2015 May Program Descriptions

Two Week Programs

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary

Mrs. Isaacs and Mr. Plimack

$2400

Founded 30 years ago, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is located in Utah surrounded by beautiful red-rock canyons. It is currently home to about 1,700 rescue animals. Being one of the earliest no-kill shelters, it stands as a model for lifesaving programs that is shared around the country. The mission of Best Friends is to eradicate unnecessary euthanasia through education, dedication, and devotion. We will spend our two weeks volunteering in the sanctuary. Each day we will work with a variety of animals including dogs, cats, and pigs. Feeding, cleaning, or simply spending quality time with the animals will inevitably provide all of us with opportunities for personal growth and inspiration. During our ten days of community service, we will take the opportunity to explore some of the beautiful parks that surround Kanab. Lake Powell, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Coral Pink Dunes, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon are all within a short distance.

Eso Es España

Ms. Kochanek and Ms. Schultz

$4000

A tapestry of history, language immersion, and community engagement throughout the diverse and enchanting country of Spain, this May Program will surround students in an unforgettable cultural experience. On this trip, students will explore Spain's ancient sites and modern cities, from Granada's La Alhambra to Madrid's bustling Retiro Park and Plaza del Sol. Students will also get a sense of the country's beautiful and bucolic side. This intensive cultural and linguistic immersion (organized and directed by *Global Works*) is certain to take students out of their comfort zone, as we not only visit museums, parks, and historic sites, but will also partake in the homestay experience. Students will work within the community on educational and environmental projects, such as teaching English in a school and working on wetlands restoration projects in Valencia. In these moments of cultural disconnect and discomfort, students will gain insight into another way of life and culture, gaining a more informed and global perspective. This trip will be an edifying experience. Though we speak different languages and live by distinctive norms, **we can all** find pleasure in the salty taste of *jamon serano*, the sweet smell of jasmine on the hills of Alhambra, and the vitality of the "no pasa nada" lifestyle.

Food Science: Allergy-Free Cuisine

Ms. M. Harrison and Ms. Jiang

$380

For many people, the food they eat causes adverse reactions in their body. It can be challenging to find foods that appeal to your tastes that are also safe. Come explore the sweet, savory, and salty ingredients for delicious allergy-free food. Join us as we integrate our passion for cooking with the exploration of science. We will tackle the biological perspective, asking the question, what is an allergy? What is the difference between allergy, intolerance, and sensitivity? As food scientists, we will research the various food allergens and alternative food ingredients. We will explore foods from around the world, such as Asia and Europe. The best part is sharing our culinary creations with the Oldfields community. In between our time in the lab and the kitchen, we will travel off campus to find inspiration at local farms, markets, bakeries, and restaurants.

Freedom Ride

Ms. Gilmore and Mr. Tanner-Read

$1800

In this program, the students will have the chance to explore key events during the most important period of 20th century United States history and the impact those events are still having on today's world. Once regarded as a movement whose success could be attributed to a small group of dedicated visionaries, from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Lyndon Baines Johnson, the struggle for African-America civil rights is now viewed as the triumph of the everyday men and women whose courage and dedication transformed the political and social life of the United States forever. This program will offer students the chance to truly appreciate what a group of individuals, even when denied access to political power, can truly achieve. Traveling to important sites of the Civil Rights era throughout the South, such as Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Memphis, students will gain first-hand knowledge of history and culture that could never be achieved in a classroom setting.

German Language, Culture and History

Mr. Bielaszka-Duvernay

$355

In this program, the girls will study the basics of the German language and will be introduced to the German way of life. They will ponder the complex history of Germany, study the modern structures of the Federal Republic, and analyze its place in the European Union. There will be field trips to Washington, D.C. to see a movie and a concert at the Goethe Institute, visit the Holocaust Museum, tour the Heurich House Museum, and dine at three German cafes. The girls will attend a German service at the Zionkirche in Baltimore and will visit two restaurants that serve traditional German specialties. Knowledge of a foreign language and culture promotes an understanding of other cultures and an increased awareness of self that is crucial in a world where globalization is a reality. The goal of this program is to foster each student's enthusiasm, motivation, and desire to learn a new language as an entrance to another culture.

The Joy of Teaching

Mrs. Royal

$80

Students in this program will act as teacher assistants at the local elementary school. Prior to their first day in the classroom, they will explore the history of education, review educational philosophies, learn how to prepare lesson plans, examine classroom management techniques, and discuss special education. Each girl will create and teach a lesson to the group to ensure readiness for the teaching practicum. Additionally, students will watch a few "classic" teacher movies and documentaries to analyze various teaching styles. The experience culminates with seven days of working in a classroom with a sponsoring teacher.

Marvelous Maryland

Mrs. Guidera and Ms. Edwards

$755

Join us to explore "Marvelous Maryland." This May Program will educate and familiarize students with Maryland's natural resources, history, recreation, culture, and beauty; highlighting all the amazing things Maryland has to offer! Trips to the Eastern Shore will allow students to explore the ocean and bay to learn where some of our Maryland delicacies originate. Students will learn how to properly prepare and eat these delicacies through a hands-on activity with a local chef. A trip to Annapolis will allow students to explore the gorgeous state capitol and the Naval Academy. Students will get to experience Maryland's strong sports culture and history during an Orioles game and a tour of Camden yards. Visits to local agricultural and aquatic resources will open discussions about the importance of buying local and taking care of our environment. Outdoor activities and hikes will highlight fun and eco-friendly recreational activities and reinforce the importance of taking care of our environment.

Rhythm of Dance Intensive

Ms. Roemer

$560

During this May Program, students will participate in a variety of dance classes and discussions based on the professional world of dance. Through 60+ hours of dance, students will increase their knowledge of technique, strengthen their skills, and develop a greater appreciation for the dance profession. Each day will feature a master dance class led by a wide variety of dance professionals. There could even be an opportunity for dancers to meet and see a performance by the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

World War II and the Holocaust in Europe

Ms. Littlefield and Mr. Kirk

$4000

This program will focus our travel study on several of the key sites during World War II, including London, Normandy, Amsterdam, and Germany. In London, we will cover the Battle of Britain as well as the preparations that were made for D-Day in 1944. Normandy will be the showcase for this travel study as we will visit the invasion beaches and towns that played a key role in that historic day. We will pay homage to those who lost their lives that day by visiting cemeteries of the Germans, the British, and the Americans. We hope to visit Paris for an evening. In Berlin, our goal is to visit two concentration camps, Bergen-Belsen and Saschenhausen, as well as other World War II sites. We will investigate how Germany remembers the war and the Holocaust. Successful completion of 20th Century World History is required for participation in this program.

One Week Programs, First Week

The Beauty of Crafts

Ms. Bates

$75

This program provides hands-on exposure to stitchery as an art form. It will include embroidery, applique, and quilting. The students will create their own piece of art in the form of a personalized journal, photo album cover, or a pillow cover. As part of the learning process, they will create an ornament using detailed embroidery stitches based on Shisha embroidery from India. Along the way, the students will learn some of the history behind these art forms.

Canoes, Cameras, and Communication

Ms. Giffin and Ms. Huber-Weiss

$1000

This one week program will take the girls off campus to the Potomac River where they will navigate the river in canoes and camp out each night under the guidance of the Outward Bound staff. Communication will be the focus of this program, but not in the way in which today's world is accustomed. Cell phones will not be allowed as the girls will be encouraged to live in the moment and enjoy each other's company without the crutch of instant access to an abundance of technology. Each student will be issued one waterproof, single use camera. With only 27 photographs available, the girls will have to make a conscious decision about which images to preserve. After completion of the excursion, the girls will return to campus to develop their photos and create an exhibit and contemplate their experiences.

College App Boot Camp

Ms. Hoover

$35

This program consists of working on all the important aspects of the college admissions process. The topics covered will be the types of admission decisions; standardized testing options; essay writing; college visits; admissions involving athletics and the NCAA clearinghouse; and interview and resume preparation. We will also discuss internships, career development, study abroad, and GAP year programs. Each day the students will work half of the day with our college guidance counselor on a topic. The other half of the day will be spent with a college admission representative working on that aspect of the process and hearing about the college or university at which they work. Students will come out of this week better prepared to finalize a college application plan. They will also have learned about a number of different colleges and universities that they may not have been aware of, while broadening their knowledge of the different options for their post-secondary plan.

Digital Storytelling

Mrs. McQuinn-Vinyard

No Fee

Students are aware of a few digital storytelling methods, but do they really know how to use them to their fullest potential? The hope of this class is to take presentations and projects to a whole new level. In turn, the students will be able to share their new skills with their peers and teachers in the classroom next year. Some of the programs that will be covered are PowerPoint, Keynote, and iMovie, just to name a few. We will also touch upon the basic elements of digital photography and will explore the basics of Photoshop software. As a group, we will share with one another and with the School our own stories in digital format. This class is meant for students who would like to strengthen their presentation skills in the classroom and are beginners in the programs mentioned above.

Drama Queens

Ms. Briante

$100

This program is designed to engage and develop a new generation of theatre artists. Each day will consist of three workshops. The mornings will include a variety of vocal and physical warm-ups, theatre games, and improvisation, followed by a writing session. The afternoon workshops will be led by local professionals and may include movement, improvisation, juggling, and singing. During the last portion of the day, the girls will collaborate on the writing, staging, costuming, and performing a brief original piece which will be presented during May Sharing.

Fab Lab Baltimore

Ms. Reilly

$285

Students will spend their time working at the Digital Fabrication Lab managed by MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms. This maker space environment will immerse the girls in computer-aided design activities that will utilize a variety of tools and explore new materiality. Like a sculptor, digital fabrication tools work either by subtracting material (CNC and laser cutting) or by adding material (3D printing).

Forays in Film

Mr. Bisagni

$75

As members of an era dominated by inane comedies, vacuous action blockbusters, and the expediency of Netflix, few teenagers are acquainted with quality independent cinema and the film going experience itself. In an effort to remedy this, Forays in Film will lead students to independent movie theaters in Baltimore and nearby Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., where they will be exposed to an array of thought-provoking, critically lauded films which they would most likely not encounter otherwise. Far from merely viewing these cinematic treasures, the participants of Forays in Film will hone their analytical thinking and writing skills by crafting cogent reviews of each of the films they experience. By the end of this program, students will have embraced cinema as a medium for exploring people, cultures, ideas, and experiences, both familiar and foreign, all the while developing an appreciation for the truly profound act of film going.

How Things Work

Mr. Anguita

$75

The goal of this program is to have students utilize what they have learned in the classroom by building projects. The students will discover the answers to questions such as, how do you build a strong bridge with light material, and why is the keystone the most important piece in a bridge? Using the PASCO Structure System, the students will build models of cranes, windmills, and other structures and study how these machines work and what their purpose is. Using the CHAOS TOWER, the students will build a tower in which a small ball is moving downward due to the gravitational force and changing this energy into another kind of energy such as elastic, sound, kinetic, proving the laws of physics. In order to answer these questions, the students will follow the scientific method by proposing a possible hypothesis, sketching the possible outcome, building a small-scale model.

Lake Placid Olympic Experience

Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Aiken

$1100

This program is designed for the student-athlete interested in pushing herself mentally and physically. Students will get an inside look at what it takes to be an Olympian and experience the challenging lifestyle these athletes endure every day. The girls will have the unique opportunity to live at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, NY alongside elite athletes from multiple sports. Day excursions will include guided tours of winter sport venues used in the 1932 and 1980 Olympics that continue to host international competition to this day. These venues include the bobsled/skeleton/luge track, the ski jumping facility, the biathlon shooting range, the Olympic museum, and more. The girls will also have hands-on lessons on how to push a skeleton sled, ride a luge sled, train in the weight room, run on the newly built track and skate on the famous 1980 “Miracle” ice hockey rink. The possibilities are endless in Lake Placid.

Once Upon A Time: A Look at Children’s Literature

Mrs. Reigner

$35

In this program, students will read and discuss fairy and folk tales from various global cultures as well as analyze the important cultural messages behind these children’s stories. The students will then write and illustrate an original folk or fairy tale of their own based on a topic that teaches one of the five core principles of the Oldfields culture.

One Week Programs, Second Week

Art of Jewelry

Mr. and Mrs. Reigner

$75

In this May Program, students will master the basic techniques and skills necessary to produce various types of handmade jewelry. In addition to creating a series of bracelets, necklaces, hair ornaments, earrings and pins, the girls will study and discuss the history of jewelry as an art form, specifically studying cultures that pioneered the use of various materials. Each girl will create a body of work as well as a personal reflection paper that discusses how her jewelry line was influenced by a particular culture or cultures.

Be More B'more

Mr. Bisagni

$135

Although Oldfields is located merely twenty minutes outside of Baltimore City, few students have ventured into the manifold neighborhoods that constitute this vibrant metropolis. As participants of Be More B'more, students will rectify this by experiencing the atmosphere and attractions that distinguish such areas as Hampden, Fell's Point, and Mount Vernon, among others. Each day will be spent researching a particular neighborhood followed by a visit to that part of Baltimore. The history, literature and culture of each unique neighborhood will be incorporated into this program. Upon completing this May Program, students will have sampled the unique regions of downtown Baltimore, and hopefully cultivated a new passion, revived and refined an old interest, become more intimately acquainted with each other and themselves, and embraced all that urban life has to offer.

Build and Program Your Own Computer

Mr. Carico

$1000

Solve the mystery of how a computer works in this program. Students will learn the vocabulary and functions of computer components as they connect the power supply, attach the motherboard to the case, and install the quad core CPU, 8GB of RAM, and a 1TB hard drive. They will learn to keep it cool with heat sinks and fans, and to make the box useful by installing the operating system and security, browser, and open source office software. They will learn the vocabulary and syntax of a programming language by instructing the computer to play games. Coding will help the students' problem solving ability by encouraging them to practice thinking in terms of sequences, conditions, iterations, and comparisons. By the end of the week, each student will have built a mid-spec desktop computer, monitor, keyboard and mouse that will be suitable for schoolwork and entertainment.

College Tour: Boston!

Ms. Hoover and Ms. Aiken

$1500

This program will have the students touring one or two colleges and universities a day in the Boston Metropolitan area. Visits will include tours, information sessions, and meeting with admission representatives. They will also review with a college representative what is entailed in the admission process including potential recruitment to an athletic program. Tours will cover admissions policies and procedures and the different campus amenities offered at each institution. They will review how to do an official and unofficial interview with admission representatives. Each student will be asked to keep a journal of her experiences in order to help her develop a more informed plan of action for her college applications.

Exploring Visual Art

Ms. Huber-Weiss and Ms. Giffin

$235

Many times in an art curriculum, students are completely separated from the outside world of art. Their art projects could be connected to an English class or a history class, but they rarely get to see art up close. Their projects come from assignments rather than inspiration. The goal of this May Program is to introduce students to the local art world of Baltimore, from the traditional art at the BMA, to the modern street art of Baltimore. Students will be introduced to new forms of art, from silk painting to mosaics. Hopefully their creativity will be awakened by these trips to see new forms of art, and they will be able to create more personal and inspired art projects during and after May Program.

Optics: Properties and Behavior of Light

Mr. Anguita

$50

The goal of this program is to give the students an introduction to the properties of light through experiments using the PASCO SCIENTIFIC equipment. The students will study the properties of light such as, how ray optics behave, the laws of reflection and refraction, image formation with mirrors and lens, diffraction, and how to build a telescope or a microscope.

Unique New York

Ms. Briante and Mrs. McQuinn-Vinyard

$1500

This program is designed to educate students about several iconic landmarks and other unique places New York City offers. Highlights include: touring the New York Historical Museum, the Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, and Radio City Music Hall. The girls will also enjoy walking thru the Broadway theatre district, strolling through Central Park, exploring Wall Street's Financial District, and dining in Soho. These are just a few of the unique experiences each student will enjoy. Researching, photographing, and designing a power point to share with the community are also part of this program.

The United States Seen Through the Eyes of Others

Ms. Bates

No fee

The American perception of our international involvement is often very different from that of other countries. We tend to see ourselves as the peacemakers of the world, the mediator between warring factions. In a time of heightened national security, the students will study these differing images in order to further understand our role on the world stage. This film and discussion based program will use films, documentaries, readings and research on the U.S. involvement in our neighboring Latin American countries.