

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAPS launches new Community Education program

In early January 2025, Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) announced the launch of a new Community Education program, designed to offer a wide range of educational opportunities to residents of all ages. The initiative aims to strengthen the connection with the community and to provide access to lifelong learning, skill development, and enrichment activities for adults.

The Community Education program will feature a variety of courses and workshops, including adult education classes, career development, fitness programs, and creative workshops. Whether residents seek to advance their professional skills, pursue a new hobby, or simply stay engaged in the community, the program will offer flexible, accessible options for learners of all backgrounds.

"We are thrilled to introduce this new initiative to our community," said Angie Drew, Community

Education Coordinator at MAPS. "The goal of the Community Education program is to create a welcoming space for everyone to continue learning, growing, and connecting. By offering a wide range of educational opportunities, we hope to inspire a love of learning that extends beyond the classroom and supports personal and professional development for adults. We encourage the community to get involved, whether it is by registering to take a class or signing up to share a skill or talent."

MAPS has partnered with local community members and various business organizations to develop its initial course offerings and plans to continue devloping additional courses to meet the needs and interests of Merrill area residents.

"We believe that education should be an ongoing journey, not limited to just K-12 or higher education," said MAPS Superintendent Shannon Murray. "This program is an investment

in our community's future, and we are excited to see how it will help residents build new skills, enhance their well-being, and connect with each other. We are proud to support this initiative, which truly reflects our mission of fostering a strong, vibrant community."

The first session features a diverse catalog of 30+ classes. Registration opened on Jan. 15, 2025, with classes to begin in February. Unless stated otherwise, all courses will be held in person at Merrill High School in the evening.

The Community Education program allows area residents to teach and share their expertise with others. MAPS encourages community members to submit course ideas and/or volunteer as instructors.

For more information, including a complete course list and registration details, follow the MAPS Community Education page on Facebook or go to mapsedu.org/o/community-education.







Sports & Rec



Hobbies & Woodworking















Lifelong Learning

Music



MAPS Community Education Program



Lifelong Learning @ MAPS

Embark on a journey of discovery with over 30 inspiring ways to learn something new as we proudly launch the inaugural session of the MAPS Community Education Program.

Invite friends and family to join in and make our adult learning sessions educational, engaging, and enjoyable. Class sizes are limited - register now for the classes you want to take.

Connect with us on Facebook to stay informed about class offerings, program changes, and the exciting new opportunities that await. Check out the website for online registration @ http://www.mapsedu.org/community-education

We welcome your ideas for the Fall session—let your imagination soar and envision the possibilities! If you have a class idea you would like to host, share your idea via our Class Proposal Form on our website.

Questions?

We would love to hear from you!

Email us: communityed@mapsedu.com

OR CONTACT

ANGIE DREW
MAPS Community Ed Coordinator
715-536-4594 Ext. 18083

For more information on the program, please go to our website www. mapsedu.org/o/community-education

Arts & Crafts

Beginner Watercolor Painting

Welcome to a Beginner Watercolor Painting Class that will sort of be in a similar format to a Paint Party, only with more in-depth learning about watercolor paints that would enable you to continue with this medium on your own! In this 3-session course, students will dive into the beautiful world of watercolor painting. We will explore various techniques, create three unique paintings, and develop a strong foundation in this versatile medium. Students will learn how to prepare materials, use essential tools, and apply different painting methods to express their creativity.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Properly prepare watercolor paints and paper
- 2. Apply basic watercolor techniques such as wet on wet, dry on wet, Collage, and masking
- 3. Complete three original watercolor paintings (we will learn/start one each session)

Materials Needed:

- Watercolor paper (140 lb or higher)
- Watercolor paint set (student grade is fine)
- Watercolor brushes (round and flat, various sizes)
- Palette for mixing colors
- Water container
- Paper towels or cloth for blotting
- Masking tape
- Pencil and eraser

\$60 | 3/3, 3/5 and 3/10 | 5:30-6:30PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.



Floral Design - Spring Flowers

Learn to design a stunning Easter-themed centerpiece with fresh flowers and seasonal accents. Guided by a professional florist, you'll explore floral arranging techniques, color combinations, and design tips. Leave with a beautiful, handcrafted piece to brighten your home or gift to someone special—no experience needed! All supplies will be provided. Just bring your creativity and a smile!

 $70 \mid 4/17 \mid 6-7:30$ PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.





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Wreath Making: Welcome Spring!

Celebrate the beauty of spring and infuse your home with vibrant, seasonal charm in this hands-on Spring Wreath Making class. Whether you're an experienced crafter or a beginner looking to explore your creative side, this class is the perfect opportunity to design your very own custom wreath using fresh, natural materials and beautiful florals.

\$50 | 4/10 | 6-8PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Wreath Making: Americana

Celebrate patriotism and rustic charm by crafting your own Americana-inspired door wreath! In this hands-on class, you'll design a stunning decoration perfect for showcasing your love of country. Using a variety of materials such as ribbons, burlap, stars, and more, you'll learn techniques to create a wreath that blends timeless

Americana elements with your personal style.

\$60 | 5/22 | 6-8PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.



Pine Needle Basketry

Students will learn how to make a small basket using a prepared stone for the base, Longleaf pine needles, waxed polyester cord and two basic stitches. By the end of the second session the baskets will be finished off adding some small pine cones, driftwood and Sweetgrass to take home, and probably the desire to continue.

\$79 | 4/1 & 4/3 | 6-8PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Meditate & Paint

In this class students will use their creative energy for painting, as well as learn the fundamentals of meditation. The painting will focus on a quote or phrase that really speaks to the student and will be up to the student to have one picked. As we take short breaks to wait for paint to dry, students will be guided in a few short meditations that will give them tools for everyday use for inner peace, mindfulness, and using intuition.

Optional: students may bring their own paint brushes or paint if they prefer.

\$50 | 2/27 & 3/6 | 6-8PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Community Outreach & Education

Protecting Your Money Against Fraud

In today's digital age, financial fraud is a growing concern. This course is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to safeguard your finances from various types of fraud. You will learn about common fraud schemes, how to recognize warning signs, and the best practices for protecting your personal and financial information. Through interactive lessons and real-world examples, you will gain practical strategies to prevent fraud and respond effectively if you become a victim. This course is ideal for anyone looking to enhance their financial security, including individuals, families, and small business owners.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify different types of financial fraud and their characteristics.
- Implement strategies to protect your personal and financial information.
- Recognize the signs of potential fraud and take appropriate action.
- Utilize online safety practices to minimize the risk of fraud.
- Access resources and support for fraud prevention and recovery.

FREE | 4/10 | 5:30-7PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

STOPSTOP STOPSTOP STOPSTOP

Cooking & Baking

Canning Venison

This class will take you through several methods for canning venison (or beef) using safe approved methods from the National Center for Home Food Preservation. We will start with a raw roast and some ground meat and end with beautiful jars of meat in the Electric Pressure Canner. Because the processing time is 75 minutes and the cool down time is over an hour, you will not be able to see the jars come out of the canner. I will have some finished jars at the class. Seeing the process will make it seem a lot less daunting should you choose to do it at home.

Even if you have canned meat years ago, you may still want to attend as preservation guidelines change as we know more.

 $$20 \mid 4/1 \mid 4-6PM \mid All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.$



Chip's Daily Specials

Monday - Junior Cal Burger
Tuesday - 2 Tacos (Soft or Hard shell)
Wednesday - 1/4 lb. Cheeseburger
Thursday - Bacon Double
Cheeseburger
Friday - Champ
Saturday - Double Cheeseburger
Sunday - 2 Hamburgers

Double Your Deal

Add small fry & medium soft drink for an additional discounted price.

Don't forget about dessert:

- Hard Serve Ice Cream
- Deep Fried Apple Pie
 - Shakes

Value Packs

No. 1 8 Hamburgers and 1/2 lb. fries

No. 2 4 - 1/4 lb. Hamburgers and 1/2 lb. Fries

No. 3 2 - 1/2 lb. Hamburgers and 1/2 lb. Fries

No. 4 2 - 1/4 lb. Hamburgers, 4 Hamburgers and 1/2 lb. Fries

Works: Pickles, Mustard, Ketchup, Onions.

Kid's Meals

Hamburger • Cheeseburger Hot Dog • Taco (Hard or Soft) Chicken Bits • Mini Corn Dogs Each Kids Meal Includes:

Small French Fries, Choice of Small Soda or Milk, a Toy, and a Chips Tattoo!

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Royal Icing Cookie Decorating

Join us for a creative class where you will learn basic cookie decorating using royal icing. You will do hands-on decorating and learn various techniques such as outlining, flooding, piping, and wet-on-wet. You will create a themed set of cookies to take home and basic tools to continue practicing on your own. Recipes will be included in your take-home kit.

\$55/class | Dates and themes below | 6-8PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Three classes available!

- St Patrick's Day 3/11
- Spring 4/15
- Patriotic 5/19



Juice to Jelly - Making Jelly

This class will take you through making jelly using safe approved methods. We will start with a bottle of 100% juice and end with beautiful jars of jelly. Once you have seen the process you should feel confident enough to make your own jelly following the instructions in your pectin packaging. The first eight registrants will go home with a jar of jelly (as long as we are able to complete the recipe).

\$10 | 3/18 | 4-5:30PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Mushrooms & Spring Edibles

Learn the edible mushrooms and plants of spring. We will discuss Morels, Spring Oysters, Pheasant's Back, and others. We will also look at some common edible plants that emerge in early spring. Special focus will be placed on basic mushroom identification and safety. There will be a lot of information presented, so bring a notebook!

 $445 \mid 4/21 \ 4/22 \mid 6\text{-}9PM \mid All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.$

Hobbies & Woodworking

Create a Personal Canvas

Learn how to transform your personal digital picture into a stunning 12×16 canvas print. Not only will you have the opportunity to print your image, but you will also create a custom frame from scratch to complement your artwork. (Trust me anyone can do it.)

What to bring:

- A high quality digital image of your choice (make sure it's saved on your phone or a USB drive).
- Your enthusiasm and creative spirit!

It's a perfect chance to personalize your space with a custom piece of art that's uniquely yours. See you there!

\$25 | 2/26 | 4-7PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Make your Own Charcuterie Board

In this Charcuterie Board class, you will create a custom board from beautiful cherry wood. Learn woodworking techniques and finish your piece with mineral oil, a food-safe finish to protect and enhance its natural beauty. Leave with a unique, handcrafted board perfect for serving your favorite treats! Join us for a follow-up session to add a personal touch with a laser engraving.

\$25 | 4/8 | 4-6PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Customize Creations With Lasers

In this class, you'll explore advanced laser techniques to enhance or create your personal wooden creations. After completing the Charcuterie Board class (or coaster project), you'll use the laser to add intricate designs, text, or artwork to your projects. Whether you're looking to create personalized gifts, home décor, or unique accents, this class will help you elevate your craft and give you the skills to fully utilize the laser cutter for customized wood projects. No previous experience or class is required.

 $$15 \mid 4/9 \mid 4-6PM \mid All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.$





Home & Garden

Beginning Beekeeping

Dive into the fascinating world of beekeeping with this four-session course designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to managing a beehive. Perfect for aspiring beekeepers, this class covers the biology of bees, essential

equipment, and practical skills to maintain a healthy hive. This course provides the foundational knowledge and skills to start your beekeeping journey. Whether you're pursuing a hobby or a sustainable venture, you'll leave equipped to care for your own hive with confidence.

 $$75 \mid 4/2, 4/9, 4/16 \& 4/23 \mid 6-8PM \mid All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.$

DIY Wooden Hanging Planter

Instead of having what everyone else has, come with your friends/relatives and make your own unique hanging box planter. Just in time for Mother's Day or your Spring planting. The wood will be precut, you will assemble it, stain it, make the rope hanger for it. it will be ready for you to plant your beautiful flowers in. In the winter you could put greens sticks and berries in it with lights. You can put decor in it for every season/holiday. Wear old clothes, rubber gloves and bring a Phillips screw driver or a power driver with a Phillips tip. You will be amazed at how handy you can be. Get inspired and come learn new things. It will be fun!

\$50 | 5/1 | 5:30-7:30PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

The Joy of Gardening - A Beginner's Guide

Achieve gardening success in north central Wisconsin's weather zone. Learn how to choose a planting site, prepare soil and select appropriate vegetables as well as basic organic planting, nurturing and harvesting techniques. Whether patio pots, backyard garden or large space plot, these practical ideas, tips and insights will enhance your gardening knowledge and skills resulting in bountiful and delicious vegetables.

 $50 \mid 4/3, 4/10 \& 4/17 \mid 6\mbox{-}7\mbox{:}30PM \mid All Ages 16\mbox{+ or parent attendance required.}$

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Music

Introduction to Snare Drum

Unlock the rhythm within you and start your drumming journey with our Beginner Snare Drum Lessons! Whether you've always wanted to play the drums or are looking to improve your rhythm skills, this class is the perfect place to start. In this introductory class, you'll learn the essential techniques and fundamentals of snare drum playing, including proper grip, hand technique, and basic rudiments that form the foundation of all drumming.

\$120 | 6 weekly sessions starting 3/31 | 30 mins. TBD | Ages 16 and up







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Learn about our hometown commitment at churchmutual.com/hometown



Play the Ukulele

What You'll Learn:

- Tuning your ukulele for the best sound.
- Basic chords: Essential open chords like C, G, F, and Am for popular songs.
- Strumming techniques to enhance your playing.
- Simple songs using the chords and strumming patterns learned.
- Proper hand positioning and posture for comfortable play.
 No experience is necessary bring your enthusiasm and ukulele!!

\$25 | 4 weeks starting 4/3 | 5-6PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Sports and Recreation

Bushcraft Basics - Surviving & Thriving in Nature

Discover the essential skills of bushcraft in this introductory course designed to help you survive—and thrive—in the great outdoors. This foundational class will introduce you to the core principles of bushcraft, providing a solid base for future, more advanced learning. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast or just starting to explore wilderness survival, this course offers the knowledge and confidence needed to connect with and navigate the natural environment.

\$30 | 2/25 & 3/4 | 6-8PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Wellness & Exercise

Intro to Yoga

Explore the basics of yoga in this three-week series for beginners. Learn foundational poses, breathing techniques, and relaxation to improve flexibility, strength, and mindfulness.

\$40 | 3 weekly sessions starting 2/13 | 6-7PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.



Emotions in Motion

In this workshop, students will learn what emotions are, where they come from, and how they are categorized. You will also learn how to find buried emotion , how to process emotion, and how to release emotion. We will also go over the Emotion Code which uses the subconscious mind to release old emotion. Each class will have a discussion, a meditation, and worksheets, as well as time for $Q \ \& \ A$.

\$85 | 4 weekly sessions starting 3/6 | 5-6PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Empower Yoga

Empower Yoga is a dynamic 60-minute class combining yoga, Qi Gong, and strength-building exercises. The practice enhances flexibility, improves balance, and builds overall strength while promoting mindfulness and energy flow, through fluid movement and breathwork. With this practice participants strive to increase mobility and cultivate a sense of inner power and well-being. Suitable for all levels.

Massage Therapy at Home

This simplified Massage Techniques at Home class will teach and demonstrate all areas of the body by utilizing proper body mechanics. Be more confident in helping your significant other with those everyday aches and pains without hurting yourself or your partner in the process. We will breakdown the different body parts in each session.

50/or \$200 for all | 4 weekly sessions 3/4 | 5:30-7PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.

Slow. Gentle Yoga for Mind & Body

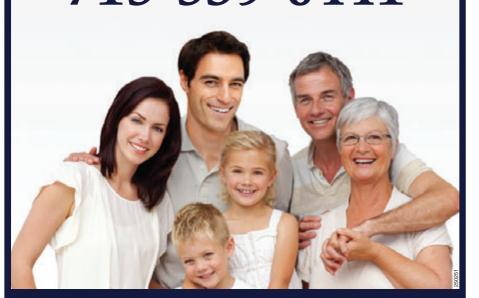
Unwind with a calming yoga class designed to improve flexibility, release tension, and promote relaxation. Ideal for beginners or those seeking a slower pace to calm the nervous system. Experience mindful movement and breathwork to support your well-being. Please bring a yoga mat, blanket, and wear comfortable clothing.

 $570 \mid 6$ weekly sessions starting $3/13 \mid 5:30-6:15PM \mid All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.$

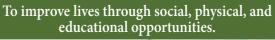


OAK PARK DENTAL

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The MEC is proud to be a happy, inviting space, where people are able to participate in a variety of activities designed to improve their overall mind and body health.

We are confident that once you take the first step into the MEC you will become a regular participant!

NO age or residency requirements.

Here are several of our offerings:

- Social Groups; Book Club, Guys Group, Cricut,
 Quilt & Stitch, Embroidery, Ukulele, Wood Carving
- Arts & Crafts
- Stay fit with Zumba Gold, Chair Yoga, Strength & Balance, and Strong Bodies Classes
- Educational Workshops
- Support Groups
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Bus Trips & More









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COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Foundations in Stress Resilience

Discover practical tools to manage stress and find balance in your busy life. Learn simple breathwork, mindfulness techniques, and gentle movements to relax your body and mind. Leave each class with tools to boost focus, sleep better, and feel calmer. Bring a journal and wear comfortable clothes.

 $90 \mid 6$ weekly sessions starting $3/13 \mid 6:30-7:30PM \mid All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.$

What's Love Got to Do With It? - Healthy Relationships

Dive into the facts about self-love, love for others, and the dynamics of healthy relationships. Class one will cover self-love. Class two is all about love for others. Class three, you will learn about attachment styles and how they affect our relationships. Class four will discuss the Divine masculine and Divine Feminine and the natural role that men and women play in a relationship. Classes include worksheets, discussion time, and a guided meditation, ending with time for Q & A.

 $\$85 \mid 4$ weekly sessions starting $4/17 \mid 5\text{-}6PM \mid All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.$

Writing & Literature

Creative Writing: How To Write a Novel

Have you ever thought about writing a book? Do you have ideas, but aren't sure where to start? Have you started a project but aren't sure how to finish, or what to do next? This class will walk you through the basics of a creative writing project, including: brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, and publishing. All skill and interest levels are welcome.

\$120 | 6 weekly sessions starting 2/18 | 6-7PM | All Ages 16+ or parent attendance required.



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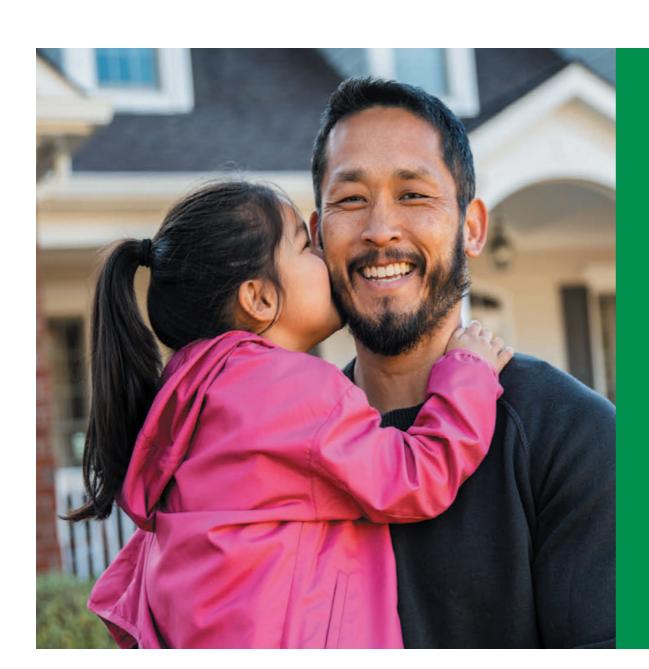




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