

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

- ❖ Classes are full-year courses. Registration for these classes requires a commitment to the fall and spring semesters (30 weeks).
- * Classes are semester courses (15 weeks). Students may take these classes fall, spring, OR both semesters (content will continue, not duplicate).

Weekly Preparation refers to a required component of the course and should be completed prior to each class meeting. This preparation ensures students are ready to fully engage in class activities and discussions.

Prerequisites/Expectations indicate the skills, habits, or background recommended to help ensure students are prepared to benefit fully from the course. Instructors may review student readiness and approve enrollment to ensure the best learning experience for everyone.

Course list with links to course descriptions below

High School

- [American Literature \(Monday OR Wednesday\)](#)
- [A Companion Course in American Literature \(Wednesday\)](#)
- [Environmental Science \(Monday\) OR Conceptual Chemistry \(Monday\) - offering TBD](#)
- [Scientific Inquiry & Research \(Wednesday\)](#)
- [Civic Reasoning & Mock Trial \(Monday\)](#)

High School & Middle School (some with instructor approval required)

- [Personal Finance & Economics \(Wednesday\)](#)
- [Art Workshop II: Mixed Media \(Monday\)](#)
- [Music & Film Appreciation \(Monday\)](#)
- [Photography Maker Lab \(Monday\)](#)
- [Entrepreneurship & Innovation \(Monday - All Ages\)](#)
- [Mosaic Newsletter \(Monday\)](#)
- [Study Skills Seminar \(Online, 5 classes\)](#)

Middle School

- [Modern World History \(Monday\)](#)
- [Earth Science & Astronomy \(Monday OR Wednesday\)](#)
- [Literary Genre \(Monday OR Wednesday\)](#)
- [Writing Essentials \(Wednesday\)](#)

Upper Elementary

- [Exploring STEM \(Monday OR Wednesday\)](#)
- [Windows & Mirrors: Seeing Ourselves in Stories \(Monday OR Wednesday\)](#)
- [Ancient History \(Monday OR Wednesday\)](#)
- [Makerspace \(Monday\)](#)
- [Art Workshop I: Mixed Media \(Wednesday LE class open to UE\)](#)

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

HIGH SCHOOL (ages 14+)

❖ American Literature (Monday)

Using a variety of key texts, students and instructor will explore what makes literature uniquely American. Students will read genres ranging from plays, essays, poetry, and novels. In doing so, we will generate answers to the question, "What does it mean to be American?" Through exposure to, for example, the poetry of Emily Dickinson and the essays of Henry David Thoreau, students will become familiar with a variety of American experiences. This is a discussion-based class with a special emphasis on critical analysis through writing. Students will engage in discussions, produce four or more pieces of writing in a variety of genres, and prepare several presentations. This class requires out-of-class groupwork.

Sample Reading List: American Indian Stories, Legends, and Other Writings by Zitkala-Sa, The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Selected Essays and Transcendentalist Writings by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya, The Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Weekly Preparation: 4-5 hours, including group meetings via FaceTime, writing, developing presentations, reading, etc.

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$740

❖ A Companion Course in American Literature (Wednesday)

In this class, which serves as a companion to the American Literature offered on Mondays, students will develop advanced writing, research, and analytical skills. Designed for motivated learners, this rigorous course includes independent projects that encourage deeper exploration and personal connection to the material. Students will procure select reading items, design their own research papers, heavily edit their own and their classmates' writing, and participate in Socratic seminars to expand and strengthen their understanding of the texts.

Sample Reading List: Various works of literary criticism of the texts studied in American Literature, How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster

Prerequisite: must be taken concurrently with American Literature (Monday)

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$740

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

❖ Environmental Science (Monday)

Environmental science is an interdisciplinary course that studies the earth, how humans interact with the earth, and how we can positively and sustainably deal with environmental issues. Environmental science includes topics from biology, chemistry, and even economics. This course is one of connections in nature, specifically: How nature works and has survived and thrived, how humans interact with the environment, and how we can live more sustainably.

The course will be divided into five units. We will start by learning how the earth works without human intervention, followed by human population science and how this population affects ecological principles. We will then closely study the earth's resources and land use by humans. This section will focus on how we can sustain resources and how human population growth and food production affects the environment. The fourth unit will focus on energy; nonrenewable energy as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. We will finish with a unit on pollution, global change, and how we can sustainably use earth's resources without causing environmental harm. Each week will include a discussion of the weekly topic and hands-on labs or group data analysis.

The opportunity for working at the AP level and taking the AP exam will be available for motivated students.

Prerequisites: reach out to the Instructor

Weekly Preparation: 2-4 hours

Instructor: Cristen Pantano

Tuition: \$825

Supply Fee: TBD

❖ Conceptual Chemistry (Monday)

This full-year course is designed to give students a basic understanding of chemical principles that characterize the properties of matter and how it reacts. Major topics covered will include: the periodic table, atomic structure and bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, properties of liquids and solids, solutions, acids and bases. With an emphasis on both the theoretical and practical aspects of chemistry, students can expect hands-on laboratory exercises, practice problems, lectures, discussions, and projects.

Prerequisites: successful completion of Algebra I

Weekly Preparation: 2-4 hours

Instructor: John Taeschler

Tuition: \$825

Supply Fee: TBD

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

❖ **Scientific Inquiry & Research (Wednesday)**

This is a year-long complementary course designed to strengthen students' understanding of science through discussion, investigation, and authentic research. This course supplements any core high school science class, including Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics, by developing the analytical and investigative skills scientists use across all disciplines.

Rather than focusing on specific content from one field, students explore how science works: how questions are formed, how evidence is evaluated, how data are analyzed, and how conclusions are communicated. Through Socratic seminars on current scientific topics, examination of real-world research, and hands-on data analysis, students build critical thinking and scientific literacy skills that directly support success in their concurrent science course. The course culminates in the development and presentation of an original research project, in which students design and conduct an investigation connected to their interests in any scientific discipline. Final projects are showcased at our end-of-year Science Fair.

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in any high school science course (e.g. Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics). Students should demonstrate strong reading comprehension, basic algebraic reasoning, and the ability to work independently on long-term projects.

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$740

❖ **Civic Reasoning & Mock Trial (Monday)**

This course explores the intersection of current events, ethics, and the justice system through critical inquiry and hands-on application. We will begin by analyzing a wide range of news and media sources to distinguish responsible reporting from misinformation and to identify credible, fact-based evidence. Alongside this work, students will examine the ethical responsibilities involved in publishing, sharing, and interpreting information in a democratic society.

Students will independently follow current events and bring their findings into the classroom for structured discussion. Through Socratic seminars and debate techniques, we will evaluate competing claims, assess evidence, and practice civil discourse.

In the second half of the year, we will take these investigative techniques and analytical skills into the court system. Working in teams as either prosecution or defense, students will develop legal arguments, prepare witnesses, and present their case in a full trial simulation.

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

Prerequisites & Expectations: This course requires a commitment to independent reading, writing, research, and collaboration. As we transition into mock trial preparation, careful organization, strategic thinking, memorization, and teamwork will be essential for success.

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours

Instructor: Natasha Benkendorf

Tuition: \$740

❖ Photography Maker Lab: Build, Stage, Capture (Monday: Middle & High School)

In this year-long class, students explore photography through hands-on creative projects that combine art, design, and experimentation. Rather than simply taking pictures, students will build, design, and stage their own photo scenes and tools. Students will design characters and miniature scenes for photo shoots, create nature arrangements, experiment with cyanotype and alternative printing methods, build working shoebox cameras, and work on a stop-motion clay animation project. These examples represent just a sampling of the types of creative projects students will explore. By the end of the course, students will have a portfolio of imaginative photography projects that show both creativity and technical skill.

Supplies Required: Camera or phone, laptop or phone for editing.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$740

Supply Fee: \$30 per semester/\$60 for the year (To be used for building materials).

❖ Personal Finance & Economics (Wednesday: High School & Approved Middle School)

In this year-long class, students will explore how economics and finance shape the world around them — and their own futures. Together, we will learn how money, markets, and decision-making influence everyday life, from the cost of groceries to career choices and global events.

We will begin by building a strong foundation in microeconomics and macroeconomics, looking at how supply and demand work, how different market structures function, how globalization connects economies, and how governments influence economic systems. Understanding these big-picture ideas will help students make sense of current events and the financial world they are entering. We will then turn to personal finance and real-world skills. Students will examine productivity and standards of living, learn how the banking system operates, and see how inflation, taxes, and other economic forces affect daily life. We will also explore management styles and practical leadership techniques.

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

Throughout the course, students will develop job-readiness skills through hands-on, interactive activities. They will practice filing taxes, analyzing the stock market, writing resumes, cover letters, or curriculum vitae, preparing for interviews, and completing job applications. Activities may include personality assessments, mock interviews, and other practical exercises designed to build confidence and real-world readiness.

Finally, we will explore consumer skills and decision-making: what it means to be a responsible consumer, how our choices affect the environment, how products are marketed and presented to us, and the psychological factors that influence why we buy what we buy.

Textbook: Economics, 2nd Edition, Krugman & Wells

Prerequisites & Course Expectations: This is a high school-level course that includes discussion of complex and sometimes mature economic and societal topics. Advanced middle school students may enroll, but they should be prepared to participate at a high school academic and discussion level. All students are expected to engage respectfully in thoughtful conversations, complete grade-appropriate analytical work, and demonstrate the independence and maturity needed for a rigorous high school class.

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours a week to every other week.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$740

*** Art Workshop II: Mixed Media (Monday: High School & Middle School)**

This class offers a balanced approach, combining fundamental technical skills with process-based projects that encourage creativity and exploration. Through a mix of structured lessons and open-ended projects, students will learn to refine their techniques while also embracing intuition and personal expression. Most importantly, the goal is for students to enjoy and appreciate the process of art making and gain confidence in their creative expression while developing strong artistic habits. The class will emphasize student voice, allowing space for choice-based projects and periodically adapting units to reflect student interests, ideas, and creative directions.

We will begin with 2D media, including drawing, painting, watercolor, and gouache, with focused study in observation, composition, color theory, value, and mark-making. As the course progresses, students will expand into printmaking techniques, collage, and Ebru marbling, as well as paint making. Emphasis will be placed on experimentation with materials, layering, texture, and developing a personal visual voice through both structured skill-building exercises and open-ended creative projects that encourage individual exploration.

In addition to 2D work, students will engage in 3D media and sculptural practices including clay, felting, plaster of Paris, and mosaic. Rooted in my teaching philosophy this course emphasizes that strong technical foundations support meaningful creative risk-taking. I

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

prioritize process over product, encouraging students to think critically, experiment boldly, and view art as a powerful form of personal expression.

Weekly Preparation: Weekly journal prompt will be given to students to explore independently. Weekly time commitment is variable and reflects the individual pace of each student's creative process.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$370/semester

Supply Fee: \$75 per semester/\$150 per year.

* **Music & Film Appreciation: History, Culture, Evolution and Industry** **(Monday: High School & Middle School with Instructor approval)**

In this course, students will explore the rich history and cultural impact of music and film, discovering how these powerful art forms have shaped entertainment, society, and personal expression across time. Students will learn about important "firsts" and major developments in both music and cinema, tracing how styles, technology, and storytelling evolved from early beginnings to the modern industry. We will examine influential genres, landmark works, and the historical contexts that helped shape them. The class will also look behind the scenes to understand how the music and film industries function — from production and performance to distribution, promotion, and audience reception. In addition to historical study, students will actively engage with the material by sharing favorite songs, films, composers, performers, and directors, and by discussing what makes them meaningful or effective. Through guided listening, viewing, and discussion, students will build skills in analysis, interpretation, and artistic appreciation.

This course emphasizes thoughtful discussion, cultural awareness, and enjoyment of music and film as both artistic expression and global industries. Middle School students are welcome to join the class if they feel ready to engage in high school-level thinking, discussion, and independent work in order to fully benefit from the class.

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours a week to every other week. Homework will consist of watching films, creating playlists, and writing personal responses.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$370/semester

* **Entrepreneurship & Innovation (Monday: All ages)**

Empowering student entrepreneurs to lead, create, and launch!

In this dynamic, project-based course, students will explore the entrepreneurial mindset and learn how to turn ideas into real-world ventures. Whether launching a product, designing a

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

service, or solving a community problem, students will take their ideas from concept to execution through hands-on activities, team collaboration, and business planning. Along the way, they'll learn core principles of innovation, marketing, financial literacy, and pitching. The class creates space for creativity, critical thinking, and initiative—giving students the tools to lead, create, and launch with confidence. The class culminates in an Entrepreneurship Fair, where students showcase and sell their products to the community—gaining real-world experience as young business owners.

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours (possibly more in the 2 weeks leading up to the Showcase)

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$370/semester

*** Mosaic Newsletter (Monday: Middle & High School)**

Students in this class will create a bimonthly newsletter for the Mosaic community. Students will practice key researching and writing skills as they create news articles, features, pop culture and sporting event reports, interviews, and editorials. Students will also develop technological skills related to journalism to include digital photography and navigating online platforms like Canva. Writers in this class will have their finger on the pulse of Mosaic.

Weekly Preparation: variable based on individual level of commitment

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$370/semester

MIDDLE SCHOOL (ages 12 - 13)

❖ Modern World History (Monday)

Traveling together around the world, we will investigate the major achievements, tragedies, and conflicts from the beginning of the twentieth century through the present. Students will dive into the details of decisions that have been made throughout history and the implications of those decisions. During this course, students will be required to do individual research at home and present their information in class. In addition, each student will present 2 larger projects to finish each semester.

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours of reading, writing, and planning for presentations

Instructor: Natasha Benkendorf

Tuition: \$740

❖ Earth Science & Astronomy (Monday OR Wednesday)

In this hands-on, inquiry-based course, students explore Earth science and astronomy through engaging investigations and activities. They will design experiments, collect and analyze data,

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

and apply quantitative techniques to answer questions about Earth systems, space, and the universe. Units may include geologic processes, the rock and mineral cycle, the water cycle, weather and climate, human impacts and sustainability, and the solar system/universe.

Working collaboratively, students practice communicating findings, interpreting evidence, and thinking like scientists. This course builds on skills developed in prior science classes while introducing new content and challenges in a variety of Earth and space science topics.

Interested students will have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-year science fair.

Prerequisites: Students must possess appropriate maturity for effective small group lab work and solid communication and writing skills.

Weekly Preparation: 2 hours on average

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$825

Supply Fee: \$40

❖ **Literary Genre (Monday OR Wednesday)**

In this class, students will explore the major literary genres, discovering together what those genres have in common and how they differ. The year will be broken into units based on those genres, including fiction (both short story and novel), nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Students will become familiar with each genre and be able to identify distinguishing characteristics of each. Within each of these units, we will study various literary devices, including the author's use of figurative language, theme, tone, and style of writing. Through small group projects and in-class discussions, students will get comfortable talking about literature with their peers. Additionally, they will practice writing extensively and write two formal papers throughout the year.

Sample Reading List: Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson's poetry, Born a Crime by Trevor Noah, Short Stories of Edgar Allen Poe, The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros, Peter Pan by J.M. Barre

Weekly Preparation: 3-4 hours to include reading, group work via FaceTime, writing, and developing presentations

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$740

❖ **Writing Essentials (Wednesday)**

This class will help students achieve two different but complementary goals. They will improve their understanding and use of English grammar mechanics and also explore methods to create beautiful writing.

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

In each class, students will begin with games and activities to reinforce skills essential to using grammar properly. Together, we will focus on fully understanding advanced uses of the parts of speech and complex sentence construction. Then, we will jump into a richer understanding of the English language puzzle by taking sentences apart and diagramming them together.

In order to learn proper structure, organization, and support methods, each student will create several persuasive or informational essays. If they are working on a paper for another class, they will be welcome to work on them for this class as well.

Weekly Preparation: 1 hour, practicing concepts learned in class

Instructor: Natasha Benkendorf

Tuition: \$740

* **Study Skills Seminar (Ages 12 - High School; Online 5 sessions, dates TBD)**

This online series of classes is designed to help middle and high school students develop practical skills and strategies to become more confident, independent, and effective learners. Over the course of five sessions, students will build abilities in managing their time, goal setting, staying organized, taking effective notes, reading actively, and applying strategies to retain and master new concepts.

Students will use ongoing work in their other courses as the basis for weekly preparation, applying the strategies learned in the seminar to organize, review, and reflect on their own assignments and projects. This approach allows each student to personalize their practice, reinforce skills in real time, and directly connect study strategies to their current learning.

Tuition: \$100

UPPER ELEMENTARY (ages 10 - 11)

❖ **Exploring STEM (Monday OR Wednesday)**

Hands-on activities and experiments are a fun way for upper elementary students to dive into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). In this class, students will explore a variety of topics and challenges that encourage active learning, problem-solving, and scientific thinking. Each session will include engaging, hands-on projects that integrate technology, engineering, and math alongside traditional science concepts, giving students a well-rounded experience of STEM in action.

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$740

Supply Fee: \$40

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

❖ **Windows and Mirrors: Seeing Ourselves in Stories (Monday OR Wednesday)**

Our literature class will explore the idea of “Windows and Mirrors” - how stories can act as windows into the lives, cultures, and experiences of others, and also as mirrors that reflect our own feelings, questions, and identities. Throughout the year, students will read a variety of texts-including historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, and adventure/survival stories that help them better understand the world around them while also recognizing themselves in the characters and themes we encounter.

Our classes will include rich discussions about themes, character choices, and meaningful connections to real life. Students will engage in creative projects, group activities, and reflection journals that encourage them to think deeply and express themselves in thoughtful, personal ways.

This will be a year of curiosity, empathy, and discovery as we learn to see both ourselves and others more clearly through the power of story.

Weekly Preparation: 2 hours on average including assigned reading, vocabulary practice, a short writing assignment, and an end-of-book project when we finish each novel. These tasks are designed to build strong reading habits, deepen comprehension, and help students grow as thinkers and writers.

Instructor: Katie Sander

Tuition: \$740

❖ **Ancient History (Monday OR Wednesday)**

Pharaohs, Ziggurats, and Gladiators – Oh my! Don’t just read about ancient history — experience it! This course brings the ancient world to life through hands-on projects, interactive lapbooks, map work, class discussions, games, and creative activities. Students will journey through the earliest civilizations using Story of the World, Volume 1: Ancient Times 25th anniversary edition as our guide. This engaging text weaves world history into storybook form, introducing students to the first nomads, the pyramids of Egypt, the temples of China, the myths of India, and the rise and fall of great empires across every continent. With maps, illustrations, and fascinating stories from many cultures, students will gain a broad understanding of ancient civilizations from 6000 BC to the early Middle Ages. Students will understand timelines, build models inspired by ancient architecture, participate in simulations and historical role-play, present short research projects, and complete weekly textbook readings. By the end of the year, students won’t just know ancient history — they’ll feel like they’ve traveled through it!

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

Prerequisites: Students should be able to read grade-level chapter books independently and complete 10–15 pages of reading homework each week. They should be comfortable answering short response questions and taking simple notes from class discussions. Students should also be prepared to participate respectfully in discussions, work cooperatively in small groups, follow multi-step directions, and give brief presentations. Most importantly, students should come ready to engage, create, discuss, and explore the ancient world with curiosity and enthusiasm!

Weekly Preparation: 1-2 hours

Instructor: Renee Alejandro

Tuition: \$740

Supply Fee: \$10 for material printing

*** Makerspace (Monday)**

Mosaic Makerspace is a hands-on, creativity-driven class where students explore engineering, science, art, and design through active problem-solving and experimentation. Students will engage in engineering challenges, learn about the laws of physics, explore basic electronics and circuits, and build projects that move, fly, light up, or interact. Through activities such as designing earthquake-resistant towers, creating Rube Goldberg machines, building simple circuits, experimenting with bubble science, constructing roller coasters, and developing their own board games, students learn by testing ideas, revising designs, and thinking critically about how things work.

The class emphasizes collaboration, creativity, and perseverance. Students are encouraged to brainstorm, prototype, reflect, and improve their work while developing teamwork and communication skills. Art and design thinking are integrated throughout, ensuring that projects are both functional and imaginative. Makerspace fosters curiosity and confidence, giving students opportunities to explore real-world concepts in physics, engineering, and materials science in an engaging and supportive environment.

Weekly Preparation: Students will always be encouraged to create in their free time, but no official homework will be assigned.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$370/semester

Supply Fee: \$60 per semester/\$120 per year

*** Art Workshop I: Mixed Media (Wednesday)**

This class offers a balanced and engaging approach to artmaking, combining foundational skill-building with creative, hands-on projects that spark imagination and curiosity. Through guided lessons and open-ended activities, students will strengthen their drawing and painting skills while also learning to trust their ideas and creative instincts. The goal is for students to

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2026 - 2027

enjoy the process of making art, build confidence in their abilities, and develop positive studio habits such as patience, problem-solving, and thoughtful craftsmanship. Student voice is an important part of the class, and at times projects will be shaped by student interests, allowing their ideas and creativity to guide our direction.

We will begin with 2D media, including drawing, painting, watercolor, and gouache, focusing on observation, color mixing, composition, and expressive mark-making. Students will also explore printmaking, collage, and storytelling through images. In addition to 2D projects, students will work with 3D media such as clay, papier-mâché, and found-object sculpture. These experiences will help them understand form, structure, and how art exists in space. This class emphasizes that strong foundational skills support creative confidence. Students will be encouraged to take risks, reflect on their work, and see art as both a joyful process and a meaningful form of self-expression.

Weekly Preparation: Students will always be encouraged to create in their free time, but no official homework will be assigned.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$740

Supply Fee: \$75 per semester/\$150 per year.