



## **2026-2027 Course Descriptions**

### **All Programs**

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# Homeschool Academy Program

## Homeschool Academy

9:15 to 9:25	Student Drop-Off							
9:30	Morning Circle							
9:35	Creative Explorations in Literature 5-8 years	Graphic Novels 7-9 years	Math Blasters 8-10 years	Mythbusters 9-13 years	Tech & Typing 10-13 years	Astronomy & Earth Sciences 12+ years	High School Math Lab 13+ years	Core Academic Block 4-Day-Program Only 8-12 years
10:35		Astronomy 7-9 years	History Smashers 8-11 years	EPIC Art 9-12 years	Book Club: Story Worlds 12+	High School Biology 13+		
11:35	Lunch and Discovery Play							
12:35	Creative Explorations: The World Around Us 5-8 years	EPIC Art Jr. 7-9 years	Inside Out Explorers 8-11 years	Story Factory 9-13 years	Astronomy 10-13 years	Roots of America 12+	Life Skills for Teens 13+	
1:35		Extreme Earth Adventures 7-9 years	Mighty Botanists 8-11 years	Math Masters 10-14 years	Advanced EPIC Art 11+ years	Poetry & Short Stories 12+	Magazine Studio 13+	
2:35	All Program Play							
3:00	Student Pick-Up							

## **Creative Explorations Course Descriptions (Ages 5-8):**

### **Creative Explorations in Literature – A.M. Block 9:35-11:35 a.m.**

Creative Explorations in Literature is an engaging, hands-on class for children ages 5-8 where stories, creativity, and early literacy grow together. Through a blend of read-alouds, shared reading, and language activities, students build foundational reading and writing skills in a supportive, developmentally appropriate way. Children participate in ongoing, open-ended projects, such as journaling and creative storytelling, that naturally reflect their growth and progress over time. Fine motor skills and handwriting are gently developed through meaningful, purposeful work rather than worksheets alone. Literacy instruction is part of each class, with dedicated time for phonics and word study using an Orton-Gillingham–based approach (UFLI).

Learning often extends beyond the classroom as children explore nature, play imaginatively, and take storybook adventures outdoors. Fresh air, movement, and open spaces create opportunities for connection, curiosity, and learning.

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

### **Creative Explorations: The World Around Us – P.M. Block 12:35-2:35 p.m.**

Creative Explorations: The World Around Us is a class designed for children ages 5–8 that invites students to explore math, science, geography, and problem-solving through hands-on experiences and playful discovery. This class encourages children to ask questions, test ideas, and make sense of the world around them.

Throughout the year, students investigate a variety of topics such as:

- Weather and seasons (observing patterns, tracking changes, and making predictions)
- Plants, animals, and ecosystems (life cycles, habitats, and caring for living things)
- Earth and geography (maps, landforms, oceans, and how people live in different places)
- Math in the real world (number sense, patterns, measurement, graphing, and simple data collection)
- Problem-solving and logic (puzzles, games, teamwork, and creative solutions)

Learning happens through experiments, games, building projects, outdoor exploration, and collaborative challenges. This class supports critical thinking, curiosity, collaboration, and confidence while focusing on children’s natural desire to explore and play.

## **Block 1 – 9:35-10:35 a.m.**

### **Graphic Novels (Ages 7-9)**

Using graphic novels as a fun springboard, students will improve their writing and language arts skills by creating their own stories and graphic novels. Students will read, write, and draw – incorporating language arts and art. **This course will fit best with students that read mostly independently.**

### **Math Blasters (Ages 8-10)**

It's not all worksheets all the time in this class - games and fun activities are essential for retaining what we learn. Expect to work hard and have a blast while doing math! Students will explore all the units of middle grade math, including building a foundational number sense; using arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division); and diving into fractions, decimals, basic geometry, and measurement. Some goals for this class include developing problem-solving skills, understanding place value, and mastering algebraic thinking.

### **Mythbusters (Ages 9-13)**

In Mythbusters, students become real-world investigators. Using the scientific method, they will test myths, challenge assumptions, and explore how science explains the world around us. Each unit will center around a question, and students will work collaboratively to design and carry out experiments to find the answer. Students can expect hands-on experiments, engineering challenges, data collection and analysis, and group problem-solving. This class is perfect for hands-on learners who prefer discovering answers through action rather than just reading about them. Expect plenty of hands-on testing and experimenting, paired with reading and writing as students record and reflect on what they discover.

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

### Tech & Typing (Ages 10-13)

In this hands-on technology class, students will develop essential digital skills with a focus on formal typing, written communication, and basic document creation. **\*No prior typing experience is required.\*** Students will use an online typing program to learn proper finger placement, improve accuracy and speed, and build confidence at the keyboard.

Students will practice typing through short journal prompts and guided creative writing activities while becoming familiar with creating, formatting, and editing documents in a word-processing program. As the class progresses, students will also explore designing simple presentations using Canva, learning how to organize ideas, thoughtfully choose visuals, and present information clearly to their audience(s). This class emphasizes practical, age-appropriate skills students will use across subjects, supporting writing fluency, organization, and digital literacy.

### Astronomy and Earth Sciences (Ages 12+)

This course will traverse the majesty and mystery of space as we explore the observable sky, history of astronomy, stars, cosmology, and spaceflight. While on our journey, students will look at the math and physics of space, light and telescopes, and the planets of our solar system, including a special in-depth look at Earth: its atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. **Students will have at least one evening field trip opportunity to explore the night sky together.**

### High School Math Lab (Ages 13+)

Students will use Denison math video course curriculum and workbook. **Students should plan on completing coursework at home 2-3 times a week in addition to class time.**

Students will use this course to work together with other students on their math as well as receive guidance from the Learning Guide. Students will work from their current level and curriculum in Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2. Students may come in with questions from their coursework or concepts from their math courses that need clarification. We will work together one on one or as a team to solve problems.

**Additional Materials: Each student must have a subscription to their Denison math course. Cost is \$175 for a year-long course subscription and workbook.**

## **Block 2 – 10:35-11:35 a.m.**

### **Astronomy (Ages 7-9)**

Young students will study the stars, planets, galaxies, our solar system, and spaceflight in the MRA way. Science, history, and writing come together to create an engaging, hands-on course. Through stories, activities, and creative projects, young explorers will discover space and what makes it all so mysterious and fascinating.

### **History Smashers (Ages 8-11)**

Using the History Smashers chapter books as our primary texts, along with additional picture books and videos, this discussion-based and hands-on history course invites students to take a closer look at well-known historical events and figures—and uncover what’s often left out. Together, we’ll read aloud selections from books such as Ancient Egypt, Christopher Columbus, The Mayflower, and Earth Day and the Environment—with the flexibility to let students help choose additional books from the series that spark their curiosity. Class time will include guided read-alouds, thoughtful discussion, short journal responses, and creative projects that help students think critically about people, events, and perspectives from the past. This class emphasizes curiosity, respectful discussion, and learning that history is not simply a list of dates—but a story that deserves to be examined closely.

### **EPIC Art (Ages 9-12)**

In this hands-on, engaging art course for the upper elementary group, students will learn about the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design and how to use them in their artwork. Students will dive in deep to create works with greater detail and expression. Students will explore a variety of media (paints, oil pastels, chalk pastels, markers, collage, clay and sculpture, etc.). Students will use literature and science connections, artist study, as well as both guided and observation drawing to explore line and pattern, shape, color, value, space, texture, form, movement and rhythm, balance, contrast and emphasis, repetition, and unity.

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

### **Book Club: Story Worlds (Ages 12+)**

Students will explore stories through shared worlds rather than just a single book. Each unit focuses on a different setting, such as a fantasy kingdom, survival environment, mystery town, or mythological world. Students will read selected books, short stories, and excerpts that exist within those similar worlds, comparing how different authors build setting, characters, and conflict. Students will then create their own stories set within those worlds. **This course will involve a significant amount of reading and writing and requires an independent reader of chapter books reading level.**

**Additional Materials: Students may need to provide their own copy of each book studied.**

### **High School Biology (Ages 13+)**

In this High School level course, students will explore life from cell to ecosystem. We'll learn about organism growth and development, energy and matter in biological systems, molecular and classical genetics, and much more! We will also study native plants and systems of Missouri and the Midwest and participate in creating a native plant garden at Mighty Roots.

## **Block 3 – 12:35-1:35 p.m.**

### **EPIC Art Jr. (Ages 7-9)**

In this hands-on, engaging art course, students will learn about the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design and how to use them in their artwork. Younger students will focus on developing fine motor skills and exploring a variety of media (paints, oil pastels, chalk pastels, markers, collage, clay and sculpture, etc.). Students will use literature connections, artist study, and guided drawing to explore line and pattern, shape, color, value, space, texture, form, movement and rhythm, balance, contrast and emphasis, repetition, and unity.

### **Inside Out Explorers (Ages 8–11)**

This hands-on social-emotional learning class that helps students build confidence, resilience, and strong friendship skills through movement, games, and outdoor exploration. Learners practice managing big feelings, communicating clearly, and solving real-life social challenges in a supportive, engaging environment. Rooted in the Mighty Roots philosophy, this class grows kind, capable kids from the inside out.

### **Story Factory (Ages 9-13)**

This creative writing class is a storytelling workshop where students will create original characters, build worlds, develop plotlines, and shape conflicts and resolutions. Students can expect collaborative brainstorming, storyboarding, mapping, dialogue writing, and creative problem-solving, along with consistent writing time. Each week will include drafting, revising, reading, and reflection. We'll focus not just on imagination, but on strengthening writing skills and learning how to develop ideas clearly and intentionally.

**This course will involve a significant amount of writing.**

### **Astronomy (Ages 10-13)**

This course will traverse the majesty and mystery of space as we explore the observable sky, history of astronomy, stars, cosmology, and spaceflight. While on our journey, students will look at the math and physics of space, light and telescopes, and the planets of our solar system. Through stories, hands-on activities, and creative projects, students will discover space and what makes it all so mysterious and fascinating.

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

### **Roots of America History: Cultures That Shaped a Nation (Ages 12+)**

In this course, students explore the people and cultures who lived, settled, migrated, and survived in the land that is now the United States. Rather than focusing only on dates and wars, this class centers on everyday life, cultural traditions, and lasting influence from Native American nations to early settlers, enslaved Africans, and waves of immigrants.

Students will examine how these cultures interacted, conflicted, blended, and endured and how their legacies still shape modern American life through food, music, language, beliefs, laws, and traditions.

### **Life Skills for Teens: Study, Money & Communication (Ages 13+)**

This practical, skill-building course focuses on three essential areas: study skills, financial literacy, and communication.

Students will learn how to take ownership of their education by developing effective study strategies, organization techniques, and habits that support success in high school and beyond. In the financial literacy unit, students will explore real-world money management skills such as budgeting, managing a checking account, understanding credit, recognizing hidden expenses, and applying for a job. The communication unit helps students build confidence and maturity in both academic and professional settings. Skills include active listening, reading body language, respectful disagreement, de-escalating conflict, and expressing ideas clearly while ensuring others feel heard.

## **Block 4 – 1:35-2:35 p.m.**

### **Extreme Earth Adventures (Ages 7–9)**

This is an exciting, hands-on science adventure that takes students from the age of dinosaurs all the way to outer space. Young scientists dig for fossils, grow crystals, launch rockets, investigate extreme weather, and build models that bring big science concepts to life. Designed for curious, active learners, this class blends messy experiments, outdoor exploration, and real scientific thinking in an engaging, age-appropriate way. Along the journey, students build strong observation skills, scientific vocabulary, and confidence as problem-solvers.

### **Mighty Botanists (Ages 8-11)**

Study plants through the seasons in this Botany course. Students will explore plant anatomy, photosynthesis, plant classification, and plant reproduction and ecology. During the year, students will care for portions of the food garden, learning what it takes to grow many types of edible plants, while keeping a nature journal. Students will also learn specifically about native Missouri plants while designing and creating a class garden at Mighty Roots!

### **Math Masters Speed Math: Building Speed, Accuracy & Fluency for 5th–8th Grade Levels (Ages 10-14)**

This course is designed to strengthen foundational math skills while helping students build speed, accuracy, and confidence in their mathematical thinking. Through engaging practice, games, and problem-solving activities, students will develop fluency with core math facts and operations while learning strategies and systems that make recalling and applying math easier and faster. Rather than relying solely on rote memorization, students will explore the reasoning behind mathematical processes, so they understand why methods work and how to apply them effectively. Multi-level activities allow students working between 5th–8th grade math levels to grow at their own pace while being challenged to improve their accuracy and efficiency. This course is ideal for students who want to solidify foundational math skills, increase mental math ability, and develop the confidence needed for higher-level math. **Students should already have basic familiarity with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division before enrolling.**

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

### **Advanced EPIC Art (Ages 11+)**

The Elements of Art and Principles of Design are the building blocks used to create a work of art. They are line, pattern, shape, value, color, space, texture, balance, contrast, repetition, emphasis, and unity. Middle and High School students will explore these concepts and how to use them in their artwork. They will be challenged to stretch their imagination to create works of their own design, while working within the guidelines of our topic and medium. Students will explore a variety of media, including pencil, ink, paint, oil pastel, chalk pastels, markers, collage, and sculpture. This course may include artist study, connections to science and math, and observation drawing.

### **Poetry & Short Stories (Ages 12+)**

Middle and high school students will read poems and short stories to expand their literacy, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and creative writing skills. This course will include both classic and modern authors: the fall semester will focus on classics (William Shakespeare, Emily Dickenson, etc.) and the spring semester will focus on the moderns (Maya Angelou, Mary Oliver, etc.) **This course will have a significant amount of writing. Reading will be assigned outside of MRA class times.**

### **Magazine Studio (ages 13+)**

Magazine Studio is a storytelling and publishing course where students will create a personal mini-magazine based on their interests, passions, and creative voice. Through a variety of writing styles, such as feature articles, interviews, personal reflections, and visual storytelling, students will learn how ideas become polished, shareable publications.

The focus of this course is student ownership, creative exploration, and real-world writing skills. Students will experience the full publishing process, from brainstorming and drafting to editing and layout, while building confidence as writers. Opportunities may be provided for students to submit selected pieces to the Mighty Roots digital magazine. This course will involve a significant amount of writing. **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 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.

# 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 8-11 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+	8-12 years
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

## 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.