



**2026-2027 Course Descriptions**

**Creative Options**

**Wednesday Program**

### Wednesday Creative Options

9:15 to 9:25	Student Drop-Off							
9:30	Morning Circle							
9:35	Forest School 5-7 years	Robotics Jr. 6-9 years	Builders & Makers 7-10 years	Stop Motion Animation Level 1 9-11 years	Dance Styles 10+	Bushcraft & Beyond 10+	Painter's Studio 12+	Core Academic Block 4-Day-Program Only
10:35		Lil Steppers Dance 6-10 years	Explorer's Club 7-10 years	Studio Art 9-11 years	Outdoor Cooking 10+	Stop Motion Animation Level 2 12+	Modern Shakespeare 11+	
12:35	Color Art Expedition 5-7 years	STEM Story Scouts 6-9 years	Fun with Forts 7-10 years	Circuits Lab Level 1 8-10 years	Drama Club Jr. 6-13 years	Studio Art 11+	Team Sports 9+	Drama Club Sr. 12+
1:35	Storybook Studio 5-7 years	Play & Learn Spanish 6-9 years	Illustrators & Authors 7-10 years	National Park Virtual Road Trip 8-11 years		Circuits Lab 11+	Strategy Arena: Strategy & Coop. Games 11+	
2:35	All Program Play							
3:00	Student Pick-Up							

## **Forest School – Blocks 1 & 2 - 9:35-11:35 a.m.**

Students will enjoy the beauty of nature while learning! This outdoors-designed 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 & waterproof gloves.**

### **Block 1 – 9:35-10:35 a.m.**

#### **Robotics Jr (Ages 6-9)**

Experience basic coding by using a Sphero Indi with your team! Students will work together to program their Indi to perform various tasks from working through a maze to drawing to pushing objects around a level field and more. Robotics Jr will also encompass other STEM projects related to robotics and the creative thinking skills that are necessary for success in robotics. Robots will not be utilized in every class session, but students will get to work with robots!

#### **Builders & Makers (Ages 7-10)**

Builders, architects, archaeologists, 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. **Students may take this course multiple years as new topics are explored each year.**

#### **Stop Motion Animation: Level 1 (Ages 9-11)**

In this hands-on class, students will learn the art of stop motion animation, a filmmaking technique that turns still images into moving stories.

Students will:

- Learn the basics of stop motion animation
- Explore storytelling, character design, and simple storyboarding
- Build sets and create characters using a variety of materials
- Practice patience, problem-solving, and creative thinking
- Use iPads or mobile devices to film and edit their own short animations

This class blends art, technology, and storytelling. Students should be ready to create, collaborate, and revise as they bring their ideas to life. There will also be light reading, planning, and writing involved as students develop story ideas and scripts.

## **Block 1 – 9:35-10:35 a.m. continued**

### **Dance Styles (Ages 10+)**

Students will increase their dance technique, style, and creativity in this beginner/intermediate level dance class! We will build on the basics of ballet, jazz, modern, and other dance styles, while learning a little dance history on the side.

**\*\*\*Special performance opportunity! Students are invited to perform in the *Fall Variety Show*, happening in early November. This will be a fun experience, and if students choose to participate, please expect up to three (3) rehearsal and performance days outside of regular Mighty Roots' scheduled classes.**

### **Bushcraft & Beyond (Ages 10+)**

Bushcraft and Beyond is an immersive outdoor skills course that moves beyond basic skills to cultivate resilience, self-reliance, and a strong work ethic through hands-on wilderness learning. Students will engage in in-depth units on bushcraft, ethical foraging, and wildcrafting while constructing shelters. They will learn to responsibly transform natural and foraged materials into functional tools and survival items while gaining practical skills through steady effort and perseverance. Emphasizing hard work, problem-solving, and determination, this course challenges students to think critically, adapt to obstacles, and take ownership of their learning as we foster confidence, grit, creativity, and a deeper connection to the natural world.

### **Painter's Studio (Ages 12+)**

In this art class, students will explore the world of painting while developing their personal artistic style. Through guided projects and experimentation, students will learn fundamental painting techniques such as color mixing, brushwork, layering, shading, and composition. Students will work with a variety of subjects—including landscapes, still life, and imaginative scenes—while learning how artists use color, light, and texture to create mood and depth. Along the way, students will practice observation skills, experiment with different approaches, and build confidence in expressing their ideas through paint.

## **Block 2 – 10:35-11:35 a.m.**

### **Lil Steppers Dance (Ages 6-10)**

Step, twirl, and leap into this dance class for young beginners! We will experience a variety of dance styles, including ballet, jazz, and modern. Students will learn solid dance technique, building a foundation to use in later dance classes, or just for fun.

**\*\*\*Special performance opportunity! Students are invited to perform in the Fall Variety Show, happening in early November. This will be a fun experience, and if students choose to participate, please expect up to three (3) rehearsal and performance days outside of regular Mighty Roots' scheduled classes.**

### **Explorer's Club (Ages 7-10)**

Explorer's Club invites young learners to dive into hands-on, nature-based unit studies that cultivate curiosity, observation, and appreciation for the natural world. Through STEM projects, literature, nature, group challenges, games, and introductory outdoor skills, students will explore how ecosystems work and how people interact with the land.

This year's units will include:

- The fascinating world of birds
- Missouri pollinators and their vital role in ecosystems
- The life cycle of trees and their importance to forest ecosystems while learning how we responsibly care for and use them
- Explore wildcraft by creating useful and creative items from natural foraged materials

Throughout the year, students will develop observation skills, creativity, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of the living world around them. **\*Students make take this course multiple years as new topics are explored each year.**

### **Studio Art (Ages 9-11)**

The Elements of Art and Principles of Design will guide our learning over the course of the year in this highly structured studio course that teaches artistic behaviors (exploration and discovery, inquiry and ideation, skill development and artmaking, reflection and revision, self-evaluation and presentation). The learning guide will facilitate learning by providing instruction on media, materials, and tools at the start of each class period, while the students experience the visual arts as ARTISTS responsible for their own learning, who can then access materials independently to initiate and explore their artwork. Students will learn to persevere through challenges and to trust their own judgment while receiving input from, and offering feedback to, peers and their learning guide. Artist studies, inspiration materials, and guided projects will be provided for students who want or need additional support while transitioning to a self-directed artmaking environment.

## Block 2 – 10:35-11:35 a.m. continued

### Modern Shakespeare (Ages 11+)

Students will read and study excerpts from Shakespeare's most famous plays and explore how influential William Shakespeare's words are to the English language as we know it. Acting out scenes, creative writing exercises, and modernizing the content of Shakespeare's writings will bring it alive to students. Goals of this course are to create a clear understanding of Shakespeare's writings and inspire the student's own creativity and originality in their writing skills.

### Stop Motion Animation: Level 2 (Ages 12+)

In this upper-level stop motion course, students will dive deeper into the filmmaking process, combining storytelling, cinematography, design, and editing to create polished animated films.

Students will:

- Develop original story concepts and scripts
- Create detailed storyboards and production plans
- Design sets, props, and characters
- Learn advanced animation techniques, including timing, frame rate, and camera movement
- Edit, add sound effects, titles, and music
- Critique and refine their work through peer feedback

This is a creative studio class that blends visual art, writing, and digital media. Students should be prepared for both hands-on production work and written planning, reflection, and revision. **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.)**

### Outdoor Cooking (Ages 11+)

Outdoor Cooking is a hands-on heritage skills course where students explore traditional methods of preparing and preserving food. Students begin each unit by learning the historical and cultural roots of techniques such as campfire roasting, Dutch oven cooking, Dakota fire pits, charcoal and gas grilling, earth ovens, and pit cooking, then safely practice these methods outdoors. The course also introduces time-tested preservation skills including sun drying, fermentation, and pickling, along with the science and food safety principles behind them. Foraging Missouri natives and garden grown foods will be incorporated when possible.

## **Block 3 – 12:35-1:35 a.m.**

### **Color Art Expedition (Ages 5-7)**

Color Art Expedition is a hands-on art class designed especially for young artists ages 5–7. This class emphasizes process over product, encouraging creativity, curiosity, and self-expression as children experiment with color in various ways throughout the year.

Students will explore how colors mix, change, and interact using a wide range of age-appropriate art materials and techniques. Activities may include painting, printmaking, collage, sculpture, mixed media, sensory art, and open-ended creative projects.

Students will also be introduced to artists and their work as a source of inspiration. We'll explore how different artists use color, texture, line, and materials to express ideas and emotions. These introductions are informal and story-like, designed to spark curiosity and conversation rather than imitation, encouraging children to respond in their own unique way.

### **STEM Story Scouts: Learning Through Stories & Discovery (Ages 6-9)**

STEM Story Scouts is a playful, hands-on class where young learners explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math through exciting storybooks. Each class begins with an engaging read-aloud story that introduces a simple STEM idea—such as building strong bridges, exploring space, understanding weather, caring for animals, or solving everyday problems. After the story, students become scientists and engineers as they experiment, build, measure, test, and create. Activities are hands-on, movement-friendly, and designed to spark curiosity while strengthening early literacy and foundational STEM skills. Perfect for curious young learners who love stories, building, and discovering how the world works.

### **Fun with Forts: Hands-On Outdoor Engineering (Ages 6–9)**

Fun with Forts invites young builders to explore the exciting world of shelter design through playful, outdoor adventures. Guided by the big question, “How can we design and build strong, creative shelters?”, students move through an engaging cycle of explore → design → build → test → improve. Using beloved picture books, hands-on challenges, and collaborative outdoor projects, learners investigate real-world structures, experiment with materials, and apply engineering thinking to create increasingly sophisticated forts. Along the way, students build teamwork, spatial reasoning, problem-solving skills, and creative confidence while developing an iteration mindset that turns imaginative play into meaningful learning.

## **Block 3 – 12:35-1:35 a.m. continued**

### **Circuits Level 1 (Ages 8-10)**

Students will explore the basics of electricity through hands-on building and experimentation. Using Snap Circuits as our foundation, students will discover how energy flows, how components connect, and how simple designs can power real results. Each week, students will build working circuits, and as their confidence grows, they will experiment with series and parallel circuits, begin reading simple circuit diagrams, and practice troubleshooting when something doesn't work the first time.

This class is designed for curious builders who love to tinker and test ideas. Students will be expected to follow directions carefully, work collaboratively, and complete simple written design pages.

### **Studio Art (Ages 11+)**

The Elements of Art and Principles of Design will guide our learning over the course of the year in this highly structured studio course that teaches artistic behaviors (exploration and discovery, inquiry and ideation, skill development and artmaking, reflection and revision, self-evaluation and presentation). The learning guide will facilitate learning by providing instruction on media, materials, and tools at the start of each class period, while the students experience the visual arts as ARTISTS responsible for their own learning, who can then access materials independently to initiate and explore their artwork. Students will learn to persevere through challenges and to trust their own judgment while receiving input from, and offering feedback to, peers and their learning guide. Artist studies, inspiration materials, and guided projects will be provided for students who want or need additional support while transitioning to a self-directed artmaking environment.

### **Team Sports (Ages 9+)**

In this course, students will learn fundamental techniques that are essential to sports such as throwing and catching, jumping/ hopping, running, kicking, stopping/starting. Students will improve core strength, flexibility, agility and coordination. Students will do this in a fun, safe and organized way.

Students will benefit from learning how to work as a team and follow instructions. The goal of this course is for students to learn how to play various sports and appreciate what their bodies are capable of.

## Block 3 – 12:35-1:35 a.m. continued

### Drama Club Jr Musical Theater (Ages 6-13) Blocks 3 & 4

Students will act, sing, and dance their way through the year! During the Fall Semester, students will experience several performance styles, including musical and non-musical acting scenes, show tunes, and dance numbers, and will work on skills (then put it all together for a Fall Variety Show). Then, we are excited to announce **Frozen, Jr.** as our Spring Musical! Every student will audition for and receive a part. This class is performance-driven, with expectations of participation by all students. [Students agree to rehearse material every week. Parents or Guardians agree to help students rehearse material at home and stay in communication with the Director\(s\) on Our School Hangout.](#)

#### Additional information:

- Students may be required to provide their own costumes.
- Course schedule will include dress rehearsal(s), performances, and a few additional practice times outside of regular classes.
- Families choose to pay a \$50 course fee or volunteer 5-10 hours per theater student enrollment to make the shows possible. Course fee or volunteer selection made at enrollment.

## Drama Club Sr. Musical Theater (Ages 12+) Blocks 3 & 4

This Senior Level Drama Class will incorporate more advanced theater techniques. At least one year of theater experience is recommended but not required. During the Fall Semester, students will sample several performance styles, including musical and non-musical acting scenes, show tunes, and dance numbers, and will participate in skills workshops. Students will perform a selection of these scenes and musical numbers in a *Fall Variety Show*. Then, we are excited to announce **Frozen, Jr.** as our *Spring Musical!* Every student who audition for and receive a role. \*\*\*Please note that depending on class size, there is the possibility of combining the Junior and Senior Drama Club classes for Frozen Jr. In this case, Senior students will be given the option to perform in the musical, or continue with workshops towards a separate Black Box Theater acting showcase in the spring. They may also choose the added challenge of joining the technical crew for the Drama Club Jr performances.

This class is performance-driven, with expectations of participation by all students. Students agree to rehearse material at home every week. Families agree to help students rehearse material at home, and stay in communication with the Director(s) via Our School Hangout.

### Additional information:

- Students may be required to provide their own costumes.
- Course schedule will include dress rehearsal(s), performances, and a few additional practice times outside of regular classes.
- Families choose to pay a \$50 course fee or volunteer 5-10 hours per theater student enrollment to make the shows possible. Course fee or volunteer selection made at enrollment.

## **Block 4 – 1:35-2:35 p.m.**

### **Storybook Studio (Ages 5-7)**

Storybook Studio is a gentle, play-based class that blends stories, creativity, and social-emotional learning. Through picture books and thoughtfully chosen stories, children explore big feelings, friendships, kindness, empathy, confidence, and self-expression in a way that feels safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate.

Each class begins with a shared story experience. Stories are selected for their rich illustrations and meaningful themes, encouraging listening, wonder, and discussion. Children are guided through open-ended conversations that help them reflect on characters' emotions, choices, and experiences and connect those ideas to their own lives.

Following the story, students engage in creative play and activities inspired by the book. These may include art, storytelling, dramatic play, movement, sensory experiences, or hands-on projects that allow children to explore emotions and ideas in a concrete, expressive way.

### **Play & Learn Spanish (Ages 6-9)**

Our Play & Learn Spanish course introduces young learners to the Spanish language through hands-on activities, movement, music, art, and interactive play. This engaging program blends language learning with core subjects like math, literacy, science, and social studies. Students build foundational Spanish vocabulary and conversational skills while exploring numbers, colors, animals, weather, seasons, community helpers, and cultural traditions from Spanish-speaking countries. Through songs, storytelling, games, crafts, and collaborative projects, children naturally develop listening and speaking skills in a fun and supportive environment. No prior Spanish experience is required!

### **Illustrators & Authors: Create Your Own Story (Ages 7-10)**

This art course will explore how illustrators use color, perspective, and expression to communicate mood and action. This class encourages imagination, creativity, and personal expression as students learn to think like both authors and illustrators: creating art that brings their original characters and storylines to life.

## **Block 4 – 1:35-2:35 p.m. continued**

### **National Park Explorers: Virtual Road Trip (Ages 8-10) - A Geography & Science Adventure**

Pack your bags — we're hitting the road! In National Park Explorers: Virtual Road Trip, students travel across the United States while building strong map skills, geographic understanding, and scientific thinking.

We begin by learning how to read maps and plan our own cross-country route. Then students "visit" a variety of iconic national parks representing different regions of the United States. Along the way, learners investigate how geography shapes climate, landforms, plants, animals, and ecosystems. Through hands-on projects, outdoor investigations, and creative comparisons, students discover why deserts, forests, mountains, and wetlands are all so different — and why protecting these special places matters.

### **Circuits Lab (Ages 11+)**

Learn how electrical systems function by building, testing, and improving your own circuit designs! Using hands-on materials and guided challenges, students will move beyond simple builds and begin thinking about how and why circuits work the way they do. We'll explore concepts like series and parallel circuits, basic current flow, and how switches and components control energy within a system.

Students will read and interpret simple circuit diagrams, experiment with modifying their builds, and practice troubleshooting when something doesn't work as planned. Alongside construction, students will complete design sketches and record experiment logs to strengthen their understanding and document their thinking.

This class is ideal for students who enjoy figuring things out, working through challenges step-by-step, and building confidence in STEM skills. No prior experience is required, just curiosity, patience, and a willingness to experiment.

### **Strategy Arena: Strategy & Cooperative Games (Ages 11+)**

In this course, students will have fun learning and playing various strategy-focused and cooperative games that are thoughtfully chosen by the learning guide. Students will strengthen communication, develop analytical thinking, and enhance spatial reasoning by playing games. Students will learn the rules together as part of the class, so no previous experience is required. Students will need to be able to work in pairs and in groups and be ready to have fun.

## Four-Day Academic Program (Grades 2–6)

Our Four-Day Academic Program is designed for families seeking a consistent, structured learning environment while remaining within homeschool guidelines for the current program year. Students attend **Monday through Thursday** for all **30 weeks of the regular MRA schedule**, with an additional **4 weeks of classes** offered during winter break and at the end of the year in May to extend learning and maintain academic momentum.

Each day includes a dedicated two-hour Core Block, where students focus on: Language Arts, Math and, Unit Studies. This extended core time allows for deeper instruction, guided practice, and individualized support while maintaining a manageable daily pace.

In addition to the Core Block, students enroll in **two additional afternoon courses each program session** from our general course offerings, allowing them to explore interests in science, technology, art, nature, and other electives. **Contact [Tracy@mightyrootsacademy.com](mailto:Tracy@mightyrootsacademy.com) to enroll.**