

AIM Winter/Spring 2026 Semester Class Descriptions

Fun + Games (5-10)

Taught by Krista Smith

In this class students will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of board games, crafts, and activities to work on at their own pace each week. We will also have a story time which will include intentionally selected picture books and engaging discussions. When possible, we will also have an art project option that relates to the read aloud book.

Mythology (11+)

Taught By Destiny Esch

This class will explore the world of mythology through stories of gods, heroes, magical creatures, and powerful beasts. Students will learn why these myths were created, what they taught, and how they shaped cultural beliefs.

Mythology (8-10)

Taught by Beth Murphy

Documentary Filmmaking (11+)

Taught by Alicia Schmidt and Meghan Malinich

This lesson introduces students to the world of documentary filmmaking. Students will learn what a documentary is, explore common filmmaking techniques, and develop critical-viewing skills to recognize perspective and bias or non-bias. After watching a short documentary, students will create their own short documentary. The lesson encourages thoughtful discussion, independent thinking and media literacy - creating essential skills for navigating real-world information. This will inspire curiosity, and a deeper appreciation for non-fiction story telling.

Yearbook + Leadership (11+)

In this hands-on leadership class, students will take an active role in shaping AIM's community and creative projects. Together, they'll plan and produce the AIM Yearbook, help organize and host the end-of-semester Showcase, and collaborate on a community or volunteer project that makes a positive impact beyond our classrooms.

Students will explore leadership, teamwork, and communication skills as they take on real responsibilities — interviewing teachers and students, writing bios, designing pages, recording reflections, and learning how to bring big ideas to life. This class empowers students to find their voice, strengthen their confidence, and see how their work contributes to the greater AIM community.

By the end of the session, students will have gained valuable experience in project planning, collaboration, and creative expression — all while helping tell the story of AIM.

Science Lab (8-10)

Taught by Alicia Schmidt

Through guided labs and group challenges, students will learn to think like scientists — asking questions, making predictions, collecting data, and drawing conclusions — all while building confidence and teamwork skills.

By the end of the session, students will have built their own mini lab notebook, learned key science concepts, and gained a deeper appreciation for how science shapes our world — all through engaging, hands-on exploration.

Science Labs (5-7)

Taught by Lauren Collins Ray

This engaging lab class introduces budding scientists to the basics of scientific thinking. Students conduct guided experiments, test predictions, and work with real scientific tools like magnifiers, droppers, and measurement cups. Each week focuses on a new theme—such as states of matter, weather, plants, or motion—designed to build confidence, curiosity, and foundational STEM skills.

Read Around the World (5-7)

Taught by Meghan

Pack your imagination and get ready for an adventure! In *Read Around the World*, our youngest travelers will explore people, cultures, and places across the globe through stories, music, and art. Each week, we'll "visit" a new country or region—reading picture books that bring its traditions and landscapes to life, creating art inspired by what we learn, and discovering where it is on the map. This hands-on, creative journey helps children appreciate our world's beautiful diversity while strengthening early geography and cultural awareness skills.

Gym

Taught by Mike Esch

This active class gets kids moving through fun games, teamwork challenges, and skill-building activities. Students will build strength, coordination, and confidence while learning cooperation, good sportsmanship, and the joy of staying active.

Art (5-7)

Taught by Beth Murphy

Yearbook (8-10)

Taught by Alicia Schmidt and Destiny Esch

Be part of AIM history as we create our very first yearbook! In this hands-on class, students will become photographers, writers, and designers as they work together to capture the spirit of our year. They'll interview students and teachers, take photos, and help design creative pages that showcase our community's memories and milestones. This exciting, collaborative project will give students a chance to express their creativity, practice teamwork, and contribute to something everyone will treasure!

Sculptures

Taught by Donna

Beginner and Intermediate ASL (All ages)

Taught by Tiffany Woodard

This engaging ASL class blends physical movement, structured games, and guided conversations to support immersive language learning. Students practice expressive and receptive signing, develop strong communication habits, and gain cultural awareness—all in a lively environment designed to keep learners active and involved.

Robotics (11+)

Students in this class are expected to have a basic knowledge of scratch based coding. Our focus will mostly be on coding Edison Robots using the Python coding language. Additionally, we may use other online resources to further our understanding of this coding language. **This class will be more rigorous than the fall robotics semester, and students that select this class are expected to fully participate in each week's lesson, which includes writing answers to questions included with each activity.**

Debate (11+)

Taught by Destiny Esch

Students will learn to communicate their ideas clearly, listen to others, and respond thoughtfully. We'll practice forming solid arguments, examining multiple viewpoints, and speaking with confidence. By participating in structured debates, students will build strong critical-thinking and communication skills.

Woodworking (8-10)

Woodworking (11+)

