



2025 Summer Programs

Welcome to Mercy Connections

Who We Are:

Mercy Connections is an educational and community resource center that offers a wide variety of classes and programs for adults who are looking to advance themselves through education, mentoring, small business development and community.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented professional staff who facilitate, coach, mentor and are available to help you reach your goals.

Our beautiful center is for everyone. We welcome you and ask that you participate with a kind heart and take good care of the shared space and community.

Programs & Services Offered*

- Academic Tutoring
- Community Lunch Food Program
- English Language Learning
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Justice & Mentoring
- Personal Growth
- U.S. Citizenship Preparation

*Not all programs offered in summer.

Our Philosophy on Inclusion and Belonging:

Mercy Connections is made up of people from many different backgrounds and lived experiences that include various cultural, religious and language backgrounds. This may also include differing viewpoints, life circumstances and identities. We greatly value the richness that this diversity brings.

We strive to create an environment that is welcoming, safe and inclusive for each person who comes through its doors. One way that we do this is by respecting an individual's identity—whether regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, pronouns, ethnic or racial background, or any other identifying characteristics that people choose to share.

We ask that you contribute to this value of inclusion by treating all those you encounter at Mercy Connections with respect and with kindness.

What's Inside

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Morning Classes

Afternoon Classes

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		English Language Learning (ELL*) Tutoring 9:30 am - 12:00 pm		Mercy Makerspace 9:00 am - 10:45 am
	Mercy Connections Community Hope Mural Project 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	English Language Learning (ELL*) Intermediate Conversation Class 10:30 am - 11:45 pm	English Language Learning (ELL*) Pronunciation Class All Levels 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	U.S. Citizenship Tutoring 9:00 am - 10:30 am ***** Circle 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
	U.S. Citizenship Tutoring 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Building English Fluency Through Writing & Sharing Stories (ELL*) 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Public Speaking Concepts & Practice 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Building English Fluency Through Writing & Sharing Stories (ELL*) 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
		Ideas Worth Talking About 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm		Pens & Pages 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
	English Language Learning (ELL*) Pronunciation Class (All Levels) 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm		Grammar Hospital (ELL*) 4:00 - 5:15 pm	

*ELL = English Language Learning

English Language Learning Classes

Building English Fluency Through Writing and Sharing Stories

Date: Tuesdays and Thursdays
July 08 - August 7

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Where: In-person at
Mercy Connections

Instructor: Maxine McGowan &
Veronica Bernicke

Description: This class is available to low beginners and intermediate level students. It will use personal storytelling as a tool for language acquisition, cultural sharing and fluency development.

Storytelling provides an engaging way for learners to improve grammar, comprehension, confidence and to explore the nuances of language.

This class is structured as a writing workshop, but students will work on all dimensions of language: listening, speaking, writing and reading.

How to Register: Contact Veronica or Raquel

Veronica Bernicke
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7086

Raquel Aronhime
raronhime@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7162

Registration Deadline: July 03
Contact Raquel to register after the deadline

255 S. Champlain Street Suite 8, Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 846-7063; mercyconnections.org

English Language Learning Grammar Hospital

Date: Wednesdays
July 09 - August 6

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Where: In-person at
Mercy Connections

Instructor: Melissa Lang

Description: This class is for intermediate-level English Language Learners. Students will have the opportunity to practice one to two grammar challenges each week. Some examples include

- present perfect tense and past perfect tense
- subject-verb agreement
- count vs noncount/mass nouns

To register, students must complete a placement assessment. Students who have completed Beginning Level 2 Class.

How to Register: Contact Melissa or Raquel

Melissa Lang
mlang@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7084

Raquel Aronhime
raronhime@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7162

Registration Deadline: July 03
Contact Raquel to register after the deadline

English Language Learning Classes

English Conversation for Intermediate-Level Speakers

Date: Tuesdays
July 08- August 5

Time: 10:30 am - 11:45 am

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Instructor: Maxine McGowan

Description: Participants may come and improve their conversation skills in this fun and engaging class with activities that will focus on oral communication.

How to Register: Contact Raquel Aronhime
raronhime@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7162

Registration Deadline: July 03
Contact Raquel to register after the deadline



English Language Pronunciation: Short & Long Vowel Sounds (Morning)

Date: Wednesdays
July 9 - August 6

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Instructor: Veronica Bernicke

Description: This class aims to improve pronunciation and comprehension skills through practice of individual sounds (phonemes) and basic phonics drills.

Students will use tongue twisters, call and response, and articulation exercises to target vowel sounds and common pronunciation challenges.

Students are encouraged to share obstacles to production and comprehension to work on in this class.

How to Register: Contact Veronica or Raquel

Veronica Bernicke
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7086

Raquel Aronhime
raronhime@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7162

Registration Deadline: July 03
Contact Raquel to register after the deadline

English Language Learning Classes

English Language Pronunciation: Short & Long Vowel Sounds (Afternoon)

Date: Mondays
July 7 - August 7

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Instructor: Veronica Bernicke

Description: This class aims to improve pronunciation and comprehension skills through practice of individual sounds (phonemes) and basic phonics drills.

Students will use tongue twisters, call and response, and articulation exercises to target vowel sounds and common pronunciation challenges.

Students are encouraged to share obstacles to production and comprehension to work on in this class.



How to Register: Contact Veronica or Raquel

Veronica Bernicke
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7086

Raquel Aronhime
raronhime@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7162

Registration Deadline: July 03

Contact Raquel to register after the deadline

Tutoring Programs

Note: This is not a drop-in program. Each student is paired with their own tutor and commits to a 90-minute time slot each week at the same time and on the same day at Mercy Connections. When program slots are full, we keep students on a waitlist. Scheduled sessions will be at one of these times:

Mondays: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm - U.S. Citizenship

Tuesdays: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm - English Language Learning

Thursdays: 9:00 am - 10:30 am - U.S. Citizenship / Academic

U.S. Citizenship Preparation

Date: July 07 - August 4

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Time: One weekly 90-minute time slot from the above schedule

Coordinator: Melissa Lang

How to Register: Contact Melissa

Melissa Lang

mlang@mercyconnections.org

802-846-7084

Registration Deadline: We maintain an active waiting list. New students can be accommodated as spots open up.

Description: Adult learners are matched with skilled tutors one-on-one to prepare for the U.S. Citizenship test and interview. Students will study United States history, government and geography.

Each session includes practice questions and answers from the U.S. Citizenship test and time to practice English language skills.

It is recommended to register for tutoring prior to submitting the N-400 application to USCIS. Students learn about the N-400 application process and receive support to understand the language of the application.

Academic Support

Date: July 08 - August 7

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Time: One weekly 90-minute time slot from the above schedule

Coordinator: Melissa Lang

How to Register: Contact Melissa

Melissa Lang

mlang@mercyconnections.org

802-846-7084

Registration Deadline: We maintain an active waiting list. New students can be accommodated as spots open up.

Description: Adult learners are matched with skilled, trained tutors, one-on-one, to improve academic skills.

Each student is provided with an individualized educational support plan. Students meet with their tutor in the center, and the program is facilitated by the Tutoring Program Coordinators.

Tutoring Programs

Note: This is not a drop-in program. Each student is paired with their own tutor and commits to a 90-minute time slot each week at the same time and on the same day at Mercy Connections. Scheduled sessions will be at one of these times:

Mondays: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
 Tuesdays: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
 Thursdays: 9:00 am - 10:30 am

English Language Learning (ELL)

Date: July 08 - August 5

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Time: One weekly 90-minute time slot from the above schedule

Coordinators: Veronica Bernicke & Melissa Lang

How to Register: Contact Veronica

Veronica Bernicke
 mlang@mercyconnections.org
 802-846-7086

Registration Deadline: We maintain an active waiting list. New students can be accommodated as spots open up.

Description: Adult learners are matched with skilled, trained tutors, one-on-one, to improve English language learning skills.

Each student is provided with an individualized educational support plan. Students meet in our center and the program is staffed and facilitated by the ELL/Tutoring Program Coordinators.



Personal Growth Programs

Public Speaking Concepts & Practice

Date: Wednesdays
July 9 - August 06

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Facilitator: Heather Gilbert

Description: In this class, participants will practice some beginning public speaking skills in a safe and supportive setting among peers.

Participants will learn about basic concepts and tools to help address nerves, organize a talk and more. Participants will also be expected to prepare brief presentations and apply what they learn.

How to Register: Sign up online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7294

Registration Deadline: July 03

To register after the deadline, please contact Heather



Pens & Pages

Date: Thursdays
July 10 - August 14

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Instructors: Melissa Lang & Peter Burns

Description: Participants will read and discuss *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding. In this classic fictional novel, a group of English schoolboys find themselves on a deserted island, stranded after a plane crash. They are without adult supervision and must navigate their new surroundings in order to find a way to survive. Golding helps readers explore themes of order vs chaos, law vs anarchy, and the broader theme of good vs evil.

Each week, students will have a reading assignment of 30 - 35 pages, which the class will then discuss as a group. Participants will also be asked to produce one piece of writing each week, based on their choice of prompts provided by the instructor. Participants provide feedback to peers with the goal of helping each other become stronger writers. The class will culminate in viewing the movie of the same title.

This class is designed for native English readers, writers, and speakers. English Language Learners are welcome but need to possess an advanced level of spoken and written English. Books are provided free of charge by Vermont Humanities.

How to Register: Sign up online or contact Melissa Lang

mlang@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7084

Registration Deadline: July 03

Personal Growth Programs

Circle

Date: Thursdays
July 10 - August 07

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Facilitator: Heather Gilbert

Description: Circle is a supportive experience where people can take time to reflect on peace, hope and healing. Participants may find renewal and gain strength as they listen to and talk about experiences. This is a special time to feel part of a nurturing community and imagine new possibilities.

This program requires registration, but participants are not required to attend every session.

This Thursday session is held in-person only. There is an online option on Mondays (see page 10).

How to Register: Sign up online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7294

Registration Deadline: None

Ideas Worth Talking About: Discussion Group

Date: Tuesdays
July 08 - August 05

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Facilitator: Heather Gilbert

Description: Find inspiration and great discussion at this drop-in community building program. Participants will watch a brief TED Talk or other thought-provoking videos, and then engage in a facilitated discussion of the ideas presented.

How to Register: Sign up online or contact Heather
Heather Gilbert
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7294

Registration Deadline: Register once to attend one or more weeks this summer. First session registration deadline is July 03.

Need Assistance Registering?

Learn More Online:
www.mercyconnections.org

With Registration:
Call the instructor listed for the program

All Other Questions:
802-846-7063

Personal Growth & Entrepreneurship Programs

Mercy Connections Community Mural Project

Date: Mondays
July 07- August 04
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Facilitator: Heather Gilbert

Description: Participants are invited to explore their creativity and life stories in this group mural project that will represent a Tree of Hope. Choosing words, shapes, symbols or images, the group will create a visual representation of their collective heart wisdom in the shape of a tree. This moveable mural can then stand to honor the community we share and inspire hope for those around us.

Registration: Register online or contact Heather
Heather Gilbert
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7294

Registration Deadline: July 03

Mercy Makerspace

Date: Thursdays
July 10- August 07
Time: 9:00 am - 10:45 am

Where: In-person at Mercy Connections

Facilitator: Heather Gilbert

Description: Crafters and makers are supported in a co-working environment to develop and create products to sell at craft and art fairs, including Mercy Connections' "Mercy Marketplace" fair that takes place in November, 2024.

Participants work one-on-one with instructors to design and create products, hone time and project management skills, and set sales goals for vending opportunities that they wish to pursue.

Registration: Register online or contact Heather
Heather Gilbert
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org
802-846-7294

Registration Deadline: July 03



Where Learning & Living Come Together

At Mercy Connections, every person - regardless of life circumstances - experiences dignity, compassion and the opportunity to pursue personal aspirations within a supportive community. Our programs change lives.



QUESTIONS?

Contact:

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