Revised 8/20/2026

# Middle School Class Descriptions 2026-2027

**Foundations of Math**
Teacher: Kathy Martin
Meets: Fall semester, once weekly (see grid)
Description: Is your student struggling with fractions and/or positive and negative numbers? These math skills are foundational to success in pre-algebra, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and Precalculus. This class will help your student master these skills! The Foundations of Math class is an add-on class which does not accrue any high school credits; students will still be taking their regular math course (whether at MSA or elsewhere). The class is open to middle school and high school students. It will be offered on Mondays from 10:45 to 11:40 during the first semester. The first class will be on August 31 (NOT on Aug. 24, the first day of school).

The Foundations class will be offered in two parts: one part about fractions and one part about positive and negative numbers. Students can take either or both parts, depending upon their needs. Class sessions will include hands-on activities, discovery activities, and games. It will NOT be all-lecture! Both conceptual understanding and proficiency in math operations will be emphasized.

If you're not sure if your student is struggling with these skills, you can contact the office for the assessment.. The first three pages of the assessment cover fraction skills, and the last page covers skills for positive and negative numbers. An answer key is provided. It's fine to take the assessment in several sessions! No calculator may be used. For students who struggle with multiplication facts, a multiplication chart has been attached and can be printed for use while taking the assessment.

The Fractions part will last 8 weeks and costs $35 (includes $5 materials fee). The Positive and Negative Numbers part will last 4 weeks and costs $18 (includes $3 materials fee). Homework is minimal, but practice is needed in order to master these skills. Sign up in the MSA office. Students should bring their assessment (if taken) to the first day of this class.

Questions? Contact Kathy Martin at katimmartin@gmail.com

**Middle School History**
Teacher: Kerri Munch
Meets: Full year, once weekly for 1 hour (see grid)
Material: Notgrass History: From Adam to Us by Ray and Charlene Notgrass.
From Adam to Us - Part 1: Creation to Cathedrals (ISBN 978-1-60999-084-8) &
Part 2: Castle to Computers (ISBN 978-1-60999-085-5)
From Adam to Us Student Workbook (ISBN 978-1-60999-090-9)
From Adam to Us Map Book (ISBN 978-1-60999-087-9)
Homework time expectation: about 2 hours weekly
Teaching format: Lectures with in-class activities and note taking to reinforce the topics that are being discussed in class. Weekly homework questions about the lecture/discussion from class and mapwork that is to be turned in the

following week. Tests will be taken at home.

Description: This year we will cover a broad view of World History. It will start with the creation of God's world and take us all the way up to the Twenty-First Century. We will pinpoint important facts about our world and learn many fun facts that make each country uniquely them. Class time will be filled with the teaching of the lessons, hands-on activities, fun discussion and learning the skill of note taking. This middle school class takes all the information they will need in high school but zooms the lens out very far out so they get small chunks of a World History class. This will give them a good base for the in depth look that they will be receiving in high school. Next year, we will be doing the same for American History, so our middle school students get a taste of both types of history classes before they enter their high school years.

**Middle School Life Science**

Teacher: Crisi Morris

Homework Time Expectation: 1-2 hours per week depending on speed of reading. Approximately 15 questions per week.

Teaching Format: Lecture, homework, & hands-on learning activities. In class participation will be necessary to learn and have fun.

Required Textbooks: God's Design for Chemistry & Ecology. ISBN 1683441257

Description: Class time and lab time will be together on Monday mornings. This class will be interactive and fun. Most requirements for this class will be met by actively participating in our discussions, groups, labs and projects. Hands-on activities will reinforce learning. Minimal outside work is expected. We will cover about 3 chapters per week. Quizzes will be taken at home and turned in during class time. Topics will include the intricacies of chemistry and ecology, states of matter, the scientific method, plants and animals living in 16 different ecosystems, the structure of atoms and molecules.

**Middle School Literature**

**Middle School Literature**

Teacher: Ashley Shorey

Meets: Full year, once weekly for 1 hour (see grid)

Required materials: See below for book list

Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours weekly, depending upon reading speed

Teaching format: Weekly assigned reading with questions to answer; in-class discussion.

Description: This class will discuss some of the basic literary devices in preparation for more in-depth analysis in high school. The books we will read are:

*The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli*
*The Adventures of Robin Hood by Roger Lancelyn Green*
*Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls*
*A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens*
*Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell*
*The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pene Dubois*
*The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare*
*The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett*

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**Middle School Writing/Grammar**
Teacher: Ashley Shorey
Meets: Full year, once weekly for 1 hour (see grid)
Required materials: *WriteShop 1 Student Workbook 5th Edition*
Homework time expectation: 2-3 hours weekly
Teaching format: Lecture and group writing; hands-on skill building activities and weekly writing assignments.
Description: This class will cover a variety of writing assignments including explaining a process, writing a factual report, description, different points of view, practicing journalism, and writing a concise biography. Weekly assignments will encourage self-editing and grammar skills. Class time will provide instruction as well as interactive exercises to grow the student's writing abilities.