**Summer Enrichment Camp Courses 2026**

**Rising 8th-10th Grade**

## An Exploration of Photography

This class will explore a variety of photographic techniques ranging from alternative process photography, to the current use of digital techniques, and also basic photo editing. Students will have an opportunity to develop photographic works in multiple mediums as well as gain an understanding for the photographic process.

## Backpack Journalism

Sometimes news breaks with such speed that we can't gather an entire team to cover it. The reporter, then—armed only with what it's in his or her "backpack"—becomes writer, photographer, videographer, editor, and more! In this class, we'll learn the basics of building news stories with our eyes, ears, notebooks, and smartphones. In short, we'll learn how to be journalists in a world that moves a little faster every day.

## Bet On It

Throughout history, cultures have used different types of dice to make decisions and play games. When should you roll again? Should you call the bluff? Cut your losses while you can? We will explore dice games and activities, while we learn the math associated with them.

## Book Lab: Artful Binding

We will be blending hands-on creativity with modern, personal expression in this bookbinding lab. Our students will get to explore a variety of methods—like Japanese stab binding, Coptic stitch journals, accordion books. We will also learn how to rebind books whose covers are falling apart (or if they just want to personalize the covers of their favorite books). This hands-on approach will give students the freedom to experiment with the physical media they interact with on a daily basis. Along the way, we will learn practical skills such as measuring, stitching, cutting paper/pages (safely), and designing layouts. Students will get a chance to create something that is totally their own: sketchbooks, fan-fiction books, art journals, or gifts for friends. This class will be a fun, chill space for students to learn the basics of binding techniques and walk away with books that reflect their personality.

## Choose Your Own Adventure: Writing Hypertext Fiction

Have you ever wished you could change the outcome of a story you're reading? Maybe you scream "Don't go in there! Don't open that door!" when movie characters reach peak suspense. In this fiction writing workshop, we will create stories that allow readers a say in what happens next. After exploring basic storytelling techniques, students will use the computer program Twine to write interactive ("clickable") fiction that celebrates decision-making and all the twists and turns that lead to multiple exciting endings.

**Discovering Japan through Japanese Anime**
Do you like Japanese anime or Japanese culture in general? Have you ever thought about having a chance to learn some Japanese language, try some Japanese food and sweets, and learn about its culture and traditions here in Mississippi? My name is Franco Lopes, and I lived half of my life in Japan working as a translator, baker, and teacher. We will use Japanese Original Manga (Japanese comics) and anime to discover specific aspects of Japanese culture such as food, clothing, and specific Japanese expressions that do not translate well into English. You will learn how to introduce yourself and to use cultural Japanese greetings. This course will help you broaden your cultural understanding of the world.

**Dream It, Design It, Build It: A Look at Technical Aspects of Theatre Production**
There is much more to a stage production than the actors on stage! Without theatre technicians, performers would be standing on a bare floor in the dark. This course will focus on areas of technical theatre such as set design and construction, stage lighting, or special effects theatrical cosmetics and prosthetics.

**Eat Your Words!**
From restaurant critics to cookbook writers, mouthwateringly vivid novelists to medical researchers, cultural historians to health inspectors, all sorts of people write about food in all sorts of ways. In this class, we'll read, write, and taste a tantalizing sampling.

**Engineering and Teamwork**
Discover the engineering process and foster your teamwork skills through hands-on activities. Students will work with new partners each day to create cargo containers, a mountainous road, a payload mover, and bore through Mount MSMS.

**The Face of STEM**
What does a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professional look like? Not the stereotype! From math to physics to biology to chemistry, we will consider the life and work of famous **women** in STEM as we do what they did: chemistry, biology, physics, astrophysics, computer science, and more.

**Fractal Frenzy**
The participants will enjoy exploring and making various fractal structures in nature and how to identify them. They will construct geometrical and random fractal structures via artwork and computer codes. We will explore number patterns that emerge from Sierpinski's triangle, the Koch snowflake, the Mandelbrot set and others. We will also explore number chaos theory and how it applies to fractals.

**Krypto Kraze**
Have you ever wondered how to create a secret code for a message, so it is easy to decode but difficult to crack? This course will familiarize students with commonly used cryptography terms, guide students through encoding and decoding messages using different ciphers. Students will use mathematics through modular arithmetic and multiplication to decode messages. This course will also discuss the history of coding in various themes. By the end of this course, students will gain better reasoning and problem-solving abilities.

**Mystery of Forensic Science**
Have you ever wondered how evidence is collected to help bring criminals to justice? Does learning about different techniques and skills used by forensic scientists and crime scene investigators sound interesting to you? Join us as we perform ink chromatography, gel electrophoresis and forensic entomology to solve a few cases of our own!

**No Experience Needed Coding**
Looking for all students who are interested in computer programming or playing with Robots but have little to no experience. Learn how to program the Sphero Robot and challenge yourself to guide the Sphero through 5 challenging courses/obstacles.

**Poetic Forms**
Ever wondered what dactylic hexameter is? Ever aspired to write a sonnet or to spot a villanelle in the wild? Ever wanted to create your own poetic form? In this class, we'll use both creative reading and curious writing to explore traditional poetic forms, concrete poetry, experimental poetic constraints, erasure poems, and more.

**Robotics**
Robotics is the fusion of Computer Science and Engineering, and in our camp, we will give students the opportunity to experience both. The Robotics course will teach students the basics of computer programming logic while solving a larger problem with engineering.

**Soar: An Introduction to Drones**
Learn to pilot and code drones to safely complete missions. Land on targets, design flight paths, and move cargo. Pilot and code your way to success!

**Stars Onstage: An Introduction to Theatrical Performance**
Whether you've never been onstage before or you're totally in touch with your inner Broadway star, Stars Onstage will help you acquire and refine your stage presence and speaking skills. The course begins with acting and improv games, moves our performers through the rehearsal process, and ends with the staging of skits performed during Friday's closing ceremonies.

**Stop-Motion Storytelling**
Get creative! Stop-motion animation combines creative writing, technology, art, and music to tell stories one frame at a time. In this class, you will learn how to create stop-motion animation with 2D and 3D images. Not of a fan of drawing? Not a problem! From paper cutting to play-dough modeling, you will work in teams to meet the objective of the day.

**Wild & Weedy: A Look at Herbal Remedies and Modern Medicine**
In this hands-on class, students explore the world of herbal remedies through the lens of local, naturally occurring plants. They'll learn how to identify useful species and work with every part of a plant—roots, leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds—to create salves, tinctures, and infusions. Alongside practical preparation skills, students will study the medicinal properties associated with each plant and examine how these remedies were used historically across different cultures. The course also connects traditional knowledge to modern science by tracing how certain plant compounds have been isolated, synthesized, and transformed into medications used in contemporary pharmacology, giving students a rich understanding of both the past and present of plant-based healing. We will be looking at plants that can heal, plants that can hurt--and how to tell the difference. One class day will be dedicated to a trip to Plymouth Bluff, a local environmental center. Students will be able to find and identify native plants we have studied while enjoying a little nature hike through the woods.