



**2026-2027 Course Descriptions
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.)**

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.**