practical cooking skills. Perfect for aspiring chefs, food enthusiasts, and curious minds, this course makes learning science fun, engaging, and delicious!

Literature: Historical Fiction

Ages: 13+

This high school English/Language Arts based course will use the historical fiction genre of literature to bring history to life. Students will read 5-6 works of literature throughout the year. Historical fiction is a powerful tool for teaching history, as it brings the past to life in an engaging and relatable way. It allows students to experience historical events through the eyes of characters, making history more meaningful and memorable.

Textbooks often present events in isolation, but historical fiction shows how they fit into the broader social, political, and cultural landscape. Historical fiction demonstrates how individual choices, cultural shifts, and political movements shape history. Essay writing will be a component of this course. **Reading will be assigned outside of MRA class times. Students will need to provide their own books and/or audiobooks.**

Homeschool Academy: 1:35-2:35 Block

Sensory Science

Ages: 5-8

Taste, touch, sight, smell, sound! Students will explore the wonders of the world around us through hands-on projects, literature, experiments, and games. Scientific observations will be logged in science journals, developing literacy skills, math skills, and more. **Students may take this course for up to 3 years, as topics rotate.**

Word Wizards

Ages: 6-8

Through creative and engaging lessons that incorporate games and active learning, students will continue to develop their skills in handwriting, spelling and familiarity with navigating words. This is recommended for students who are at a K-2nd grade level in handwriting, spelling, and writing stamina.

Homeschool Academy: 1:35-2:35 Block (continued)

Storybook Art Studio

Ages: 7-10

In this engaging, project-based art class, young artists will dive into the magical world of children's literature, using classic and award-winning picture books as inspiration for creative expression. Each session will begin with a read-aloud of a beautifully illustrated book, followed by an art project inspired by the story's themes, characters, or artistic style. Students will explore a variety of materials and techniques, from painting and collage to printmaking and sculpture, while developing fine motor skills, creativity, and an appreciation for visual storytelling. This class celebrates the artistry of beloved illustrators and encourages students to experiment with their own imaginative ideas in a fun and supportive environment. Perfect for lower elementary students, this class fosters a love of reading, art, and self-expression through hands-on, literature-inspired creativity!

Chemistry in the Kitchen

Ages: 8-12

Get ready to mix, bubble, and fizz in Chemistry in the Kitchen! In this fun and hands-on class, young scientists will explore the amazing science behind cooking and baking. Through exciting experiments using everyday ingredients, students will learn how chemistry shapes the food we eat. With plenty of interactive experiments and edible discoveries, this class makes science delicious and fun!

Wild Weather

Ages: 9-13

From fire tornadoes to raining frogs, the weather can be as wild as it is fascinating! In this course, students will explore some of history's most extreme weather events while also learning about the everyday weather patterns that shape our world. Through hands-on experiments, engaging discussions, and research, students will discover how meteorologists predict the weather, the tools they use, and how to read the skies—like identifying clouds to anticipate storms. We'll also examine weather folklore, such as the Farmer's Almanac, and compare it to modern forecasting techniques. While we'll explore the power of nature, we'll also learn why understanding the science behind weather helps us respect it rather than fear it. With today's advanced technology and knowledge, we can better prepare for and protect ourselves from extreme weather. Whether your child loves science, mysteries, or the great outdoors, they'll love diving into the world of Wild Weather!

Homeschool Academy: 1:35-2:35 Block (continued)

History of Dance

Ages: 12+

This class will take a robust look at history as told through dance. Students will step into the world of dance history and learn how dance styles influenced, and were changed by, the culture and society of the times. We will use a cross-curricular approach, including video examples; opportunities to experience and practice different types and techniques of dance; language arts; multi-media art; and one or two optional field trips to local dance performances. We will explore ballet's creation in 1600's France through its evolution to current ballet, to cultural dances of countries like Bali, India, and Ireland, all the way through modern, contemporary, tap, jazz, hip hop and breakdance of the United States. And you can't dance without music (or can you?) so we will also explore musicians famous for creating dance accompaniment masterpieces, some of which your students may have heard in everyday life.

Civics & American Government

Ages: 14+

High school students will study the purposes, principles, and practices of American government as established by the Constitution. A focus will be on each person's rights and responsibilities as citizens and how to exercise these rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government. Students will learn the structure and processes of the government of the states of Missouri and Kansas, as well as various local governments. As always at MRA, hands-on projects and active learning will be incorporated through each unit.

Monday Creative Options

Monday Creative Options Course Schedule 2025-26

9:15-9:25	Drop-Off					
9:30	Circle Time					
9:35	Forest School (4-7 yrs) 2 hours Can be ½ day enrollment or full day enrollment	Our Amazing Bodies (6-9 yrs)	Art Through Story (7-10 yrs)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (10+ yrs)	Outdoor Adventure Skills (10+ yrs)	
10:35	½ Day enrollments must be enrolled in “Forest School Only” enrollment tab. Lunch is included with this enrollment.	Author’s Notebook (6-9 yrs)	Explorer’s Club (7-10 yrs)	2D Studio Art: Drawing & Painting (10+ yrs)		
11:35	Lunch and Discovery Play					
12:35	Storybook Journey (5-8 yrs)	Nature Art (5-8 yrs)	Lego STEAM Lab (7-10 yrs)	Gardening (8+ yrs)	Drama Club (6+ yrs)	Handbuilding with Clay (11+ yrs)
1:35	Laboratory of Fun (5-8 yrs)	Playful Thinkers (5-8 yrs)	Construct It: Builders & Makers (6-9 yrs)	Math Super Sleuths (7-11 yrs)	Rhythm & Moves (6+ yrs)	Board Game Masters (10+ yrs)
2:35	All Program Discovery Play					
3:00	Pick-Up					

Creative Options Monday: 9:35-11:35 2 Hour Blocks

Forest School

Ages: 4 – 7

Required for 4- and 5-year-olds

Students will enjoy the beauty of nature while learning! This outdoors-designed learning time will explore the wonderful 5-acres that Mighty Roots Academy has to offer. Along with highlighting natural learning opportunities through adventuring and playing, forest schoolers will have two to three teacher-prepared *Learning Times* each program day. These lessons will inspire interest in academics without formal pressure.

Applications for 4-year-olds please use Forest School Only application link.

Additional Materials: Raincoat, rain boots, snow pants, snow boots & waterproof gloves.

Outdoor Adventure Skills

Ages 10+

This outdoor course gives students hands-on experience with the natural world. Students will develop skills to help them navigate the great outdoors as well as wilderness survival skills. Some of this year's topics may include: Fire starting and campfire cooking, topography and cartography, natural dyes and fibers, knot tying, survival skills and scenarios, historical and interactive treasure hunting. **Additional Materials: Fixed-blade knife required for some topics.**

Creative Options Monday: 9:35-10:35 Block

Our Amazing Bodies

Ages: 6-9

Students will take a holistic and systematic approach to learning about their bodies. This will include how to care for them through choices they make each day like nutrition, rest, and physical activity while learning about the common body systems and how they work together.

Creative Options Monday: 9:35-10:35 Block Continued

Art Through Story

Ages: 7-10

In this engaging, project-based art class, young artists will dive into the magical world of children's literature, using classic and award-winning picture books as inspiration for creative expression. Each session will begin with a read-aloud of a beautifully illustrated book, followed by an art project inspired by the story's themes, characters, or artistic style. Students will explore a variety of materials and techniques, from painting and collage to printmaking and sculpture, while developing fine motor skills, creativity, and an appreciation for visual storytelling. This class celebrates the artistry of beloved illustrators and encourages students to experiment with their own imaginative ideas in a fun and supportive environment. Perfect for lower elementary students, this class fosters a love of reading, art, and self-expression through hands-on, literature-inspired creativity!

CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)

Ages: 10+

After learning about the history of forensics, crime labs and forensic scientists, students will analyze physical evidence such as glass, fingerprints, hair, fibers, chemical analysis and more! Through projects and experiments, students will develop observation and creative thinking skills; investigate a crime scene; analyze evidence by means of chemistry; use biology to learn more about a crime and analyze documents to solve it!

Creative Options Monday: 10:35-11:35 Block

Author's Notebook

Ages: 6-9

In this early writing skills class, students will create their own Author's notebook as they explore writing and grammar concepts. Daily they will write and create literary works using figures of speech, affixes, grammar, punctuation, inferences, rhyming and other early elementary language arts skills.

Explorer's Club

Ages: 7-10

Students will receive a great opportunity to dive deep into nature themed unit studies! By using STEM projects, literature, nature journaling, group projects, games, cooking and survival skills, students will embark on understanding and appreciating the natural world around them. This year's units will include: the habitat of Mighty Roots Academy and the animals that live here, plant diversity at Mighty Roots Academy and their many uses, the trees of Mighty Roots Academy and how we care for and use them, the power of fire and how to use it safely, as well as projects and topics based on students' interest.

Creative Options Monday: 10:35-11:35 Block Continued

2D Studio Art:

Ages: 10+

Drawing & Painting Exploration

This studio-based art class is designed for students ages 10 and up who want to develop their skills in drawing and painting. Students will explore a variety of dry media, such as graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, and pastels, as well as painting techniques in watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media. The class will begin with guided lessons focused on building technical skills in shading, perspective, composition, and color theory. As students gain confidence and proficiency, they will transition to independent projects, selecting their preferred medium and subject matter to develop their personal artistic style. With a balance of structured instruction and creative freedom, this class provides a strong foundation for young artists looking to refine their 2D art skills while fostering individual expression in a supportive studio environment!

Creative Options Monday: 12:35-1:35 Block

Storybook Journey

Ages: 5-8

Students will journey through the wonderful world of early literacy by exploring a variety of picture books paired with engaging hands-on activities like acting, art, crafts, cooking, math, and science experiments to bring literacy skills off the page and into students' lives as they read, write, and explore.

Nature Art

Ages: 5-8

Students will explore the wonderful world of art while using items found in nature as a basis of their art. Students will explore with leaves as painting tools, use sticks and branches to create 3D art, and so much more. The possibilities are endless!

Lego Steam Lab

Ages: 7-10

Explore science, technology, engineering, art and math through the perennial favorite – LEGO! A new STEAM concept will be explored as a group in each class session, followed by an opportunity for students to explore and build with Lego in an open studio setting. This class will utilize both collaborative and independent learning, enabling each student to share their own unique strengths and skills with the class.

Creative Options Monday: 12:35-1:35 Block Continued

Gardening

Ages: 8+

Students will get their hands dirty in this course as they explore what it means to be a gardener and botanist! Not only will students help plant a fall and spring garden but will also make science connections: learn about soil biology, worms, bugs/bugs/bugs (the good guys and the bad guys), and what to do about them! Students will dig into how compost works and do math as we learn how to plan a garden and how much space each plant needs. While the garden slumbers in winter, students will plan, explore different ways to start seeds, and learn how to cook, ferment, and/or preserve what is grown.

Drama Club

Ages: 6+

This is a performing class that will put on one 1-hour show of The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition in late spring. Students will work on acting fundamentals and some in-class workshops during the fall. Students will audition in November and everyone receives a part. Students are expected to: memorize lines, dance and sing, work on the show outside of class, write down blocking and choreography, take direction from directors, and more. Parents are expected to: stay in touch with the directors through Class Dojo and emails, and help their students work on their memorization, singing, and dancing.

Handbuilding with Clay

Ages: 11+

Creative Pottery for T(w)eens

In this hands-on ceramics class, middle and high school students will explore the art of handbuilding with clay, learning fundamental techniques such as coil, slab, and pinch construction. Through guided projects and independent exploration, students will create functional and sculptural pieces while developing an understanding of form, texture, and surface design. Students will experiment with carving, stamping, and glazing techniques to bring their unique visions to life. Whether new to pottery or looking to refine their skills, participants will build confidence in working with clay while expressing their creativity in a supportive and engaging environment. This class is perfect for teens who enjoy working with their hands and want to explore the timeless art of ceramics!

Creative Options Monday: 1:35-2:35 Block

Laboratory of Fun Science Lab

Ages: 5-8

Students will observe and explore the wonders of the world around us through experiments, projects, literature, games and more! We will ask questions, test hypotheses, and work together to understand the natural world.

Students may take this course multiple years, as topics rotate.

Playful Thinkers

Ages: 5-8

Playful Thinkers is an exciting and interactive learning games experience for kids aged 5 to 8, where curiosity is a must, and learning never stops! In this class, students will embark on a fun-filled journey that combines play and education. We'll explore new ideas, discover the world around us, and nurture a love for learning through engaging board games, hands-on activities, and imaginative play. This class will incorporate early learning concepts such as numbers, letters, patterns, and problem solving. There is no subject off limits: we'll play with geography, biology, outer space, math, language arts, and so much more!

Construct It: Builders & Makers

Ages: 6-9

Builders, architects, archaeologist, and engineers unite as we explore structures that make our world past, present and future. Students will step into the roles of many STEM related careers as they construct engineering marvels that we explore through picture books and hands-on building projects.

Rhythm & Moves

Ages: 6+

This class will focus on the rhythm of music, and how to read written music. Students will dance to the beat, learn music notes, and try rhythm exercises in the fall. Students are encouraged to work on learning music during the winter break. After the break, class time focuses on continued rhythm development through activities, songs, and dancing related to The Wizard of Oz. This is a performing class that supports Drama Club. Enrollment in Drama Club is not required. If students wish to be in the Wizard of Oz musical, they must also enroll in Drama Club.

Creative Options Monday: 1:35-2:35 Block (continued)

Super Sleuths:

Ages: 7-11

Math Puzzles, Mysteries & Escape Rooms

Students will explore code-breaking, the secrets of escape rooms, and the world of espionage – with a focus on mathematics. Through challenging games, students will engage their teamwork and problem-solving abilities while also building their math skills. The goal: help students build essential math skills in interactive and exciting ways (while having fun!).

Board Games Masters

Ages: 10+

In this course, students will be invited to participate in playing various games that have been thoughtfully chosen by the Learning Guide. The year will be divided into units, each being six weeks. Units covered will include: Storytelling & Role Playing; Math; Strategy & Logic; Cooperative; Student Picks. Students must be open to having fun and willing to participate in pairs and in groups. No prior experience is necessary, part of the class will be going over the rules of a game. Students will benefit from working collaboratively, they will strengthen communication skills, and will hone decision making and analytical skills.

Wednesday Creative Options

Wednesday Creative Options Course Schedule 2025-26

9:15-9:25	Drop-Off						
9:30	Circle Time						
9:35	Art Through The Seasons (5-8 yrs)	Sensory Science (6-9 yrs)	Young Artist Studio (7-11 yrs)	Story Factory (8-12 yrs)	History's Mysteries (12+ yrs)	Outdoor Adventure Skills (9+ yrs)	Broadway Teens (11-18 yrs)
10:35	Shop 'Til You Drop (5-8 yrs)	Team Builders: Learning Games (6-10 yrs)	Robotics 1 & 2 (8-13 yrs)	Art Lab: Studio Art (11+ yrs)	Architecture: The Art of Space (12+ yrs)	Adv. Wilder-ness Skills 12+ yrs	
11:35	Lunch and Discovery Play						
12:35	Forest School (5-7 yrs)	Lego STEAM Lab (6-9 yrs)	Rhythm & Moves (6-13 yrs)	Creators & Innovators (9-12 yrs)	Theater Tech & Set Design (12+ yrs)	Chemistry in the Kitchen (12+ yrs)	Speech & Debate (12+ yrs)
1:35		Nature's Storybook (6-9 yrs)	Chemistry in the Kitchen (8-12 yrs)	Drama Club (6-13 yrs)	Intro to Role Playing Games (RPGs) (10+ yrs)	Photo Journalism (12+ yrs)	Handbuilding with Clay (12+ yrs)
2:35	All Program Discovery Play						
3:00	Pick-Up						

WEDNESDAY Creative Options Course Descriptions

Creative Options Wednesday: 9:35-11:35 2 Hour Block

Broadway Teens

Ages: 11-18

This is a musical theater performance class that will put on one 2-hour show of Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella mid-spring. Experienced students will work on this show for most of the school year. Students will audition for a role and everyone receives a part. Students are expected to: memorize lines, dance and sing, work on the show outside of class, keep track of their assigned blocking and choreography, take direction from directors, and more. Parents are expected to: stay in touch with the directors through Class Dojo and emails, and help their students work on their memorization, singing, and dancing.

Additional information:

- Students provide their own costumes.
- Course schedule will include dress rehearsal(s) and a few additional practice times outside of regular classes.
- Families choose to pay a **\$50 course fee** or **volunteer 5-10 hours** per student enrollment to make the shows possible. Volunteer hours can include show prep, equipment set-up or break down, backstage assistants, etc. Course fee or volunteering selection made at enrollment.

Outdoor Adventure Skills

Ages: 8+

This outdoor course gives students hands-on experience with the natural world. This outdoor course gives students hands-on experience with the natural world. Students will develop skills to help them navigate the great outdoors as well as wilderness survival skills. Some of this year's topics may include: Fire starting and campfire cooking, topography and cartography, natural dyes and fibers, knot tying, survival skills and scenarios, historical and interactive treasure hunting. **Additional Materials: Fixed-blade knife required for some topics.**

Creative Options Wednesday: 9:35-10:35 Block

Art Through the Seasons

Ages: 5-8

Celebrate the beauty of nature all year long in Art Through the Seasons! Young artists will explore the colors, textures, and themes of each season through fun and engaging process art. From blooming spring flowers to sunny summer landscapes, crisp autumn leaves to sparkling winter scenes, children will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques, including painting, collage, drawing, and more. This hands-on class encourages creativity, self-expression, and an appreciation for the changing world around us. Perfect for little artists who love nature and making art, this course offers a joyful way to explore the seasons through imagination and creativity!

Sensory Science

Ages: 6-9

Taste, touch, sight, smell, sound! Students will explore the wonders of the world around us through hands-on projects, literature, experiments, and games. Scientific observations will be logged in science journals, developing literacy skills, math skills, and more. **Students may take this course for up to 3 years, as topics rotate.**

Young Artists' Studio

Ages: 7-11

This dynamic studio art class is designed for beginner and emerging artists in grades 1-6, providing a fun and supportive environment to explore a variety of art materials and techniques. Students will rotate through engaging media centers, experimenting with drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, and sculpture while learning fundamental art skills. Through guided projects and open-ended exploration, students will develop their creativity, problem-solving abilities, and confidence in self-expression. Each young artist will be encouraged to discover their unique artistic voice while gaining a deeper understanding of composition, color, texture, and form. Perfect for budding artists, this class fosters imagination, artistic growth, and a love for the creative process!

Story Factory

Ages: 8-12

Step into the world of imagination and storytelling! In Story Factory, students will work together to create original stories, developing characters, plots, and settings as a team. Each week, they'll explore key storytelling elements—plot, characters, conflict, and resolution—while building narratives through collaborative brainstorming and creative activities. From illustrated storyboards and skits to maps and interactive storytelling exercises, students will bring their ideas to life in fun and engaging ways. This course fosters creativity, teamwork, and a love for storytelling, making it perfect for young writers, performers, and imaginative thinkers alike!

Creative Options Wednesday: 9:35-10:35 Block (continued)

History's Mysteries

Ages: 12+

Students will take deep dives through history's most mysterious and outrageous true stories. Mysterious disappearances (the Bermuda triangle?), political conspiracies (US government hiring criminals as spies?), declassified government projects (alien contact?), and unexplainable phenomena (sailing stones in Death Valley?) - students will look at the evidence and discuss the possibilities. This course will combine science with history to engage students in logical thinking. From Bigfoot to UFOs, from Stonehenge to modern discoveries - we may not be able to get to the bottom of each story, but we will have fun trying!

Creative Options Wednesday: 10:35-11:35 Block

Shop 'Til You Drop:

Ages: 5-8

Exploring Jobs, Community, and Money

In this fun and interactive course, kids will become the leaders of their very own town! Through hands-on activities, role-playing, and creative problem-solving, students will explore different jobs, how communities work together, and the basics of money and economics. They'll create businesses and take on roles like shop owners, bankers, teachers, and more—earning and spending their own town currency while making important decisions to keep their mini-city running smoothly. This engaging experience will help young learners develop teamwork, leadership, and decision-making skills while introducing them to real-world concepts in a playful and meaningful way. Get ready to build, create, and discover how a community thrives!

Team Builders: Learning Games

Ages: 6-9

Cooperation, collaboration, and communication; students will learn the skills for working together as a team. Through games, activities, stories, and hands-on projects we will develop a collaborative approach to problem solving. Students will learn active listening, observational skills, and how to encourage and support everyone's unique contributions to the team.

Creative Options Wednesday: 10:35-11:35 Block (continued)

Robotics 1 & 2

Ages: 8-13

In **Robotics Level 1**, students will experience basic coding and work together to program robots to perform various tasks. They will explore the role of robotics in the modern world while developing problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and teamwork through collaborative challenges.

In **Robotics Level 2**, students will build on their foundational knowledge by programming with Micro:bits, small but powerful microcontrollers that introduce real-world coding applications. They will take on more complex challenges and logic-based programming to create interactive robotic solutions. Through hands-on projects, students will deepen their understanding of coding, engineering principles, and robotics in everyday life. **Students may enroll in Level 2 after successfully completing Level 1 or with prior approved experience in robotics and coding.**

Art Lab: Studio Art for Teens

Ages: 12+

Designed for students ages 12 and up, this studio-based art class is perfect for those ready to refine their technical skills and develop their own artistic voice. Through instructor-guided challenges and open-ended themes, students will explore a variety of mediums, including drawing, painting, mixed media, and sculpture, while deepening their understanding of composition, technique, and creative problem-solving. With a focus on independent work and personal expression, students will be encouraged to take creative risks, experiment with new approaches, and build a portfolio of meaningful artwork. Whether working from observation, imagination, or conceptual ideas, this class provides the structure and freedom for young artists to grow in skill and confidence. Ideal for students looking to expand their artistic abilities and explore their own creative vision in a supportive, studio-style environment!

Architecture: The Art of Space

Ages: 12+

Perfect for teens who love art, technology, and innovation, this class will show you how to transform your imagination into real-world designs through art and 3D modeling. This course will explore the relationship between architecture and art—how buildings can be beautiful, functional, and sustainable all at once. Students will also get the chance to study famous architects and their most iconic works, drawing inspiration for their own designs.

Creative Options Wednesday: 10:35-11:35 Block (continued)

Advanced Wilderness Skills

Ages: 12+

In this course students will take a deep dive into involved wilderness skills projects that require advanced skills, teamwork, and endurance to overcome the challenges of surviving in the wilderness. This year's projects will include advanced wood burning and carving, natural container making by using grasses, gourds and possibly clay, creating a clay and stone oven for advanced outdoor cooking, and leather working. If time permits, we will explore other topics based on student interest.

**Students must have director approval and demonstrate mastery of common outdoor skills taught in general outdoors and scouts-based classes.*

Creative Options Wednesday: 12:35-2:35 2 Hour Block

Forest School

Ages: 5 – 8

Required for 5-year-olds

Students will enjoy the beauty of nature while learning! This outdoors-designed learning time will explore the wonderful 5-acres that Mighty Roots Academy has to offer. Along with highlighting natural learning opportunities through adventuring and playing, forest schoolers will have two to three teacher-prepared Learning Times each program day. These lessons will inspire interest in academics without formal pressure.

Additional Materials: Raincoat, rain boots, snow pants, snow boots & gloves.

Creative Options Wednesday: 12:35-1:35 Block

Lego STEAM Lab

Ages: 6-9

Explore science, technology, engineering, art and math through the perennial favorite – LEGO! A new STEAM concept will be explored as a group in each class session, followed by an opportunity for students to explore and build with Lego in an open studio setting. This class will utilize both collaborative and independent learning, enabling each student to share their own unique strengths and skills with the class.

Rhythm & Moves

Ages: 6-13

This class will focus on the rhythm of music, and how to read written music. Students will dance to the beat, learn music notes, and try rhythm exercises in the fall. Students are encouraged to work on learning music during the winter break. After the break, class time focuses on continued rhythm development through activities, songs, and dancing related to The Wizard of Oz. This is a performing class that supports Drama Club. Enrollment in Drama Club is not required. If students wish to be in the Wizard of Oz musical, they must also enroll in Drama Club.

Creative Options Wednesday: 12:35-1:35 Block (continued)

Creators & Innovators

Ages: 9-12

In this cross-curricular course, students will explore inventors throughout history, the problems they were trying to solve, and their groundbreaking inventions that reshaped our world. Students will develop their own problem-solving abilities and innovative thinking, as well as work on creations of their own. Projects in this course will build on reading and writing skills while engaging students in STEM-based challenges.

Theater Tech & Set Design

Ages: 12+

This class will focus on the different aspects of technical theater, including set design, costume creation, lighting, and sound. The first half of the year, students will learn how to design all aspects of a theater production, with each student creating their own costume, set, lighting, and sound designs for a final fall project. The second half of the year, students will bring to life sets, props, and costume pieces for the theater program's spring productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Cinderella*. Students will also have the option to assist as backstage crew for one or all of the productions, and would need to be available for a certain number of rehearsal and performance days outside of regular class time that will be determined during the first month of classes.

Chemistry in the Kitchen

Ages: 12+

Unleash your inner scientist and chef in Chemistry in the Kitchen, where food and science come together in exciting and delicious ways! This hands-on course explores the chemistry behind cooking and baking, showing students how temperature, pH, molecular structures, and chemical reactions transform ingredients into the meals we eat. Through interactive experiments and real-world applications, students will gain a deeper understanding of chemistry while developing practical cooking skills. Perfect for aspiring chefs, food enthusiasts, and curious minds, this course makes learning science fun, engaging, and delicious!

Speech & Debate

Ages: 12+

This course will explore the craft of persuasive speeches, engage in debates, and analyze various rhetorical strategies. Through individual and team-based activities, students will explore both the structure and delivery of effective speeches, developing confidence in their ability to communicate ideas clearly. Students will have the opportunity to compete in debates on current events, ethics, and some fun and light topics, too: the goal is to sharpen their ability to think on their feet.

Creative Options Wednesday: 1:35-2:35 Block

Nature's Storybook

Ages: 6-9

Students will journey through the wonderful world of early literacy by exploring a variety of picture books paired with engaging hands-on activities like acting, art, crafts, cooking, math, and science experiments to bring literacy skills off the page and into students' lives as they read, write, and explore.

Chemistry in the Kitchen

Ages: 8-12

Get ready to mix, bubble, and fizz in Chemistry in the Kitchen! In this fun and hands-on class, young scientists will explore the amazing science behind cooking and baking. Through exciting experiments using everyday ingredients, students will learn how chemistry shapes the food we eat. With plenty of interactive experiments and edible discoveries, this class makes science delicious and fun!

Drama Club

Ages: 6-13

This is a performing class that will put on one 1-hour show of The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition in late spring. Students will work on acting fundamentals and some in-class workshops during the fall. Students will audition in November and everyone receives a part. Students are expected to: memorize lines, dance and sing, work on the show outside of class, write down blocking and choreography, take direction from directors, and more. Parents are expected to: stay in touch with the directors through Class Dojo and emails, and help their students work on their memorization, singing, and dancing.

Additional information:

- Students provide their own costumes.
- Course schedule will include dress rehearsal(s) and a few additional practice times outside of regular classes.
- Families choose to pay a **\$50 course fee** or **volunteer 5-10 hours** per student enrollment to make the shows possible. Volunteer hours can include show prep, equipment set-up or breakdown, backstage assistants, etc. Course fee or volunteering selection made at enrollment.

Photo Journalism

Ages: 12+

Students will explore the art of visual storytelling through photography using their phones. They will learn fundamental photography techniques and basic journalistic principles, including composition, lighting, and capturing compelling images that tell a story. Through hands-on projects, students will develop skills in research, interviewing, and writing captions to enhance their storytelling. The course also introduces basic photo editing to refine their work. By the end of the class, students will have created a portfolio showcasing their ability to document and share impactful stories through photography.

Additional Materials: Students will need to provide their own smartphone and/or tablet. iPhone and iPads are preferred. (Preferably models that are no older than 5 years)

Creative Options Wednesday: 1:35-2:35 Block (continued)

Intro to Role-Playing Games (RPGs)

Ages: 10+

Students will learn the basics of Role-Playing Games (RPGs): character creation, storytelling, and role-playing techniques. Surveying different RPGs like collaborative board games and live action role playing (LARPing), students will have the fun opportunity to be in immersive, world-building games with friends. This course will challenge students to think quickly, logically, and creatively while collaborating with others. Students will build their confidence and problem-solving skills, which will translate directly to real world challenges.

Handbuilding with Clay:

Ages: 12+

Creative Pottery for T(w)eens

In this hands-on ceramics class, middle and high school students will explore the art of handbuilding with clay, learning fundamental techniques such as coil, slab, and pinch construction. Through guided projects and independent exploration, students will create functional and sculptural pieces while developing an understanding of form, texture, and surface design. Students will experiment with carving, stamping, and glazing techniques to bring their unique visions to life. Whether new to pottery or looking to refine their skills, participants will build confidence in working with clay while expressing their creativity in a supportive and engaging environment.

This class is perfect for teens who enjoy working with their hands and want to explore the timeless art of ceramics!