

Millennium Charter Academy Upper School



Elective Course Descriptions, Grades 5-8

2023-2024

Dear Families of Rising Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Graders,

At MCA, we offer a wide array of Elective courses that span subject areas and special interests. These classes are selected based upon the school's philosophy of education, which requires meaningful, substantive material that promotes evaluation, generalization, and synthesis. Secondly, but of equal importance, a teacher's passion for the subject is factored into the selection. Students will receive percentage grades for all Elective courses.

Each student will have the four core courses: English, history/geography, science, and math. All core courses are taught with academic vigor in mind, and our Elective courses are equally conscientious as well as delightful.

Students likely will be placed in one of their top three selections for each semester. The more quickly students submit their choices, the more likely they are to receive their first choices. Space in each course is limited.

Kindest Regards,

[Dr. Jarrid K. Looney](#),
Upper School Director

[Mrs. Jessica Flowers](#), Lower School Director



Elective Courses

Grades 5 & 6

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Acting, Mrs. Edwards	Acting, Mrs. Edwards
Basic Sports Skills, Mr. Roman	Beginning Band, Mr. Money ***Yearlong Course
Beginning Band, Mr. Money ***Yearlong Course	Choir, Mrs. Davis
Choir, Mrs. Davis	Computer Programming, Mr. Sealey
Outdoor Flying Disc Experience, Mr. Sealey	Fine Art, Mrs. McCormick
Pottery, Mrs. McCormick	Off the Wall Sports, Mr. Roman

Elective Courses

Grades 7 & 8

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Acting, Mrs. Edwards	Acting, Mrs. Edwards
Basic Sports Skills, Mr. Roman	Choir, Mrs. Davis
Choir, Mrs. Davis	Etiquette, Mrs. Meadows
Clay Sculpture & Pottery, Mrs. McCormick	Fine Art, Mrs. McCormick
Intermediate Band, Mr. Money ***Yearlong Course	Intermediate Band, Mr. Money ***Yearlong Course
Life Skills, Mrs. Meadows	Living Well, Mr. Roman
Reading Refuge, Mrs. Ashburn	Outdoor Flying Disc Experience, Mr. Sealey
Robotics, Mr. Sealey	Reading Refuge, Mrs. Ashburn



Course Descriptions

Acting — *Beverly Edwards*

The major goal of this course is to introduce students to the basics of performing in theater and to strengthen public-speaking skills. Students explore how theatre is the art of telling stories through live acting. They will learn to work together, build trust, and involve every member in a performance. We will explore how pantomime and behavior help tell a story; how being present, listening and reacting are an important part of being a performer; and to understand the importance of articulation, projection and voice variation.

Basic Sports Skills — *Nick Roman*

During this elective you will learn, improve, practice and master the basic skill of many sports such as volleyball, basketball, track, and soccer. By the end of each sport, you will take the skills you learn and apply them to real game situations. This would be a great elective for students who are between playing on MCA sports teams, and still want to stay in shape.

Beginning Band — *Rodney Money*

This course is offered to students with no previous music experience who plan on being in band in high school. The emphasis for this class will be mainly on the development of basic technical skills. The students are required to either buy or rent their own instruments and purchase the book “Tradition of Excellence” which can be found in most music stores. Beginning Band students from the 2021-2022 school year may also choose to take this class as a review or even to learn a new instrument.

Choir — *Danielle Davis*

Choir elective is for those with basic singing experience. A light audition/placement will be required. This course will be excellent preparation for participating in high school choir. Throughout this course, we will be exploring eclectic musical genres, advancing performance skills, creating harmonies with part-singing, advancing sight-singing, learning proper vocal-health practices, and learning to develop a deep love of singing and performing. Students are required to perform in winter concerts, spring concerts, and after-school activities. Students may also get an opportunity to travel outside of MCA to share their talents with the community, as well as compete in a competitive choir setting.

Clay Sculpture & Pottery (7 & 8) — *Mary Perry-McCormick*

This is a sculpture/pottery course, so if you are interested in working with ceramic clay look no further. Following the core knowledge curriculum, students will focus on creating 3-dimensional clay pieces. Some pieces will be sculptural pottery but other pieces will include clay masks and sculptural objects like clay creatures. Emphasis will be placed on surface decoration, sculptural form, and texture. If you are ready to create fun sculptures and pottery, this is the course for you.



Computer Programming — *Charlie Sealey*

Students will take an in-depth look at Scratch, an online programming tool. Various animations and games will be created using Scratch. We will use other online programming resources such as Code.org and Codecombat to also learn different coding languages.

Etiquette: A Friend for Life — *Amanda Meadows*

This course is designed to equip students with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to navigate social situations with confidence and grace. In this interactive and engaging course, students will learn the art of polite and respectful behavior, fostering positive relationships with their peers, teachers, and other members of the community.

Fine Art (5 & 6) — *Mary Perry-McCormick*

This course is a basic art course focusing on two-dimensional design (a flat surface) and traditional art media, using drawing, acrylic painting, watercolor painting, printmaking, and zentangling. If you want to get a good basic overview of art skills, this class will get your creative juices jumping.

Fine Art (7 & 8) — *Mary Perry-McCormick*

Two-dimensional art is mostly on a flat surface like drawing, acrylic painting, watercolor painting, printmaking, and zentangling. Although we will review basic art skills, this class is designed to help you really improve your skills and create finished art pieces. Creativity and thinking “outside the box” will be emphasized, possibly using unusual materials and surfaces. It should be fun!

Intermediate Music — *Rodney Money*

This year-long, high-level course focuses on performance. Students must be self-motivated, able to work well with others, and able to count eighth-note rhythms. Students are required to perform in at least two Christmas concerts, two spring concerts, and other events, possibly outside regular school hours. Students may have the opportunity to travel as well. Students interested in Intermediate Music are required to do a light, non-threatening audition to make sure the student understands the basic concepts of reading and counting music.

Life Skills — *Amanda Meadows*

How do you sew a button on a shirt? How do you boil/fry/scramble eggs? How do you follow a recipe? How do you learn so many skills necessary for daily living? Learn all these things and much more with me!

Living Well — *Nick Roman*

Get ready to be healthy! Join this elective for an exciting approach to a lifelong healthy lifestyle. This elective introduces students to various forms of fun fitness, such as circuit training, aerobics, and kickboxing. Healthy cooking, label reading, dealing with teenage self-esteem and peer pressure are also among the many things incorporated into this elective.



Off the Wall Sports — *Nick Roman*

Maybe you are not a sports fanatic but enjoy being active and learning new things. If so, this elective is for you. We will explore and learn many different activities including ultimate frisbee, field hockey, wall ball, and much more! (Basketball is **NOT** part of this course.)

Outdoor Flying Disc Experience — *Charlie Sealey*

Students taking this course will learn the rules and how to play a number of flying disc sports. These will include Disc Golf, Ultimate Frisbee, and a few other flying disc games.

Pottery — *Mary Perry-McCormick*

This is a beginner-level pottery course. If you are interested in working with ceramic clay, this is the class for you. Following the core knowledge curriculum, students will focus on creating 3-dimensional clay pieces. Fine craft clay vessels, functional ware (like cups), and sculptural pottery will be made during this class. Emphasis will be placed on surface decoration, sculptural form, and texture. Though pottery will be emphasized, some pieces will be more sculptural -- for example, a pot with a face!

Reading Refuge — *Nichole Ashburn*

Homework, studying, and projects - When will it ever end? Do you wish you had time to just read without having to analyze each chapter? Join Reading Refuge and have time to just read, read, read. Students will read books of their choosing from a variety of genres. At the end of the quarter, we will have a book talk to advertise our favorite books.

Robotics — *Charlie Sealey*

This course provides an introduction to robotics using LEGO Mindstorm EV3 kits and the LEGO Mindstorm software. Students will be involved in the development, building, and programming of a Lego Mindstorm robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Student-designed robots will be programmed to compete in various courses as developed by First Lego League.

