

2025-2026  
**CLASS CATALOG**



*An Academic & Inclusive Homeschool Community*

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# OUR MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

Rising Roots seeks to create a safe, supportive, and open space for homeschool families of all backgrounds. We are committed to principles of inclusion while honoring the great need for support through the singular experience of homeschooling our children.

Rising Roots is expressly open to and welcoming of individuals regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, national origin or genetic information.

In this co-op we believe that Black Lives Matter and that LGBTQ+ rights are human rights. We pledge to see and honor each other's differences while taking the time to learn the world outside of our own, realizing that the experiences of others are valid and real.

Rising Roots Secular Homeschool Cooperative was created in 2021 when we saw the need for a secular co-op in the Lehigh Valley. We aim to be a safe place for religious and non-religious families alike.



# OUR FEES



## MEMBERSHIP

Family Membership \$90

- Technology Access
- Events, Activities & Field Trips
- Enroll in Classes



## CLASSES

Class Fee	
Full Year	\$100-\$130
Semester	\$50-\$65
Material Fees	\$5-75

Financial Aid is Available

## Payment Schedule

July 1st	Semester 1 & Year Material Fees
July 2nd	50% Semester 1 Class Fee 25% of Year Class Fee
Sep 1st	50% Semester 1 Class Fee 25% of Year Class Fee
Nov 1st	Semester 2 Material Fees
Nov 2nd	50% Semester 2 Class Fee 25% of Year Class Fee
Feb 1st	50% Semester 2 Class Fee 25% of Year Class Fee

All Payments are made online through Homeschool-Life





## A WORD FROM OUR MEMBERS



“Rising Roots has brought us so much joy in the last year! It feels great to be part of a community, to have adventures to look forward to every week, and to be in a place where we feel supported, encouraged, and safe.”

- Emily D’Emidio



“Rising Roots is the family we didn’t know we needed. Not just for the kids, but for the adults too!”

- Alyssa Sitarik

“We Found Our People!”

# OUR CLASSES

Classes are available for students aged 4-Adult.

All of the classes at Rising Roots adhere to our philosophy.

## **Y** YEAR LONG CLASSES

Year-long classes provide a comprehensive and in-depth exploration of the subject matter. These classes will run September – May. Sign ups close for year-long classes on August 14th.

## **F** FLEX CLASSES

Flex classes run from September through May and are designed to be independent of each other. Unlike some other courses, they do not build upon themselves. This means that a student can join a flex class at any point in time, without any prior experience or knowledge beyond the class prerequisites. Students can take a flex class for just one semester or commit to the whole year, depending on their preferences and availability.

## **S1 S2** SEMESTER CLASSES

Semester classes allow students to enroll in a wider variety of classes. The first semester runs from September to December, while the second semester spans January to May. During the traditional registration period in spring 2025, students may enroll in both Semester 1 and Semester 2 classes. Semester 1 classes are indicated with the S1 icon. Semester 2 classes are indicated with the S2 icon.







# PreK-Kindergarten Classes





# PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN CLASSES



## Alphabet Forest (S2)

Experience the alphabet each week with friends, through music, poetry, art, nature crafts, and outdoor exploration. We will learn together through nature studies, outdoor time whenever possible, and nature crafts. We will read books, enjoy stories and art, craft, and letter-build together. This class will be active and hands-on, but we will also have time for sitting and listening.

Grades: PreK-Kindergarten  
Teacher: Christin Kielar  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$15

## Junior Paleontologists (S1)

Stomp, chomp, and learn about the time when dinosaurs ruled the Earth! In this hands-on class, young learners will dig into the prehistoric world through crafts, stories, and interactive activities. We'll explore different types of dinosaurs, discover how fossils form, and even go on our own "dinosaur digs." Whether your child loves the fierce T-Rex or prefers gentle giants like Brachiosaurus, this class is sure to spark curiosity and excitement!

Grades: PreK-Kindergarten  
Teacher: Kristin Lauer  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$15

## Little Learners (Y)

Little Learners combines literature, crafting, singing and playing to create a fun and engaging learning experience. We will be focusing on developing our fine and gross motor skills through different activities. Each week will incorporate a theme related to the time of year. Based on our theme we will read a story, sing and move our bodies, do a craft project or play a game all of which will help your student to continue to develop their motor skills. This class does require the ability to sit and listen for a short time during the story. We will be working on scissor skills repeatedly throughout this class, along with other fine motor skills like ripping, tracing, drawing, coloring and more. We will work on gross motor skills like tossing, catching, jumping, running and more. Little Learners is great for our youngest members (ages 3 and 4) to begin taking classes. 3 Year olds joining this class must have an older sibling who took classes in previous years.

Grades: Preschool-PreK  
Teacher: Larissa Hernandez  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$30





# PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN CLASSES



## Creative Hands: Fine Motor Arts (F1) (F2)

Unleash your little artist's creativity while building essential fine motor skills in this engaging class! Through hands-on activities like cutting, coloring, painting, and sculpting, children will strengthen their hand-eye coordination and dexterity. Each session offers fun, age-appropriate projects that inspire imagination, foster independence, and prepare young learners for future success. Watch your child's confidence grow as they create masterpieces with their own two hands!

Grades: PreK-1  
Teacher: Nichole Ruiz  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$20

## Circle Time (F1) (F2)

Come join our circle where we will focus on making friends, our social interaction, learning in a group environment, and development of essential skills. We will have fun together while working on a variety of skills such as, listening and talking in a group, sharing, taking turns and cooperation. This engaging class will include singing songs, reading stories, talking in turn, playing games, and doing creative activities.

Grades: PreK-1  
Teacher: Tonya Bigelow  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$15

## Tiny Explorers (Y)

Embark on an adventure with us in this child-led nature play class. Together, we'll journey through diverse habitats, brought to life through captivating books, lively songs, and artistic creations. To nurture our little learners, each session begins and ends with music and movement, providing a comforting structure for exploration and creativity. Let's ignite imaginations and foster a love for nature—one adventure at a time!

Grades: PreK-1  
Teacher: Nichole Ruiz  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$30



K - 6th Grade  
Classes



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Tech Savvy Kids (S1)

Welcome to Tech Savvy Kids! In this hands-on course, students will become tech explorers, mastering the computing tools that help us navigate the digital world. From creating documents and flyers to using databases and understanding internet safety, we'll explore the many ways computers can empower us to be creative, organized, and safe online. This class will teach kids the essentials and beyond about the software, hardware and computing packages at their fingertips on their personal computer. Students will bring their wi-fi enabled personal laptop to class, and each class will involve one-to-one instruction helping with their specific device. Please note, while tablets are also wonderful computing tools, they have limited functionality and frequently require app purchases or downloads to perform the same tasks as computers, often with log-ins required. For this reason, sending a child with a computer is strongly encouraged. This class is well-suited to children bursting with their own strong ideas, opinions, and interests and desire to digitize their creativity as it will utilize project-based learning and focus on creating products.

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Sera Karahoca  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$5

## Modern A Capella (S2)

Do you love Pentatonix? If so, or if you've ever wanted to sing in harmony without instruments, this class is for you! Students will learn about the elements and history of contemporary a cappella singing, from doo-wop to Straight No Chaser. We will practice vocal technique through proper warm-ups, focus on group listening and blending, experiment with vocal percussion, and learn to sing several songs together as a group! No experience is necessary, but a willingness to sing is required!

Grades: 4-12  
Teacher: Amy Howe  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$7.50

## Circle Time (F1) (F2)

Come join our circle where we will focus on making friends, our social interaction, learning in a group environment, and development of essential skills. We will have fun together while working on a variety of skills such as, listening and talking in a group, sharing, taking turns and cooperation. This engaging class will include singing songs, reading stories, talking in turn, playing games, and doing creative activities.

Grades: PreK-1  
Teacher: Tonya Bigelow  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$15





# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Picture Books for Writers (S1)

Remember your favorite picture books from when you were little? Picture books often feel magical when we're too young to read, and for many of us they stay magical, too! If you'd like to learn how to do some of that magic, this is the class for you. Working in groups, we'll go from start to finish to compose standard-length, 32-page picture book manuscripts, whether prose or poetry, with teacher and peer support all the way. No previous creative writing experience is needed, and if you're not sure if you're a writer, this is a great class for you to see what you can do and have fun with creative, supportive friends!

Note: This class is Fall 2025 only. It pairs well with Picture Books Illustrating with Procreate class (check the prerequisite) offered in Spring 2026. If you only want to do the writing, no problem—other student illustrators will work with your book manuscript in the Spring class.

Grades: 5-8

Teacher: Chris Phillips

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$10

## Picture Books Illustrating with Procreate (S2)

Come illustrate a children's book written by Rising Roots students in the Picture Books for Writers class! This is the second part in a team taught class where teams of students will write a children's book during the first semester. Our job will be to work in teams to bring their words to life through images and decorative text while we learn about different styles of children's book illustrations. You must have basic understanding and experience with Procreate. If you are new to Procreate, first semester Digital Art with Procreate is a prerequisite. At the end of the semester, we will have illustrated children's book(s) to show for it!

Grades: 4-8

Teacher: Jenna Fletcher

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$20

## LEGO Club Collaborators (Y)

In this class, we will build and explore intricate LEGO creations. We will focus on creativity, spatial reasoning, collaboration and problem solving skills. Students will have the option each week to participate in a LEGO challenge OR work on their own creations - either individually or with others.

Grades: 2-5

Teacher: June Doran

Class Fee: \$100

Material Fee: \$10



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Sewing Y

Whether you have only sewn a few stitches with a machine, or have made garments, this class is for you. This class will be split up into pods, so that every ability level is covered. As long as you know how to operate your sewing machine, you are able to join us! Beginner sewers will work on projects like small bags, stuffed animals, and possibly simple clothing. More advanced students will work on more difficult projects, including costumes for Rising Root's musical! Come join us to help expand your sewing skills, no matter what your ability.

We encourage parents and children of all ages to learn together in this class; however, grades younger than 5th must have an adult registered to take the class with them.

Grades: 2-Adult  
Teacher: Alyssa Sitarik  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$30

## LEGO Builders S1

In this fun class we will explore and build complex LEGO challenges, including incorporating movement into our lego builds! We will have a mix of individual and collaborative challenges throughout the year and will learn about problem solving, teamwork and design.

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Heather Berry  
Class Fee: \$50  
Material Fee: \$5

## Creative Hands: Fine Motor Arts F1 F2

Unleash your little artist's creativity while building essential fine motor skills in this engaging class! Through hands-on activities like cutting, coloring, painting, and sculpting, children will strengthen their hand-eye coordination and dexterity. Each session offers fun, age-appropriate projects that inspire imagination, foster independence, and prepare young learners for future success. Watch your child's confidence grow as they create masterpieces with their own two hands!

Grades: PreK-1  
Teacher: Nichole Ruiz  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$20

## Vibe Check-Middle Grades S1

Vibe Check is an emotional and relational wellness class for 4th-6th grade students. Throughout this class, we will create a safe place to talk through tricky feelings and situations, as well as learn important skills to maintain healthy friendships. We will learn about boundaries, active listening, and mindfulness skills in a creative and engaging way.

Note: This class will incorporate art therapy activities, grounding yoga postures, and breathing exercises. Yoga postures can be adapted as needed for any students with mobility differences.

Grades: 4-6  
Teacher: Jana Hanna  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$10



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Book Club: Graphic Novels

Graphic novels have become some of the most exciting new reading made today. Some are adapted from earlier books or movies. Some are part of huge series. And some are individual stories, fiction or real-life, that bring comic book-style images and clever writing to create an awesome, unique reading experience! There's a lot going on in these books, too, and this class gives us a chance to gather in a group to talk about stories, characters, pictures, and ideas—book clubs aren't just for regular chapter books! We'll read book in both fantasy and realistic settings, with all kinds of kids, animals, and even adults featuring in the stories. And you just might wind up with a suggested summer reading list to keep you enjoying graphic novels even after the school year!

Grades: 4-6  
Teacher: Chris Phillips  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$5

## Improv

In this Improv class, we'll play low-pressure group games to practice active listening skills, creative thinking, storytelling, character development, and being present in the moment. Students may be asked to speak one word at a time as a three-headed expert, present a prop as a new invention, act out a scene as an unlikely superhero, and play charades with a twist. There are so many fun improv games that we'll explore! There will be lots of silliness in a supportive and collaborative environment.

If you've taken this class before, there is no reason you can't take it again. We'll have some new activities and repeat some favorites. I'd love to keep improvising with you. New faces are also more than welcome! No prior experience necessary.

Grades: 4-6  
Teacher: Michelle Rohaly  
Class Fee: \$100  
Material Fee: \$15





# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Motion Masters Y

This elementary Physical Education class focuses on developing fundamental movement skills, promoting physical fitness, and fostering positive attitudes towards active living through a variety of engaging activities including locomotor skills, manipulative skills, games, dance, and fitness exercises, while emphasizing safety, cooperation, and sportsmanship...and for fun, perhaps a little bit of Spanish thrown in.

Grades: 2-5  
Teacher: Cherie Althausen  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$5

## Oh, The Things! S2

Oh, the things we will do,  
In this class with you!  
A storytime art class the giggles will burst,  
Mixing and creating a colorful first!  
With paintbrushes wiggling and crayons a-blur,  
Young artists are ready for magic to stir!  
For art is not perfect, but a zazzle of heart,  
Each drip and each splat is a wonderful part.  
Oh, the things we will do,  
In this class with you!  
Please join us in semester TWO!!

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Sam Laudenslager  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$20

## Space Explorers: S1 A Galactic Adventure

Attention all future astronauts! Join us as Space Explorers venture beyond Earth's atmosphere into the wonders of outer space. In this semester-long class, we'll explore astronauts, the International Space Station, planets, and the vast solar system. Each session will feature exciting activities like reading space-themed books, creating cosmic art projects, conducting experiments, and watching short, educational videos. Get ready to blast off as we even become the solar system in a fun, interactive way!

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Amy Pretz  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$7.50

## LEGO Club Explorers F1 F2

In this class, we will build creatively with LEGOs! We will focus on designing and building our own LEGO builds both individually and with classmates. Students will develop problem-solving, spatial awareness, critical thinking and collaboration skills. LEGO build prompts will be offered regularly, but students will always be free to work on their own projects, instead.

Grades: K-3  
Teacher: June Doran  
Class Fee: \$50  
Material Fee: \$5



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Time Travelers: S1 S2 Ancient Adventures

Pack your bags—it's time to journey back through history! In this semester-long class, we'll explore the incredible civilizations of Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Together, we'll uncover their fascinating cultures, learn about hieroglyphics and mummification, discover the stories of Greek gods, and even build pyramids! With hands-on projects and exciting books, every session is designed to spark curiosity and inspire adventure.

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Amy Pretz  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$7.50

## Cook + Story S1 S2

From baking bread to hand-milling apples, scooping and sifting flour to washing up the spoons when we are finished, join us for a beautiful ritual that brings us together: food. This kitchen classroom will be a multisensory experience for small hands. Each week, we will explore seasonal and whole foods through stories and art, and then prepare our own, for a nourishing snack, or to share.

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Christin Kielar  
Class Fee: \$65  
Material Fee: \$37.50

## Pages of the Past F1 F2 Book Club

Calling all book and history lovers! This book club will time travel through U.S. history by reading various works, including novels, graphic novels, poetry, and first person narratives. Our theme will be: What does it mean to be an American? How do we as Americans embrace a shared culture if we are also a nation of immigrants? And how does this apply to our current culture? Students will explore this theme through literary analysis, class discussions, and the occasional activity or craft.

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Mary DiMaggio  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$10

## Innovation Station: Y Literature-Based Science Adventures

Dive into a world of creativity and problem-solving with this STEM/STEAM-based class! Each week, we'll read an inspiring book that presents a challenge, and together, we'll explore innovative ways to solve it. This hands-on class is perfect for young scientists and inventors who love using their imagination and tackling problems in creative ways.

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Amy Pretz  
Class Fee: \$130  
Material Fee: \$30



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Theater Munchkins <sup>(S2)</sup> (Junior Chorus for Theater Production)

Theater Munchkins is for any aspiring performer who wishes to be in the production of Wizard of Oz. Instead of staying after Rising Roots, our younger cast members will rehearse their special role in Wizard of Oz during the regular Rising Roots day. Students in this class will perform in Wizard of Oz in May 2026 as citizens of Munchkinland and other junior chorus roles. As the show gets closer in April 2026, members of the Theater Munchkin class will be asked to stay to rehearse with the full cast during Theater (3:15-4:15).

Grades: K-3  
Teacher: Jenna Fletcher  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$25

## Figure Drawing <sup>(F1)</sup> <sup>(F2)</sup>

In this art class we will learn to draw the human form using multiple traditional and some creative methods. We will focus on techniques like gesture, proportion, anatomy, and composition!

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Sonja Jedziniak  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$20

## Theater Program: <sup>(Y)</sup> Wizard of Oz

Come over the rainbow with us and take a walk down the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City! Students from 4th-12th grade are invited to join us for a magical theatrical adventure into the land of Oz. Student actors in this class will have the opportunity to perform in the Wizard of Oz and will be invited to audition for the main roles of Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion, the Wicked Witch of the West, Glinda and more. The class will end in performances on April 25, 2026.

Grades: 4-12  
Teacher: Jenna Fletcher  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$40

## Junior Game Club <sup>(F1)</sup> <sup>(F2)</sup>

Junior Game Club is a place to build friendships, practice teamwork, and develop problem-solving skills. Each session will feature a variety of games that are easy to learn, fun to play, and perfect for all skill levels.

Grades: K-3  
Teacher: Debbie Moore  
Class Fee: \$50  
Material Fee: \$5





# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Yes, Chef! Kitchen Adventures Y

In “Yes, Chef!”, we will be learning important skills in the kitchen and having fun doing it! We will start out with simple snacks and treats and work our way up to a fancy meal you can cook for your grown ups at home. Come prepared to learn a lot and try new things!

Grades: 3-5  
Teacher: Jana Hanna  
Class Fee: \$130  
Material Fee: \$75

## Garden to Table S2

In this hands-on class, kids will learn how plants go from tiny seeds to tasty harvests while exploring different ways to grow food. We’ll discover what makes plants grow best, meet the insects and animals that help (and sometimes harm) our plants, and learn about soil and water conservation methods. Through planting projects, nature observations, and interactive lessons, students will gain a deeper understanding of where food comes from and how we can grow it in harmony with nature.

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Kristin Lauer  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$15

## The Flavor Lab S1 S2

This class is a hands-on kitchen experience where we explore and experiment with the delicious science of food! Cooking is more than just following recipes—it’s about playing with flavors, textures, and ingredients to create something delicious. In The Flavor Lab, young chefs will learn to make food with their own hands, discovering the joy, creativity, and connection that comes from cooking for themselves and others. Each week students can expect to get creative with hands-on cooking and baking projects—mixing, rolling, shaping, and decorating. We will explore the textures, colors, smells, and flavors of fresh ingredients while we learn basic kitchen skills like measuring, chopping, and stirring. Together we will create beautiful and tasty food to enjoy and share with others all the while practicing teamwork and self-expression through cooking together.

Grades: 4-6  
Teacher: Jessica Perkins  
Class Fee: \$65  
Material Fee: \$37.50



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Handcrafts Around the World

51

Travel the world while working with your hands to craft beautiful and meaningful art, inspired by people around the world. We'll practice our global citizenship, asking questions about geography, culture, and history, while creating and collecting keepsakes from our travels.

Each week, we will have an opportunity to work with our hands in some way. Handcrafts will range from fiber to clay to paper. Come prepared for activities in weaving, printing, sewing, and textile dyeing.

Grades: 3-5

Teacher: Christin Kielar

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$20

## Knights of STEM

Y

We're going to build several different (hopefully) working models of technology through the ages, such as - but not necessarily limited to:

- catapults
- drawbridges
- wind mills
- trebuchets
- ballistas

We'll test the designs to see how effective the builds are, and, if I'm being honest, to watch walls crumble.

Grades: 4-6

Teacher: Nate Horst

Class Fee: \$120

Material Fee: \$20

## Nature Study

Y

Look up close...and closer! Look over there...and WAY out there! What do you notice? What do you wonder about? What has changed since you last looked, or since a million years ago? Let's look through microscopes and telescopes, count time by seconds and the fossil record, and take our questions and nature journals along for the adventure.

In this class students will get eyes-and-hands-on with samples of the universe, keep a nature journal, and spend time focusing on special topics. Nature journal entries can be drawn, traced, glued in, written, and more!

Grades: 1-3

Teacher: Emily Phillips

Class Fee: \$120

Material Fee: \$15

## Crochet Club

51

A supportive place for crocheters (and knitters!) of every level to work on the projects of their choice! Step-by-step instruction, project ideas, pattern selection advice, troubleshooting guidance, and scintillating conversation will be available as needed. Work on anything you like—from scarves and hats to sweaters and plush toys!

Grades: 4-Adult

Teacher: Amy Howe

Class Fee: \$60

Material Fee: \$10



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Messy Art Lab Junior (S1)

Welcome to The Messy Art Lab Junior where creativity meets curiosity! In this hands-on art experience, students will explore the joy of creating without the pressure of perfection! This class is all about process over product, encouraging children to engage their senses, experiment with materials, and develop confidence in their intuitive-knowing and self-expression. Through playful exploration, they'll learn that art is about discovery, creativity, and fun!

Grades: 1-3

Teacher: Jessica Perkins

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$20

## Camp Rising Roots! (S1)

Do you love being outside and exploring nature? In this class, we'll dive into the amazing wildlife found at camp through engaging stories, fun crafts, and classic camp songs. Students will learn important outdoor skills, including what to do if they encounter a skunk or a bear and how to prevent injuries while out on the trail. With hands-on activities and plenty of nature exploration, we'll discover all that the great outdoors has to offer—plus a little s'more!

Grades: 1-3

Teacher: Sam Laudenslager

Class Fee: \$60

Material Fee: \$20

## Messy Art Lab (S2)

In this dynamic, hands-on art class designed especially for upper elementary students, creativity and curiosity take center stage! Here, students in grades 4-6 will be encouraged to take bold risks, experiment with a wide range of materials, and discover their own artistic voice. With an emphasis on process over perfection, this class nurtures creative confidence and independent thinking. Students will learn that art is a powerful way to express ideas, emotions, and identity. Come ready to make a mess, try something new, and have fun along the way!

Grades: 4-6

Teacher: Jessican Perkins

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$20

## Forensics Detectives (Y)

Do you love solving crimes? Breaking cases? Catching crooks? In this class, we will learn to observe details, collect and analyze evidence, and solve mysteries! This will be an engaging, hands-on class using age-appropriate materials. Our beginner gumshoes will dust for fingerprints, analyze handwriting, and identify ink. We will be doing (imitation) blood testing and perhaps performing a Clue-style pickle autopsy!

Grades: 4-6

Teacher: Nikke Smith

Class Fee: \$120

Material Fee: \$15





# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Clay Connections (S1)

In Clay Connections, students will explore ceramics using air-dry clay and paint to create unique projects like pinch pots, coil bowls, sculptures, and slab construction. They'll also experiment with stamping to add texture. Students are welcome to chat and interact while working on their projects. At the end of each project, they can choose to share their work with the class, focusing on positive feedback. Please note that creations are not food-safe.

Perfect for 4th to 6th graders, this class offers a fun, creative outlet for kids to express themselves, make friends, and create something special!

Grades: 4-6

Teacher: Katie Newman

Class Fee: \$60

Material Fee: \$20

## Digital Art with Procreate (S1)

Come learn how to use your Ipad to make digital art with Procreate. Topics will include basic Procreate skills and getting familiar with the program, drawing, lettering, typography, and more! Ipad with Apple Pencil and Procreate required for the course but no experience required.

Grades: 4-12

Teacher: Jenna Fletcher

Class Fee: \$60

Material Fee: \$5

## Pottery Pals (S2)

Welcome to Pottery Pals! This ceramics class for 1st through 3rd graders uses air-dry clay and paint to explore hand-building techniques like pinch pots, coil building, and stamping for unique textures. This is a great class to build friendships while exploring your creativity! Students are welcome to chat, share ideas, and support each other while creating their projects. At the end of each project, students can choose to share their work with the class and offer positive feedback. Sharing is optional—students are never required to present if they prefer not to.

Since we use air-dry clay, creations are not food-safe.

Grades: 1-3

Teacher: Katie Newman

Class Fee: \$60

Material Fee: \$20

## LEGO Engineers (S2)

Take your LEGO skills to the next level! In this class, students will tackle fun and challenging builds that incorporate movement, mechanics, and creative design. Working both independently and in teams, we'll explore problem-solving, engineering, and teamwork through hands-on LEGO projects.

Grades: 2-5

Teacher: Heather Berry

Class Fee: \$50

Material Fee: \$5



# K-6TH GRADE CLASSES



## Digital Citizen

Are you interested in learning about computers and technology? Technology can be a great tool for learning, but it's important to know how to use it effectively and safely! This class will talk about how to become good digital citizens and how to take care of and use devices properly. We will meet the digital citizens and talk about privacy and safety online. We will also start to learn to type using a keyboard!

Grades: 1-3  
Teacher: Alyssa Sitarik  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$10

## The Human Body

Come explore the fascinating world of the human body through hands-on activities, models, and experiments. We will learn about the senses, organs, and body systems with a variety of engaging projects, including an optional cow eye dissection early in the semester. Participation is encouraged, and we will foster a supportive environment that respects all comfort levels.

Grades: 4-6  
Teacher: Amanda Davis  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$7.50

## The Hero/ine's Journey

What makes a hero or a heroine? Why do we love the stories of Harry Potter, Moana, Spider-Man, and Dorothy? In this class, we will chart the path of the Hero's Journey in myths, movies and middle grade literature. Students will analyze the characters and plot elements of heroic stories from diverse cultures, and during the second half of the year they will create their own heroic journeys.

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Amy Howe  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$10

## Tiny Explorers

Embark on an adventure with us in this child-led nature play class. Together, we'll journey through diverse habitats, brought to life through captivating books, lively songs, and artistic creations. To nurture our little learners, each session begins and ends with music and movement, providing a comforting structure for exploration and creativity. Let's ignite imaginations and foster a love for nature—one adventure at a time!

Grades: PreK-1  
Teacher: Nichole Ruiz  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$30





7th - 12th Grade  
Classes







# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES



## Introduction to World Religion (S1)

In this course, students will explore a wide range of global religious traditions, including atheism, with a focus on increasing religious literacy. Through the study of primary source texts, key beliefs, practices, and historical developments, students will gain a deeper understanding of how different religions shape cultures and influence contemporary issues. The course will encourage thoughtful comparisons and foster open-minded discussions about faith, belief, and secularism.

Grades: 7-12  
Teacher: Tim Loftus  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$5

## Modern A Capella (S2)

Do you love Pentatonix? If so, or if you've ever wanted to sing in harmony without instruments, this class is for you! Students will learn about the elements and history of contemporary a cappella singing, from doo-wop to Straight No Chaser. We will practice vocal technique through proper warm-ups, focus on group listening and blending, experiment with vocal percussion, and learn to sing several songs together as a group! No experience is necessary, but a willingness to sing is required!

Grades: 4-12  
Teacher: Amy Howe  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$7.50

## Tech Savvy Kids (S1)

Welcome to Tech Savvy Kids! In this hands-on course, students will become tech explorers, mastering the computing tools that help us navigate the digital world. From creating documents and flyers to using databases and understanding internet safety, we'll explore the many ways computers can empower us to be creative, organized, and safe online. This class will teach kids the essentials and beyond about the software, hardware and computing packages at their fingertips on their personal computer. Students will bring their wi-fi enabled personal laptop to class, and each class will involve one-to-one instruction helping with their specific device. Please note, while tablets are also wonderful computing tools, they have limited functionality and frequently require app purchases or downloads to perform the same tasks as computers, often with log-ins required. For this reason, sending a child with a computer is strongly encouraged. This class is well-suited to children bursting with their own strong ideas, opinions, and interests and desire to digitize their creativity as it will utilize project-based learning and focus on creating products.

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Sera Karahoca  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$5



# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES



## Picture Books for Writers (S1)

Remember your favorite picture books from when you were little? Picture books often feel magical when we're too young to read, and for many of us they stay magical, too! If you'd like to learn how to do some of that magic, this is the class for you.

Working in groups, we'll go from start to finish to compose standard-length, 32-page picture book manuscripts, whether prose or poetry, with teacher and peer support all the way. No previous creative writing experience is needed, and if you're not sure if you're a writer, this is a great class for you to see what you can do and have fun with creative, supportive friends!

Note: This class is Fall 2025 only. It pairs well with Picture Books Illustrating with Procreate class (check the prerequisite) offered in Spring 2026. If you only want to do the writing, no problem—other student illustrators will work with your book manuscript in the Spring class.

Grades: 5-8

Teacher: Chris Phillips

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$10

## Picture Books Illustrating with Procreate (S2)

Come illustrate a children's book written by Rising Roots students in the Picture Books for Writers class! This is the second part in a team taught class where teams of students will write a children's book during the first semester. Our job will be to work in teams to bring their words to life through images and decorative text while we learn about different styles of children's book illustrations. You must have basic understanding and experience with Procreate. If you are new to Procreate, first semester Digital Art with Procreate is a prerequisite. At the end of the semester, we will have illustrated children's book(s) to show for it!

Grades: 4-8

Teacher: Jenna Fletcher

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$20

## Vibe Check-High School (S2)

Vibe Check is an emotional and relational wellness class for 7th-12th grade students. Throughout this class, we will create a safe place to talk through tricky feelings and situations, as well as practice important skills to maintain healthy friendships and relationships. We will learn about boundaries, assertive communication, mindfulness skills and more using creative methods.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Jana Hanna

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$10



# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES



## Art to Wear (F1) (F2)

Get ready to transform clothing into unique, wearable art! In this class, we'll explore a variety of creative techniques to upcycle and personalize fashion pieces. Students will experiment with reverse dyeing and batiking to create bold, one-of-a-kind patterns, use fabric painting to turn apparel into a canvas, and add texture and detail with embroidery and decorative stitching. Along the way, they'll discover even more ways to make their clothing a true expression of their creativity.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Sam Laudenslager

Class Fee: \$60

Material Fee: \$20

## Teen Health (Y)

This class provides teens in grades 9-12 with essential knowledge about their bodies, relationships, and personal well-being. Through interactive discussions, we'll explore topics like anatomy, personal hygiene, boundaries, consent, bodily autonomy, and making safe, informed choices. Rooted in the principles of Rights, Respect, and Responsibility as outlined by Advocates for Youth, this course empowers students with accurate information and practical tools to navigate their health and relationships with confidence and care.

Grades: 9-12

Teacher: Alyx Hatton

Class Fee: \$130

Material Fee: \$5

## Music Improvisation (F1) (F2)

In this class we will participate in various types of free and semi-structured musical improvisation. This class is for everyone: beginner musicians will find a gentle entry point through improvisation, and more advanced musicians will find that improvisation gives them new voices and opportunities. We will also be listening to musical performances in a variety of styles (jazz, folk, avant-garde, metal, punk etc.) to begin class and inform our improvisational approaches. Switching instrument types and player roles will be encouraged. We may also experiment with found/homemade instruments, recording, video, and electronic music.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Jared Rosenbaum

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$7.50

## Gloops of the Kitchen (S1)

Welcome newbies and experts alike, to the kitchen of the not-yet-solid! We will spend the semester getting comfortable with various batters and doughs, as well as dippable and spoonable delights of all sorts. This class is for anyone who: doesn't mind getting sticky, can follow directions, and asks for help when needed. Vegetarian options will be available, but flour and eggs will be included.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Emily D'Emidio

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$37.50





# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES

## Here There Be Dragons (...and Dungeons)

Are you ready for a quest? I have heard tales of a faraway land, where civilization is barely holding on in the face of mythical creatures of all kinds – a land where would-be adventurers can make their fame and fortune, whether they be magic users or wielders of the sword. The danger is great, but the power to create a story and bond with your traveling companions is even greater.

Come join our campaign if you love coming up with a creative solution, doing improv, or writing stories.

No experience with RPGs necessary! We will spend the first couple of weeks learning the rules of this particular setting and creating characters so everyone is on the same page before the story begins.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Emily D'Emidio

Class Fee: \$130

Material Fee: \$10

## Media Studies

This class will be based on the college-level course I currently teach. We will examine a variety of aspects of media with a particular focus on American media of the past and present. Topics will include: the history of the media and how it has changed over the last few centuries, types of media and why they are important, media and information literacy, journalism ideals such as objectivity and bias, the history of U.S. propaganda and its role in contemporary politics, media consumption habits, and the assault on media today.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Tony DiMaggio

Class Fee: \$130

Material Fee: \$10

## Book Binding

This class introduces students to the art of bookbinding through hands-on projects and activities as well as historical context. Focusing on paper-based materials, we'll make Japanese and Western stab bindings, case bindings, and decorative bindings; we'll marble paper, decorate page blocks, and learn how to rebind and repair books we have at home.

Grades: 7-Adult

Teacher: Chris Phillips

Class Fee: \$120

Material Fee: \$40



# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES

## Recipe Pit Stop

As an amateur chef, sometimes halfway through a recipe there will be a horrible pause where you are confronted with a frightening truth – maybe it's a word you have never seen in your life, a technique that is named but not explained, or an ingredient that has gone bad in your fridge and needs to be replaced on the fly. Perhaps the ingredients are all in grams, or you're terrified by the idea of yeast.

Come with me on a journey to face these moments head on, while adding new skills to your cooking and baking arsenal. No kitchen experience necessary. This class is perfect for someone who can follow directions, work as a member of a team, be responsible with fire/knives, and embrace the chaos of making something new. Vegetarian/allergy friendly.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Emily D'Emidio

Class Fee: \$65

Material Fee: \$37.50

## Flash Fiction

Flash fiction is the weirder sibling of the traditional short story in that it plays with narrative, experiments with form, and can pack a wallop of an emotional punch all in under 1000 words. Most classes will focus on a different flash piece and delve into the craft techniques the author utilizes. After our analysis, students will use one or more elements from the story as a springboard to write their own original flash fiction. Constructive peer feedback will be a key component of the course, allowing students to refine their stories and engage with others' writing. The course will provide space for revision, helping students strengthen their stories through multiple drafts.

Through this process, students will not only begin to understand the power of flash fiction but will also develop their writing skills by experimenting with different techniques, styles, and narrative strategies. Whether it's adopting a specific point of view, using imagery to convey emotion, or playing with structure, each week will offer new opportunities for creative exploration.

Grades: 7-12

Teacher: Melissa Rudick

Class Fee: \$120

Material Fee: \$10



# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES



## Art in Culture Conversations S1

Art isn't created in a void. All art that's created is in conversation with every piece of art that came before it and inspires new work that will come after it. Art inspires conversations, reflects the culture of its time, and continues to be reinterpreted as society changes over time. In this class, we will discuss the evolution from *The Wizard of Oz* to *Wicked*, from the book to the musical to film, while considering the changes in society and current events that have changed how the work is viewed and the original intentionality. Other topics will include *Hamilton*, *Les Misérables*, the many retellings of *Romeo and Juliet*, and even possibly the infamous Kendrick Lamar halftime show. Topics will likely evolve as other relevant artistic and cultural events happen.

Grades: 8-12  
Teacher: Jenna Fletcher  
Class Fee: \$65  
Material Fee: \$10

## Social Movements F1 F2

This high school level class will examine the lessons of U.S. social and political movements from the post-Civil War era to today. Students will learn about various social movements through the lens of intersectionality and assess their connection to democracy, citizens' lives, and our current government. Social movements discussed will include the labor movement, civil rights, anti-war activism, women's rights, LGBTQA+ rights, global justice, right-wing movements such as Christian nationalism and MAGA, and the environmental movement.

Grades: 7-12  
Teacher: Mary DiMaggio  
Class Fee: \$65  
Material Fee: \$7.50

## Introduction to Buddhism S2

This course offers an academic exploration of Buddhism, incorporating historical, ritual, and textual analysis alongside contemplative practices. Students will engage with Buddhism's diverse traditions, examine contemporary issues such as race, gender, and social justice, and challenge popular misconceptions. Through an in-depth approach, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of Buddhism and will uncover its rich history and evolving global influence.

Grades: 7-12  
Teacher: Tim Loftus  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$5





# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES



## The Hero/ine's Journey (Y)

What makes a hero or a heroine? Why do we love the stories of Harry Potter, Moana, Spider-Man, and Dorothy? In this class, we will chart the path of the Hero's Journey in myths, movies and middle grade literature. Students will analyze the characters and plot elements of heroic stories from diverse cultures, and during the second half of the year they will create their own heroic journeys.

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Amy Howe  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$10

## Figure Drawing (F1) (F2)

In this art class we will learn to draw the human form using multiple traditional and some creative methods. We will focus on techniques like gesture, proportion, anatomy, and composition!

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Sonja Jedziniak  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$20

## Sewing (Y)

Whether you have only sewn a few stitches with a machine, or have made garments, this class is for you. This class will be split up into pods, so that every ability level is covered. As long as you know how to operate your sewing machine, you are able to join us! Beginner sewers will work on projects like small bags, stuffed animals, and possibly simple clothing. More advanced students will work on more difficult projects, including costumes for Rising Root's musical! Come join us to help expand your sewing skills, no matter what your ability. We encourage parents and children of all ages to learn together in this class; however, grades younger than 5th must have an adult registered to take the class with them.

Grades: 2-Adult  
Teacher: Alyssa Sitarik  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$30

## Crochet Club (S1)

A supportive place for crocheters (and knitters!) of every level to work on the projects of their choice! Step-by-step instruction, project ideas, pattern selection advice, troubleshooting guidance, and scintillating conversation will be available as needed. Work on anything you like—from scarves and hats to sweaters and plush toys!

Grades: 4-Adult  
Teacher: Amy Howe  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$10



# 7TH-12TH GRADE CLASSES

## Pages of the Past **F1** **F2** Book Club

Calling all book and history lovers! This book club will time travel through U.S. history by reading various works, including novels, graphic novels, poetry, and first person narratives. Our theme will be: What does it mean to be an American? How do we as Americans embrace a shared culture if we are also a nation of immigrants? And how does this apply to our current culture? Students will explore this theme through literary analysis, class discussions, and the occasional activity or craft.

Grades: 4-8  
Teacher: Mary DiMaggio  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$10

## Art History **Y**

In this class we will be surveying the evolution of the visual arts, zooming in on germane points in history to explore socio-cultural influences, styles, and techniques through classroom discussion and small art projects! Bring your critical thinking skills!

Grades: 7-12  
Teacher: Sonja Jedziniak  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$15

## Theater Program: **Y** Wizard of Oz

Come over the rainbow with us and take a walk down the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City! Students from 4th-12th grade are invited to join us for a magical theatrical adventure into the land of Oz. Student actors in this class will have the opportunity to perform in the Wizard of Oz and will be invited to audition for the main roles of Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion, the Wicked Witch of the West, Glinda and more. The class will end in performances on April 25, 2026.

Grades: 4-12  
Teacher: Jenna Fletcher  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$40

## Digital Art with Procreate **S1**

Come learn how to use your Ipad to make digital art with Procreate. Topics will include basic Procreate skills and getting familiar with the program, drawing, lettering, typography, and more! Ipad with Apple Pencil and Procreate required for the course but no experience required.

Grades: 4-12  
Teacher: Jenna Fletcher  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$5



# Adult Classes







# ADULT CLASSES



## Sewing

Whether you have only sewn a few stitches with a machine, or have made garments, this class is for you. This class will be split up into pods, so that every ability level is covered. As long as you know how to operate your sewing machine, you are able to join us! Beginner sewers will work on projects like small bags, stuffed animals, and possibly simple clothing. More advanced students will work on more difficult projects, including costumes for Rising Root's musical! Come join us to help expand your sewing skills, no matter what your ability. We encourage parents and children of all ages to learn together in this class; however, grades younger than 5th must have an adult registered to take the class with them.

Grades: 2-Adult  
Teacher: Alyssa Sitarik  
Class Fee: \$120  
Material Fee: \$30

## Book Binding

This class introduces students to the art of bookbinding through hands-on projects and activities as well as historical context. Focusing on paper-based materials, we'll make Japanese and Western stab bindings, case bindings, and decorative bindings; we'll marble paper, decorate page blocks, and learn how to rebind and repair books we have at home.

Grades: 7-Adult  
Teacher: Chris Phillips  
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## Crochet Club

A supportive place for crocheters (and knitters!) of every level to work on the projects of their choice! Step-by-step instruction, project ideas, pattern selection advice, troubleshooting guidance, and scintillating conversation will be available as needed. Work on anything you like—from scarves and hats to sweaters and plush toys!

Grades: 4-Adult  
Teacher: Amy Howe  
Class Fee: \$60  
Material Fee: \$10

# OUR TEACHING TEAM

Our Teaching Team is made up of 32 passionate Rising Roots members who bring a wide range of backgrounds, skills, and experiences to our classrooms. Each educator is dedicated to upholding our philosophy, creating a vibrant, inclusive learning environment where curiosity, creativity, and community thrive.



**Ryan Niman**

“Teaching at Rising Roots has allowed me to teach subjects, such as rock and pop music, puzzles and games, and filmmaking, that I care about and love but didn't really fit well into the public school expectations for language arts and social studies. I would love to be a kid at Rising Roots and get to choose from all of the fascinating classes offered by the other teachers.”



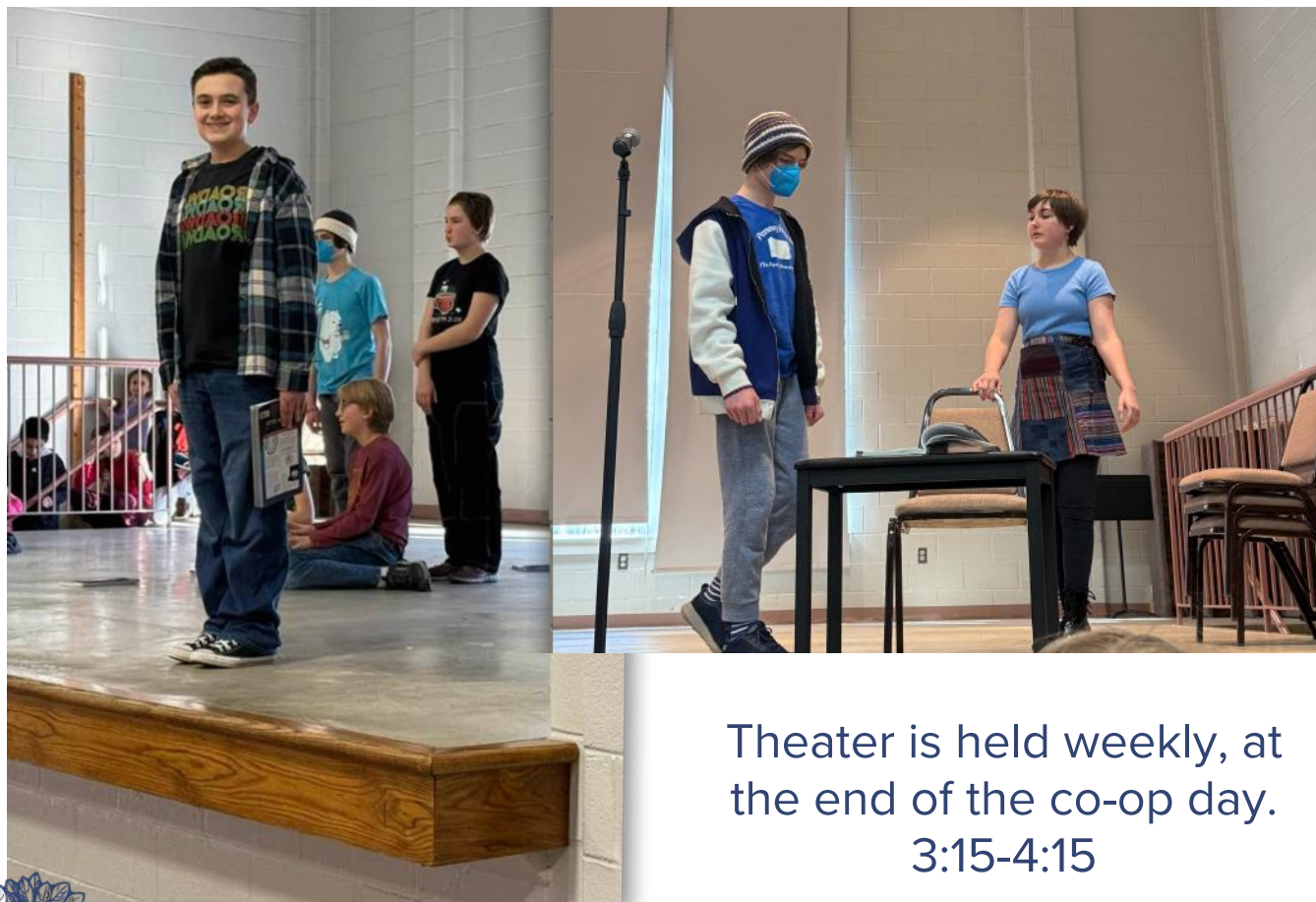
**Flora Schubert**

“For many homeschoolers, coop classes are one of their first experiences learning with another adult and peers. Over my years of teaching at Rising Roots, I loved having the chance to watch children realize how capable they are. Whether it was watching a teen cook a meal, watching a five year old learn to crack an egg, feeling the joy of a three year old completing a craft project or watching an eight year old sew their own puppet, these moments all made an impact on the lives of these learners. It is my greatest hope that I have helped learners of all ages develop a passion and curiosity for lifelong learning.”

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## Theater

Our grassroots theatre program welcomes students of all ability levels and lets them take part in putting on a full show from start to finish in a supportive environment. Everyone is welcome to participate and will learn not only performance skills but teamwork, confidence, collaboration, problem solving, and empathy.



Theater is held weekly, at the end of the co-op day.  
3:15-4:15





# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## Student Council

It is the mission of the Rising Roots Student Council to achieve a council with powerful leadership skills, strong bonds of friendship, and confidence in themselves while providing a voice for students and creating a connected Rising Roots community.



### Student Council Officer Speeches



Student Council meets virtually on the 1st and 3rd Friday.

Students in 4th grade and up are welcome to join Student Council!



# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Jenn Terfinko-Barnett**  
Executive Director, Founder



**Chelsea Grimmatt**  
Founder



**Briana McCloskey**  
Operations Manager



**Ashley White**  
Community Coordinator



**Kristin Lauer**  
Academic Coordinator



**Alyx Hatton**  
Marketing Coordinator



**Kiki Kivlehan**  
Accounting Coordinator



**Heather Berry**  
Partnerships Coordinator

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## MEMBERSHIP

Rising Roots membership covers your immediate family. It allows enrollment in classes and participation in activities and programs.

Become  
A Member



## CLASS ENROLLMENT

Class enrollment operates on a hierarchal system. Returning members, in good standing, have the privilege of enrolling in classes before new members. To ensure that all members can participate, multiple classes are available during each period for all grade levels above Kindergarten. This approach guarantees that everyone has the opportunity to enroll in a class that aligns with their interests and needs.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Executive Director: Jenn Terfinko-Barnett - [jenn@risingroots.org](mailto:jenn@risingroots.org)  
*\*Accounting & technology questions*

Operations Manager: Briana McCloskey - [briana@risingroots.org](mailto:briana@risingroots.org)  
*\*New member liason, clearance & paperwork questions*

Academic Coordinator: Kristin Lauer - [kristin@risingroots.org](mailto:kristin@risingroots.org)  
*\*Course planning, teaching, & classroom questions*

Community Coordinator: Ashley White - [ashley@risingroots.org](mailto:ashley@risingroots.org)  
*\*Activities, Field Trips & Community Role questions*

**Rising Roots Board of Directors:** [boardofdirectors@risingroots.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@risingroots.org)





[www.risingroots.org](http://www.risingroots.org)  
[contact@risingroots.org](mailto:contact@risingroots.org)