



Academic Transitions - 2017

Course Descriptions

Middle School Essay Writing 1 – rising 5th and 6th graders

8/14 - 17, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Teacher: Charles Isdell

These sessions will guide students through the ins and outs of preparing for, writing, and revising the four main types of essays they encounter in middle school:

- Descriptive
- Cause and effect
- Narrative
- Persuasive

The course will also touch on ways to appropriately **research** essays and provide successful editing and proofreading techniques.

Middle School Essay Writing 2 – rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders

8/14 - 17, 10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Teacher: Christine Onorato

In these sessions, students will become comfortable with crafting academic writing. They will explore organizational approaches and work to adopt an appropriate academic tone using proper mechanics and grammar. They will also learn to recognize well-designed arguments in others' writing and support each other through peer editing. At the end of these sessions, each student will have gone through the writing process using the **expository**, **persuasive**, and **analytical** essay forms. A small amount of reading and writing may be done nightly.

Navigating Google Docs and Sharing - rising 5th graders, rising 6th - 7 graders

Teacher: Chris Gehringer

Middle school students need to have competency in a variety of technological ways in order to be successful at MFS. This class will help new students to MFS as well as rising students to the next grade level. Knowing what is expected of them and how to use Google docs and myMFS online will allow students to be more productive and confident. Lessons will be customized based on class knowledge. The student "Acceptable Use of Technology Policy" (AUP) and guidelines will be reviewed. Responsible use of information and technology in a safe and legal manner will be emphasized throughout the class. All types of technological tools will be provided.

Intro to Algebra – rising 7th – 8th graders

Teacher: Ron Obermeier

During the course of these sessions, students will practice working with integers, solving linear equations, learning exponent rules and working with slope and graphing. These concepts will then be applied solving word problems. Word problem activities will involve individual work as well as group work. Students who have completed a Pre-Algebra class are encouraged to take this class. Please note that this course is not geared to the needs of the very advanced student.

Algebra I Review – rising 8 – 10th graders

(Pre-requisite: Having had 1 year of algebra)

Teacher: Ron Obermeier

During the course of these sessions, students will have the opportunity to review the core Algebra I concepts: simplifying algebraic expressions, factoring algebraic expressions, and working with algebraic fractions. These concepts will then be applied to solving equations and solving word problems. Word problem activities will involve individual work as well as group work. Students will do a small amount of homework each night. These sessions will serve as a refresher for anyone taking an Algebra II class in the fall.

Pre-Algebra Drills and Problem-Solving Skills – rising 5th Graders

Teacher: Kathi Bernard

Students will review and strengthen the ease with which they use basic facts, concentrating on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers. Basics, such as using decimal forms of numbers, will also be reviewed. In addition, students will learn and practice strategies for applying their knowledge of math to problem solving, which is the practical application of math in everyday life. Problem solving activities will involve individual work as well as group work.

Pre-Algebra Review – rising 6th graders

Teacher: Kathi Bernard

Students will review and strengthen the ease with which they use basic facts, concentrating on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers and decimal forms of numbers. Basics, such as using operations with fraction and mixed number forms and rounding to various place values, will also be reviewed. In addition, students will learn and practice strategies for applying their knowledge of math to problem solving, which is the practical application of math in everyday life. Problem solving activities will involve individual work as well as group work.

Study Skills Level 1 – rising 5th – 6th grade

Teacher: Sarah Moser

Students will learn new strategies to manage their academic, social, and extracurricular lives. They will learn how to manage their time, organize materials, read and listen actively, take good notes, and prepare for and take tests. Skills will be taught through interactive activities/practice, demonstrations, and the use of self-assessment tools. The primary focus of the class is on helping students determine the strategies and best practices that help them become more confident, efficient, and independent learners. Students will leave the class with an individualized set of strategies that they can implement as they transition to a new school year.

Study Skills Level 2 – entering 7th – 8th grade

Teacher: Sarah Moser

This course builds upon the strategies learned in Study Skills, Level 1 and focuses on helping students understand executive functioning strategies and best practices that help them to be successful in class and in their personal lives. Other topics such as procrastination and good presentation skills may also be covered. Skills will be taught through interactive activities/practice, demonstrations, and the use of self-assessment tools. Students will leave the class with an individualized set of strategies that they can implement as they transition to a new school or school year.

Study Skills HS – entering 9th – 10th grade

Teacher: Sarah Moser

Students entering high school have increased responsibility to manage their own academic, extra-curricular, and personal lives. These sessions will provide students with a collection of skills and strategies essential for academic success – setting goals, organizing materials, managing time, listening, taking good notes, and preparing for and taking tests. Additional topics may include avoiding procrastination, self-advocacy/academic responsibility, and good presentation skills. Skills will be taught through interactive activities/practice, demonstrations, and the use of self-assessment tools and will include both general and subject-specific strategies. The primary focus of the course is on helping students determine the strategies and best practices that will help them become more confident,

efficient, and independent learners. Students will leave the class with an individualized set of strategies that they can implement as they transition to a new school year.

For new students entering the Middle School

Middle School - Rising 6th and 7th graders

Teachers: Kimberly Clarkson and MS Staff

Monday - Thursday, August 21 - 24

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$10

“Life in the Middle School @ MFS: A Fun Introduction”

Possible topics to cover:

Campus, schedule, Meeting House visit, locker rooms, learning how to use the library, DHC, who to go to with problems/questions, what is advisory, activities, lockers, sports options, extracurriculars, traditions at MFS, myMFS, After School Supervision, etc.

For new and current students entering the Upper School

Upper School - Rising 9th and 10th graders

Teacher: Clare MacKenzie

Monday - Thursday, August 14 - 17

2:30 - 4:00 pm

Fee: \$10

“High School 101”

Possible topics to Cover:

Student government, club structure, service learning, Quakerism, MFW and worship sharing, sports, locker rooms, After School Supervision, myMFS, learning how to use the library, etc.