

Mosaic Class Descriptions Fall 2022

Meeting Mondays & Wednesdays

September 12 - May 17

A note on class placement: Academic age groups (Upper Elementary, Middle School, High School) are recommendations with flexible boundaries. Placement is based on both age/ability and at the discretion of the Instructors and Program Director. For inquiries, please contact jayne@mosaicfreeschool.com

MONDAY CLASSES

Writers Workshop (ages 13+, semester or full-year course)

Instructor: Emily Axelrod

This class will focus on improving academic writing and strengthening foundational skills in grammar/mechanics, paragraph construction, and text analysis. Students will learn how to craft paragraph and essay responses with clear, evidence-based reasoning. Our class will include weekly readings and journal entries that students will revise into short essays in MLA format. Along the way, they will learn strategies for revision, editing and proofreading, and reflection on the writing process. What makes the workshop come alive is the ability for the students to share their writing within a supportive class community and to receive and offer constructive feedback. This workshop is a wonderful supplement to the Mosaic literature and history classes as support for student writing or can be taken as a standalone class.

Prerequisite: Students must be at an 8th reading level. They should be able to independently write at least two paragraphs with a basic command of grammar. Students should possess basic competency with conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Tuition: \$360/semester

Environmental Science (ages 14+, full-year course, meets for a 2-hr block)

Instructor: Cristen Pantano

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 those students interested.

Materials: We will be using this [textbook](#). We have secured multiple copies of this text at a very reasonable rate, \$10.00 for a used hardcover.

Tuition: \$400/semester

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American History (ages 14+, full-year course)

Instructor: Allison Sabatini

This class will explore the history of the United States from colonialism through the civil rights era. Students will acquire an understanding of the various political, social, intellectual, and economic trends that have characterized American history through the 20th century, with a special emphasis on the exploration of voting rights. The founding fathers declared our government was “of the people, by the people”, yet many people had to fight for their suffrage. We will use primary and secondary sources, movies, songs, and art to tell the story of real people who overcame obstacles and did something extraordinary for their community.

Tuition: \$360/semester

(High School) American Literature (ages 14+, full-year course)

Instructor: Jennifer Filannino

Using a variety of key texts, students 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.

Please contact the instructor for a proposed book/reading list.

Tuition: \$360/semester

Current Events & Extemporaneous Speaking (ages 12+, may be taken full-year or by semester)

Instructor: Natasha Benkendorf

Students will follow current domestic and foreign events throughout the year. They will practice ways to annotate the information and organize it for use in speech or debate. Students will then use this information to respectfully discuss their opinions about events and issues. Eventually, they will practice how to use their collected information to deliver extemporaneous speeches with minimal preparation.

Tuition: \$340/semester

Art History (ages 12+, full-year course)

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

This class promotes a deep understanding of art throughout the history of humanity through the study of art movements, concepts, and their connection to historical events. Students will develop visual and critical analysis through the course. By examining diverse cultures through the lens of art, students will broaden their knowledge not just in art, but also delve deeper into history, geography, literature, traditions, religions, ethnicity, political and economic progress. The material covered in class will deepen their comprehension of artistic advances from a global perspective, as well as sharpen their visual, critical, and comparative analysis. For each time period, the students will go over major and memorable works of art, examine how the events of the time influenced the artistic development, connect the art to the current events of the time in question, analyze the intended use of the artwork, the audience, and the role of artistry in the society.

Reference Books: Gardner's Art Through The Ages, Living With Art by Rita Gilbert

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This class will be followed by Art History II spring semester.

Tuition: \$340/semester

Art Workshop II (ages 12+, may be taken full-year or by semester)

Instructor: Lisa Young

This class is aimed at middle school students that have completed Art Workshop I. The course will focus on taking a student's art skills to a superior level. Students will be taught advanced drawing, painting, palette knife and sculpting techniques and will be introduced to a number of new mediums. Mediums: Graphite pencil, watercolor, colored pencil, charcoal, acrylics, oil pastel, ink, and polymer clay.

Please contact the instructor with questions about student placement.

Tuition: \$340/semester

Middle School Chemistry (ages 12 - 13, semester class)

Instructor: Cristen Pantano

In this semester-long class, we will use the American Chemical Society's Middle School Chemistry curriculum to learn the fundamentals of chemistry in a hands-on manner. Through dynamic labs and hands-on exercises, students will learn about atoms, bonding, chemical, and physical properties as well as chemical reactions.

This class will be followed by Environmental Science in the spring semester.

Tuition: \$340/semester

Diving In: Literature for Middle School (ages 12 - 13, full-year course)

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

In this middle school literature class, we will take a deep dive into both contemporary and classic novels, short stories and poetry. Through guided discussions and short responses both in and outside of the classroom, students will explore literary styles and devices, develop and support their own opinions with text-based evidence, and practice identifying plot, theme, figurative language, and other important elements of fiction analysis. Additionally, students will have regular vocabulary lists, writing responses based on the texts, both group and individual projects and classroom presentations.

The booklist will be finalized based on student enrollment/parent input and may include the following: Animal Farm by George Orwell, The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt, The Giver by Lois Lowry, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor, A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Tuition: \$340/semester

Critical & Creative Thinking Circle (ages 10 - 11, may be taken full-year or by semester)

Instructor: Jean Gilbert

This is a hands-on problem-solving class where the focus will be on creative, critical, and divergent thinking. These are areas rarely covered in a typical school setting but highly sought after in the real-world settings of business, academia, and modern high-tech industry. Each week students will be encouraged to solve challenging and complex problems individually and collaboratively in small teams where they will learn to appreciate each other's input and value

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alternative approaches. We will discuss multi-step and open-ended problems, brainteasers, math puzzles, and logic problems as students learn to distinguish what is relevant for obtaining

a solution. We will even make mistakes and enjoy them! For more information on the history of this approach (inspired by an ideology that employs more problem solving vs. computational or textbook math) please visit the website Mathcircles.

Tuition: \$340/semester

Full STEAM Ahead!

Instructor: Caitlin Ayers

This hands-on class is an exciting semester full of student-led, teacher-guided lessons and activities centered on engineering, physics, electricity, and technology culminating in a capstone project. Students drive the learning and tackle the projects as a team while the instructor facilitates, providing guidance and coaching. Literacy and art will be integrated into this hands-on collaborative class to foster important life skills while helping to spark a lifetime interest in STEM disciplines.

Tuition: \$340/semester

Ancient History (ages 10 - 11, full-year course)

Instructor: TBD

Through hands-on projects and historical fiction and nonfiction, students will fully immerse themselves in ancient history. We will cover a wide range of topics including early nomadic humans, Ancient Egypt and China, early Roman life and religion, and more. Students will explore this period in history with group projects, presentations, and writing.

Tuition: \$340/semester

Literature Circle (ages 10 - 11, full-year course)

Instructor: TBD

The purpose of this class is to foster a love of literature and an appreciation for the ability of a story to capture one's imagination. Students will be reading three to four novels over the course of each semester, and exploring what makes great literature through hands-on activities, class discussion, and age-appropriate writing assignments. Basic literary elements (plot, character, setting, theme, etc.) will be identified and analyzed, as students develop the ability to thoughtfully critique a novel and express their views in a group setting. Outside work required for this class will consist of reading assigned chapters and preparing for class discussions and projects. The book list will be finalized based on the preferences and ability levels of registered students.

Tuition: \$340/semester

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WEDNESDAY CLASSES

Digital Photography (12 weeks)

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

In this course students will learn about both historical and technical aspects of photography, appreciating photography as an art form while also learning practical skills and applications. Each week we will discuss the work of one or more well-known photographers and then students will get an opportunity to shoot some of their own images. They will have the chance to show their work to the class and both provide and receive constructive advice and critique. Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom software will be used for the class - no previous experience is necessary. We will spend some time learning new skills in Photoshop and Lightroom each week and students will come away with a solid foundation in this software. By the end of the course, students will improve their skills with both pure photography as well as digital photo manipulation.

What is needed for the class:

- A digital camera (preferably not a phone or tablet, though those can be used in case of emergency).
- A laptop that has Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom loaded onto it. The Photography Plan for [Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom](#) is \$19.99/month.

Tuition: \$300/12-week semester

Mosaic Makerspace (4 week sessions, ages 9+)

We are excited to be launching a Makerspace program this year! Mosaic Makerspace will foster innovation through hands-on learning, providing students exciting opportunities to imagine, design, tinker, create and build while acquiring important STEAM skills (science, technology, engineering, art, and math).

Tuition: \$60/4-week Session

Session 1: Junkbots! (9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5)

Using their imagination, creativity, and STEAM skills, students will create a variety of “junkbots” from everyday and recycled materials coupled with circuits, motors, and batteries. They’ll learn and apply the engineering design process to iteratively test and improve their robot creations. Fun competitions will be incorporated along the way such as competing to build the fastest robot, most innovative use of materials, etc. No previous robotics experience is required!

Session 2: Learn to Paint with Embroidery! (10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9)

In this four week course, we will learn to translate our own works of art on paper into textile art on fabric. Using an embroidery hoop, thread, linen, a needle, and our imagination, we will create a unique piece of textile art to wear, hang on the wall, put on our backpack or even on our shoes. In the first two weeks of the course, students will learn and practice a variety of different stitches (e.g. French knot, back stitch, chain stitch, etc). Then we will take what we have learn and apply it to a unique piece of art, translating it onto fabric. Join us for the adventure into textiles!

Session 3: TBD (11/16, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21)

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Drama Club (12 weeks)

Facilitator: Jayne Besjak (jayne@mosaicfreeschool.com)

The fundamentals of improvisation are the fundamentals of life. Listening, agreeing, forwarding action, taking care of your partner and so much more. You'll be introduced to

those lessons as you play games as well as create characters and scenes using a variety of improv and creativity exercises. Students will decide on performance outcomes for the class - monologues, skits, etc.

Tuition: \$240/12-week semester

Python Coding (12 weeks)

Instructor: [The coderSchool](#)

During this Coding Journey, students will learn how to build apps and games using Python. Our core philosophy is to coach students in creating custom projects so that students are constantly coming up with and building unique apps that excite them. Our program's strength is our ability to teach many technologies from 3D gaming to data science to AI and more.

Each week, students will be engaged in hands-on, project-based learning. Through the projects created, students will explore creativity and collaboration while learning from their failures and developing the grit needed to excel in the 21st-century workforce. The interactive coding sessions will have students working together in small groups and have them experience coding in a positive, cooperative learning environment where collaboration and communication are encouraged.

Game Development

- Variables, loops, and If/then logic
- Cartesian coordinates and object movement
- Event detection
- Score keeping and game design
- Simple math logic

App Development

- Data types (int, float, strings)
- Compound data structures (lists, tuples, and dictionaries)
- Conditionals, loops, and functions
- Object-oriented programming and using external libraries
- Best practices for coding style and documentation
- Comprehensions and iteration
- Files, context managers and fake files
- Object-oriented programming, testing and test-driven development concepts

As a way to demonstrate progress and practice communication skills, students will participate in a **Coder Fair** at the end of the semester! The Coder Fair will invite family and community members, and serve as a great way for students to showcase their projects and celebrate their hard work.

Tuition: \$400/12-week semester

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Screenwriting & Filmmaking (15 weeks)

Instructor: Montclair Film, Axel Ortiz

In this hands-on filmmaking workshop, students will learn the art of filmmaking from script to screen. Students will work together as a film crew to generate ideas, write short screenplays, direct actors, and learn camera, lighting, and sound techniques. Students will also learn the basics of editing in Adobe Premiere Pro. In each class, students will work both behind and in front of the camera, in both exterior and interior locations, so that they can gain as much experience as possible.

This class will build on skills learned from the Screenwriting & Filmmaking classes offered in 2021-2022 at Mosaic and is appropriate for both returning and new students.

If enrollment exceeds 12 students we will break the class into two sections by age/experience.

Tuition: \$400 (includes all equipment and supplies)/12-week semester

Art: Jewelry Making (6-weeks: Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 19, 26)

Instructor: Lisa Young (lisa@artfullyyoung.com)

The class is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore 3-dimensional wearable art. Using the elements of art and the principles of design students will produce several pieces of unique personal adornment. The course will also incorporate the history and social context of jewelry and its significance in society. Great class for students that like to work with their hands and use new materials. Mediums: Paper, polymer clay, wire, metal and more.

Tuition: \$150/6-week session and \$75 supply fee

Art: Introduction to Sewing (6-weeks: Nov 2, 9, 16, Dec 7, 14, 21)

Instructor: Lisa Young (lisa@artfullyyoung.com)

The class will introduce basic sewing machine skills, such as threading the machine, winding bobbin, adjusting tension and stitching. Students will also learn how to read and use patterns, how to cut fabric and how to baste and machine sew, as they make a pillowcase, a soft toy and an item of clothing. Students are encouraged to use their own machine, but can also use one of ours. Fabric and notions to be supplied by student based on supply list.

Tuition: \$150/6-week session and supply fee