

Mosaic Class Descriptions 2023 - 2024

Meeting Mondays

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

MONDAY CLASSES

HIGH SCHOOL (ages 14+)

Word History Through Art

In this year-long course, we will look in depth at world history through the lens of art. We will examine how people reacted to events in the world, and how it was reflected in the world of art. Our goal is to connect the dots between what was happening from a historic perspective, how it affected the lives of people at the time, how that was reflected in the art, and how it still potentially affects our lives today. The focus will be on discussing some of the more fascinating aspects of art history and the correlating historical events. Each lecture will align chronologically and will provide context for a deeper understanding of the subject matter. We will touch on politics, science, ethics, and of course history, through discussions, debate, and writing.

We will learn how religion affects art, and examine Colonialism and its effect on art. We will learn about important figures that changed the tides of time: Justinian I, Marie Antoinette, The Sun King, Leonardo Da Vinci, The Medici, and more. We will draw parallels between some of the modern influential families and The Medici, in how they influenced the world around them, and, of course, the art. We will talk at length about the Industrial Revolution, and its influence on art, and not just the first Industrial Revolution, but all four of them. Why are we obsessed with the Mona Lisa? Was Van Gogh really that crazy? We will talk about art being used as propaganda from ancient times to today, and how artists find ways around rules imposed on them by the regime in charge. We'll look at Japan's isolationist policies and how they tie in with European impressionism and how the Great War is responsible for the birth of several art movements, and what happened to the art that went missing during WWII. Finally, we will discuss more modern questions, like is graffiti considered art? Why or why not? The psychology behind people that feel the compulsion to destroy art. How has the development of digital art and the last Industrial Revolution influenced the art world? All these questions and more will be addressed throughout the course.

Instructor: Mariya Kovalyov

Tuition: \$360/semester

High School Biology with Labs (full year class)

In this year long class we will delve into the biochemical pathways and forces that power life. We'll start with atoms, build up to biomolecules, and continue through cells up to evolution

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and the study of whole organisms. We will be using the "flipped" classroom model where the reading is done before the material is presented in class. This allows students to become familiar with the concepts before each class, bring questions and insights, and allows us to go deeper with biochemistry and application of the information during class time. In addition to class discussions, we will have near weekly hands-on labs to further students' understanding and application of the class material.

All material will be presented at the standard level, as well as the Honors/AP Level for those wishing to delve deeper. Mastery at this deeper level is not required and each student may choose the level of learning appropriate for their needs and ability.

Text: We will be covering one chapter of a standard tenth-grade biology textbook per week, using Miller and Levine Biology.

Instructor: Cristen Pantano

Tuition: \$400/semester, includes all student lab/activity supplies

High School World Literature

This course is designed to introduce students to masterpieces of World Literature ranging from Homer's *The Odyssey* through *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Through class discussion and in depth literary analysis, students will hone their ability to think and talk critically about works of literary art that both shape and reflect our world through the ages. Students will read, discuss, and analyze texts from a variety of genres including poetry, plays, novels, and short stories. Through small group discussions and literary analysis, we will look specifically at the historical context of these works of literature and how they reflect and shape the world in which we live. Students will develop their thoughts through written analysis in several papers throughout the class. By the end of this course, students will be able to clearly articulate major themes, literary techniques, and devices used by a specific author as well as place the specified piece of literature within a larger world context.

Sample Reading List: *The Odyssey* by Homer, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe, and *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$360/semester

Art Workshop II (High School & Middle School; full year or semester option)

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.

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Instructor: Lisa Young

Tuition: \$360/semester

Screenwriting & Filmmaking (Spring semester; 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: \$425/semester, includes all equipment and supplies

MIDDLE SCHOOL (ages 12 - 13)

Literary Genre

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.

Sample Reading List: Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson's poetry, "Thank You, Ma'am" by Langston Hughes, Lord of the Flies by William Golding, and The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$360/semester

Inquiry Physical Science

This middle school class engages students in the practice of science not just the memorization of facts. Using an Argument-Driven Inquiry (ADI) methodology, we will cover four core areas in physical science: matter, motion and forces, energy, and waves. Through labs and activities, students will actively engage in scientific practices as they design their own investigations to

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answer a variety of thought-provoking research questions - from how thermal energy works to what could make an action figure jump higher.

The ADI process is multi-layered and collaborative with a strong focus on developing scientific writing and presentation skills. Working in small groups, students respond to a guiding question, design their own method, develop models, collect and analyze data, and construct an argument for presentation. Each investigation will conclude with peer critique, class discussion, and written lab reports.

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

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$400/semester, includes all student lab/activity supplies

Mock Trial (Spring semester)

The classroom will transform into a courtroom as students adventure through a variety of criminal trials to uncover the inner workings of the judicial system first-hand. This class will explore how our court system uses sound argument and evidence to strive to create justice in a variety of situations. The students will work together to investigate, prepare, and enact fictional courtroom scenarios while learning proper procedure and basic law concepts. (e.g. burden of proof, liability, credibility, and precedent.) As they move into middle school, many students discover a desire to express opinions and argue about aspects of the world they see around them. This class will provide a safe space for all participants to practice creating orderly, persuasive, and logical statements while also learning to recognize fallacies and pitfalls in poor arguments. Students will have the opportunity to develop public speaking and critical thinking skills in an exciting and engaging environment.

Instructor: Natasha Benkendorf

Tuition: \$360/semester

UPPER ELEMENTARY (ages 10 - 11)

Science Investigations (Fall semester)

Who doesn't enjoy the fun and challenge of trying to solve a mystery? In this class, students will work together to solve two mysteries using science: a crime scene and an environmental disaster. Scientific investigation is about gathering evidence to determine a solution. Student understanding of science will deepen as they experience the ways that science is like the process of detection with an important distinction between evidence and inference. Crime lab testing will include thread tests, powder tests, DNA, chromatography, fingerprinting, and more. To solve the environmental mystery students will study and discuss reference materials, including records, newspaper articles, charts, graphs, and even "secret documents," and integrate all of this information with their own test results. Students will become aware of the

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interconnectedness of the natural world and of environmental problems, and see how one small change can trigger a whole chain of events.

(Spring semester)

Topics TBD

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$360/semester

Literary Geography

This class will blend literature and geography as students read and discuss a variety of stories from around the globe! We'll explore what makes great literature as we navigate the world through weekly hands-on activities, class discussions, and presentations. The class will

integrate the study of physical geography - maps, mapping tools and physical features - with projects centered on culture, history, natural resources, cuisine and economy related to the stories we read. The book (and short story) list will be finalized based on the preferences and ability levels of registered students. Some possible novel choices include: *A Long Walk to Water*, *The Night Diary*, *Call it Courage*, *The Red Umbrella*, *When Stars are Scattered*, *Esperanza Rising*, *The Last Mapmaker*.

At-home work required for this class will consist of reading assigned chapters and preparing for class discussions and projects.

Instructor: Sachi Tripp

Tuition: \$360/semester

Art Workshop I (full year or semester option)

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

Readers Theater (Spring semester; ages 10+)

We'll transform the classroom into a stage and merge student 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 time periods. Students may create props, costumes, and sets/projects related to the readings and will work collaboratively

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to bring literary scenes to life. The Readers Theater approach is a valuable way to: develop fluency through repeated exposure to text, increase reading comprehension, integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening in an authentic context, increase reading motivation, boost confidence and improve the self-image of students.

Instructor: Jayne Besjak

Tuition: \$300/semester

Makerspace Projects (Spring semester; ages 10+)

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 individual 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