



2026-2027 Course Descriptions
Creative Options Monday Program

Monday Creative Options

9:15 to 9:25	Student Drop-Off							
9:30	Morning Circle							
9:35	Forest School 4-7 years	Explorer's Club 7-9 years	Adventurers' Words & Worlds 8-10 years	Outdoor Cooking 9+	Culture Quest 10+	Illustration 10+	Core Academic Block 4-Day-Program Only 8-12 years	
10:35		Robotics Jr 7-9 years	Quest Learning Games 8-10 years	Sculptures 9+	Bushcraft & Beyond 10+	The Story Sleuths 10+		
11:35	Lunch and Discovery Play							
12:35	Color Art Expedition 5-7 years	Sensory Science 6-8 years	Illustrators & Authors 7-9 years	Builders & Makers 8-10 years	Cozy Creators 9+	Drama Club 6+	Board Game Masters 10+	
1:35	Story Science: Wild Wonders 5-7 years	Burrows & Nests 6-8 years	Team Challenges 7-9 years	Social Emotional Learning 8-12 years	Mad Science Lab 9-12 years		Studio Art 10+	
2:35	All Program Play							
3:00	Student Pick-Up							

Block 1 – 9:35-10:35 a.m.

Forest School (Ages 4-7)

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 & waterproof gloves.

Explorer's Club (Ages 7-9)

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, and the life cycle of trees and their importance to forest ecosystems while learning how we responsibly care for and use them. In addition, students will 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.**

Adventurers' Words & Worlds (Ages 8–10)

Adventurers' Words & Worlds invites young readers to take off on thrilling journeys through story, language, and real-world exploration. This immersive language arts course uses action and adventure literature to build reading comprehension, vocabulary, narrative writing skills, and critical thinking. Each week, students dive into exciting adventure stories, analyze key literary elements (plot, character, setting, conflict), and respond through reading discussions, creative writing, and dramatic storytelling. But the adventure doesn't stop at the page! Through hands-on, cross-curricular activities — including outdoor explorations, map making, science investigations, and physical challenges — students connect the themes of literature to real life. Whether tracking clues like a mystery sleuth, studying animal adaptations from a jungle tale, or composing adventure journals under the sky, learners will grow both as readers and as curious thinkers.

Block 1 – 9:35-10:35 a.m. continued

Outdoor Cooking (Ages 9+)

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.

Culture Quest: Countries and Cultures (Ages 10+)

In this course, students will go on a quest around the world, exploring many different countries and cultures. The class will learn about the language, art, geography, and customs of each location. The students will also have a chance to experience local food specialties and learn more about their lifestyle.

Illustration (Ages 10+)

Illustration as an art form is used to convey ideas and evoke emotions. Students will learn how to tell a whole story with their original artwork, using color and dimension to bring words to life. Illustration students will also learn about publishing, editorial, advertising, and corporate illustration and create their own applicable art (posters, ads, etc.).

Block 2 – 10:35-11:35 a.m.

Robotics Jr (Ages 7-9)

Experience basic coding by using a Sphero Indi bot with your team! Students will work together to program their bee-bot 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!

Quest Learning Games (Ages 8-10)

This course will utilize games that focus on pattern recognition, storytelling, art, and critical choices. Some examples of games students will play are Azul, Dixit, Tall Tales, Hues & Cues, and Wildcraft. Through gameplay and discussion, students will practice identifying patterns, thinking strategically, interpreting clues, and making thoughtful decisions. This course builds problem-solving skills, creativity, and logical thinking while introducing students to a variety of engaging tabletop games.

Sculptures (Ages 9+)

Step into the world of three-dimensional art! In this hands-on class, students will explore the exciting process of creating sculptures using a variety of materials and techniques. Young artists will learn how to transform simple materials into expressive works of art while discovering how form, texture, balance, and structure bring sculptures to life. Students will experiment with materials such as clay, wire, cardboard, paper, foil, and found objects as they design and build their own unique pieces. Along the way, they'll learn basic sculpting techniques like shaping, carving, assembling, and building strong structures.

Block 2 – 10:35-11:35 a.m. continued

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 such as lean-tos, tarp shelters, and traditional teepees. They will learn to responsibly transform natural and foraged materials into functional tools and survival items—including drinking gourds, cordage, utensils, and other wilderness implements—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.

The Story Sleuths (Ages 10+)

In this course, students will explore literature through age-appropriate mystery novels. Students will complete the assigned reading on their own during the week, and then, participate in discussions, activities, games and themed book party celebrations as a class. 4-5 books will be read throughout the year. **Additional materials required: Students provide their own copy of the book. Most are available through the library. Students must be comfortable reading chapter books independently.**

Block 3 – 12:35-1:35 p.m.

Color Art Exploration (Ages 5-7)

A bright, messy, magical adventure in creativity! Young artists will dive into a world of swirling paints, surprising color mixes, and hands-on discovery as they explore the amazing world of color.

Sensory Science (Ages 6-8)

Students will discover the world around them and create experiments that stimulate their senses! Through hands-on experiments, interesting books, lab notebooks, and other activities, students will delve into the world of science. Students will discover complexity, order, and wonder.

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.

Builders & Makers (Ages 7-9)

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.**

Cozy Creators Fiber Arts (Ages 9+)

In this course, students will explore fiber arts and learn how to make items by hand. They will learn skills such as embroidery, crochet, weaving, braiding, tie-dye, fabric collages, basic sewing, string art, and more. Additional materials required: students will be required to bring in an item to tie-dye.

Block 3 – 12:35-1:35 p.m. continued

Board Game Masters (Ages 10+)

In this course, students will have fun learning and playing various games that are thoughtfully chosen by the learning guide to challenge their thinking, develop teamwork and stretch their problem-solving skills. 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.

Drama Club Musical Theater (Ages 6+) 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.

Block 4 – 1:35-2:35 p.m.

Story Science: Wild Wonders (Ages 5–7)

A story-driven STEAM class where young scientists explore plants and animals through hands-on experiments, engineering challenges, and creative problem-solving. Each week, students solve real-world nature mysteries while building early science and critical thinking skills.

Burrows & Nests (Ages 6-8)

In this course, students will observe and study the varying shelters of the animal world and will then be invited to build their own! During this course, students may be invited to use the following materials with which to build: sheets/blankets/pillows; cardboard boxes; limbs/sticks/leaves/debris; plasticine; dirt/mud. Students will also be guided through physically active outdoor games in which they become the animals. These games will strengthen agility and deepen sensory awareness while also providing some “breathing out” time. Students will strengthen problem solving skills through independent and cooperative play.

Team Challenges (Ages 7-9)

Students will engage in activities that foster teamwork, critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills. Students will tackle a variety of challenges that require creative problem-solving, strategic planning, and effective collaboration. From building structures with limited resources to solving puzzles and navigating obstacle courses, each challenge will present opportunities for students to work together, think outside the box, and overcome obstacles as a team. Students will have the opportunity to analyze their experiences, identify areas for improvement, and celebrate their achievements. The goal is to emerge from the course with a deeper appreciation for the power of teamwork, and to have a toolkit of valuable skills that can be applied in various personal, academic, and professional contexts.

Block 4 – 1:35-2:35 p.m. continued

Social Emotional Learning (Ages 8-12)

In this skill-based course, students will develop a deeper understanding of their emotions and how those emotions influence thoughts, decisions, and behavior. They will investigate how feelings show up in the body, how the brain responds to stress, and how tools such as breathing and movement can support their nervous systems. Through active practice, discussion, and group challenges, students will learn how to regulate their nervous systems, build a practical toolbox for processing emotions, and experiment with strategies for staying steady when feelings run high. As the year progresses, students will strengthen focus, emotional resilience, and confidence while learning tools they can apply in friendships, family life, and group settings.

Mad Science Lab (Ages 9+)

This hands-on science class will introduce science principles through fun experiments. These investigations will teach observation skills, cause-and-effect reasoning and problem solving. In the second half of the year, students will design their own science fair experiments including observing and collecting data and making a science fair presentation.

Studio Art (Ages 10+)

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.

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 to enroll.