

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2024 - 2025

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

- ❖ 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).
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HIGH SCHOOL (ages 14+)

❖ American Literature

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.

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$720

❖ Conceptual Chemistry

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.

Math Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I

Textbook: TBD

Instructor: TBD

Tuition: \$800

❖ American History

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

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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.

Instructor: Allison Sabatini

Tuition: \$720

* Screenwriting & Filmmaking (High School & Middle School)

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 previous Screenwriting & Filmmaking classes offered at Mosaic and is appropriate for both returning and new students.

Instructor: Montclair Film

Tuition: \$440/semester (length of class will be 15 weeks for 12+ students enrolled or 10-12 weeks in length based on enrollment total)

Tuition fees include access to all filming equipment and supplies and computer editing software.

* Art Workshop II (High School and Middle School)

This class is aimed at middle and high 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.

Instructor: Lisa Young

Tuition: \$360/semester

* Digital Photography (High School & Middle School)

In this course we will look at photography as an art form, and at the same time we will learn practical applications. By the end of the course, students will improve their skills with photography, as well as digital photo manipulation via Adobe Photoshop or an alternative software of their choice.

Photo I (Fall Semester)

In Photo I the focus is on improving our photography skills and learning about the foundations of what makes a great photo. The students will learn to distinguish an art photo from a quick

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snapshot and learn about photography from an artistic standpoint. Rule of thirds, leading lines, natural framing, how to take a great portrait, focal point, use of color, what should a self portrait involve, and more, will be covered in this semester. We will look at the history of photography, as well as great photographers of the past and present.

Photo II (Spring Semester)

In Photo II class, the attention shifts to photojournalism. We will be working on being able to convey a compelling story through our images. Our assignments will include reportage through photography, a personal photo essay, improved portrait skills, product photography, and more. We will discuss possible careers in the field of photography and at photographers that are able to influence entire nations through their images.

Students will need:

-A laptop that has software that we can use to edit the photos, and one of the following software options:

- Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom (19.99 monthly subscription)
- PIXLR: <https://pixlr.com/> (free online editor)
- Photopea: <https://www.photopea.com/> (free online editor)
- GIMP 2: Open source software that works great for editing most photos: <https://www.gimp.org/downloads/> (free)

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$360/semester

MIDDLE SCHOOL (ages 12 - 13)

❖ Modern World History

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 be individually and in groups to dive into choices that have been made throughout history and the implications of those decisions. During this course, students will be required to do research, make presentations, and present analysis papers.

Instructor: Natasha Benkendorf

Tuition: \$720

❖ Inquiry Life Science

This middle school class engages students in the practice of science not just the memorization of facts. Using an inquiry methodology, we will cover core areas in life science: cells, organisms, plants, animals, and ecosystems. Through labs and activities, students will actively engage in scientific practices as they design their investigations to answer a variety of thought-provoking research questions. There will be a strong focus on collaborative work in class and opportunities for students to develop scientific writing and presentation skills.

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Working in small groups, students respond to a guiding question, design their methodology, develop models, collect and analyze data, and construct an argument for presentation.

Weekly homework will include chapter reading from an online textbook.

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

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$800

❖ Literary Genre

In this class, students will explore the major literary genres, discovering together what they 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.

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$720

UPPER ELEMENTARY (ages 10 - 11; 9 year olds with instructor approval)

❖ Middle Ages History

Knights, Vikings, castles, crusades! Through hands-on projects, class discussion, and historical fiction and nonfiction, students will fully immerse themselves in medieval history. We will cover the major historical events from the fall of Rome through the rise of the Renaissance, using Volume 2, Story of the World as our guide. Students will explore this period in history with group projects, presentations, and writing. Textbook chapter reading will be required homework each week.

Instructor: Renee Alejandro

Tuition: \$720

❖ Science Explorations

Hands-on activities and experiments are the perfect way for elementary students to have fun exploring science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). In this class, students will enjoy short (2-4 week) units focused on "doing science" to encourage active learning and exposure to core STEM concepts and scientific thinking. We will explore a variety of physical, earth/space, and life science topics.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$720

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* Readers Theater & Performance (Upper Elementary & Middle School)

We'll transform the classroom into a stage and merge students' love of play and performance with the important skill of oral reading. In this engaging and supportive class, students will perform skits together from works of literature and historical periods and collaborate to bring literary scenes to life. We'll focus on developing reading fluency, comprehension, voice expression, and character. As a culminating project, students will step into the shoes of medieval youth as they embark on a lively tour of a 13th century village using the extraordinary children's book *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* as the guide for our adventure. The book is set in 1255 England and contains over 20 fictional monologues and dialogues that provide a rich exploration of the daily life of different social classes from the perspective of children. As we explore the monologues together students will identify and discuss major themes associated with the era and gain an understanding of the characteristics of a medieval community. Each student will choose one or more character monologues for individual-focused study and will perform the monologue(s)/dialogue(s) in a final theatrical production.

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$360/semester

* Art Workshop I

Art class focused on bringing each student to the next level in their art journey. The course will lead the student from basic drawing skills through to advanced painting techniques using a wide range of mediums. Students will have the opportunity to express themselves in both realistic and abstract visual arts, as they work towards developing good foundational art skills. Class will include still life, portraiture, landscape, life drawing, cubism, impressionism, surrealism and sculpture. Mediums: Graphite Pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, watercolor, pastel, clay and acrylic.

Instructor: Lisa Young

Tuition: \$360/semester

* Makerspace Projects

This class is designed to increase student interest in STEAM and to provide students the opportunity to design, build, invent, and create in a guided hands-on environment. Students will work on an assortment of projects, tailored to their interests, and will have access to a wide variety of everyday materials and our maker technology - sphero robots, littleBits electronics, makey-makey invention kits, hummingbird robotics kits, microbits, Strawbees, and more!

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$360/semester