



LEARNING
joyfully

100%
EXPERIENTIAL

WORKING WITH
experts

14
DIFFERENT
CLASS OPTIONS



ONE WEEK.
ONE CLASS.
ZERO GRADES.

NEW
friendships

4
GRADES WORKING
TOGETHER



MPA
i-Term 2026

MPA MIDDLE SCHOOL i-Term

Week of March 2-6, 2026

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

Mounds Park Academy's i-Term provides students in grades five through eight with a unique opportunity to embody MPA's mission of thinking independently and learning joyfully by participating in a one-week enrichment experience. i-Term courses are designed to provide inquiry-based, experiential learning beyond the classroom. The project-based, focused nature of i-Term offerings enables students to learn new skills, do things that are not possible within a normal school setting, and be exposed to experiences they would not be otherwise. Students will venture into the community, work with experts in a particular field, and create new friendships along the way during this signature experience.

STUDENT OWNERSHIP

All Middle School students participate in i-Term, they are empowered to select a course that will either deepen their current understanding of a topic or introduce them to a new area of interest.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Students will be asked to select three courses for i-Term. While class sizes are purposefully kept small to ensure an intimate learning environment, every effort will be made to match students with their top choices. Once a student is registered and confirmed in a course, no changes will be made. Students should list three courses they want to take—please do not list a course you would be unhappy to attend.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Course fees are used to offset the cost of transportation, field trips, community and guest speakers, and other excursions. Once course selections are finalized, course fees will be assessed through the Business Office and TADS. If the course fee associated with your student's preferred i-Term experience presents a financial hardship for your family, please contact Paul Errickson to discuss options.

USING THIS DOCUMENT

i-Term courses are divided into three categories—Making & Design Thinking, Culture & Community Explorations, and Creative Arts & Play. They are color coded as indicated below. Use this document to review course content and select your ideal i-Term course.

MAKING & DESIGN THINKING

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

CREATIVE ARTS & PLAY

i-Term ONLINE:

moundsparkacademy.org/iterm

DO-IT-YOURSELF FIX IT

COST: \$100

COMPETENCY(S): LEAD MY LEARNING

Have you ever had an item that needs fixing, but you don't know how to fix it? In this course, we are going to investigate how someone goes about repairing something that is broken and see if it can even be fixed. We ask that each student bring at least one appliance that is no longer working and would like to see if it can be fixed. All items may not be able to be fixed depending on what repairs are needed and if time allows for it to be repaired. During this course, students will also learn practical skills that may include tasks such as repairing a hole in a wall, mounting a small (or large) item on a wall, and much more! In this class, students will explore how to attempt a solution and not always be successful. They will then practice how they can regroup and try again (and maybe even again) until they, hopefully, arrive upon their desired result. Students will gain hands-on experience, perseverance, and DIY skills that are the epitome of a life-long learner.



MAKING & DESIGN THINKING

ON AIR—THE ART OF RADIO BROADCASTING

COST: \$100

COMPETENCY(S): BUILD COMMUNITY, LEARN IN COMMUNITY,
AND READ THE WORLD

Step into the studio and discover the power of your voice. On Air is an immersive, hands-on course that takes you behind the microphone to explore the dynamic world of radio broadcasting. From crafting compelling stories and curating playlists to mastering live interviews and navigating studio equipment, you'll learn what it takes to captivate an audience over the airwaves. Whether you dream of hosting a show, producing podcasts, or reporting news with impact, this class empowers you to find your voice, sharpen your storytelling skills, and broadcast with confidence. By the end of the course, you'll walk away with original audio projects—and the tools to make yourself heard.



MAKING & DESIGN THINKING

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CREATIVE WORKSHOP

COST: \$150

**COMPETENCY(S): BUILD COMMUNITY, LEAD MY LEARNING, AND
DESIGN SOLUTIONS**

Step into the world of imagination! In this course, students will explore the creative side of Dungeons & Dragons by writing adventures, painting fantasy miniatures, building papercraft models, drawing unique characters, and making simple props. Along the way, students will learn storytelling, design, and hands-on crafting skills while bringing their own epic world to life.



GRECIAN GATEWAY: DISCOVERING ANCIENT GREECE

COST: \$200

COMPETENCY(S): READ THE WORLD

Are you fascinated by Greek mythology? Did you know that Cloud Cuckooland (from The Lego Movie) was inspired by a play written over 2,000 years ago? Do you listen to the “Greeking Out” podcast? Are you gearing up for the Winter Olympics next year?

Grecian Gateway explores the myths and legends of ancient Greece, as well as its lasting influence on theatre, art, and sports. Students will enjoy hands-on activities, visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and indulge in a traditional Greek lunch at Christos Restaurant.

This course is ideal for Percy Jackson fans—and beyond!



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

FRENCH IMMERSION TRIP TO QUEBEC, 2026

COST PER STUDENT: \$3,095

COMPETENCY(S): SUSTAIN WELLNESS (DEVELOP INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE)

We are thrilled to announce an i-Term language and culture immersion trip to Québec City, Canada! This trip offers the chance to sample a taste of Europe in North America with its historic walled city and its French language and heritage. During this five-day adventure, we'll explore Canada's oldest neighborhood on foot and visit the interactive Musée de la Civilisation to learn about Quebec's history and people.

We'll engage in multiple interactive games and activities at the Musée du Fort and Soldat de la Tour in Martello Tower as we explore le Vieux Québec. We'll also enjoy seasonal activities like snowshoeing, tobogganing on the famous Dufferin Terrace and visiting the impressive Ice Hotel. We'll head into the mountains to enjoy a traditional meal at a Sugar Shack, while taking in traditional music and dance. But that's not all! Our visit will also include a traditional breakfast at Huron-Wendat Village, including a guided visit of the village with interactive games.

We'll also explore the Beaupré Coast and visit Montmorency Falls Park with a cable car ride to the top of the falls. Our visit to the Beaupré Coast will also include a visit to the Copper Museum, with tools and copper awaiting us for the challenge. No visit will be complete without a guided tour of Cathédrale Ste Anne de Beaupré, a world-famous pilgrimage site. Our visit to Canada will end with a tour of Montreal and a visit to the world-famous farmers' market, where we'll get to practice our French as we order our final Canadian meal before we head home. Any fifth- or sixth-grade student interested in participating in the program needs to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parents are welcome to join in grades seven and eight, but it is not mandatory. Additional room fees apply for adult travelers.

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

COST PER STUDENT: \$300

COMPETENCY(S): READ THE WORLD AND SUSTAIN WELLNESS

Come jump into a frozen lake with us after a hot sauna ('au' pronounced like the OU in "OUch"). Much like the beloved Moomin's from Finland (children's books by Tove Jansson), we will explore the power of adventure and transformation. Scandinavian handicraft uses simple, reusable materials to make functional objects. We will carve a butter knife at Norway House and go to The American Swedish Institute to take a stab at needle felting. Parents will be welcome to join in various activities including our visit to an exhibit about Norwegian immigrants at Norway House.

Our focus will be on the traditions and crafts of Scandinavia: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland. We will bake, weave, carve and paint Dala horses, forage for Evergreens, and dabble in stained glass. We will also learn about the Sámi Reindeer Herders of Lapland after watching "Stolen" (with parental consent or different optional activity), which surrounds "a young woman's struggle to defend her indigenous heritage in a world where xenophobia is on the rise, climate change is threatening reindeer herding, and young people choose suicide in the face of collective desperation." Come with open hands to dabble in new hobbies throughout the week—and open stomachs—as we try smoked salmon at Scandinavian hot spots in the Twin Cities like Ingebretsen's.



DOGSLEDDING WITH WINTERGREEN

COST: \$900

COMPETENCY(S): SUSTAIN WELLNESS

This course invites students to embrace winter with outdoor activities such as hiking, dog sledding and polar plunging. Participants will travel to Ely for five days to go dog sledding and learn about wildlife in the Boundary Waters. If there is time, we will stop at the International Wolf Center. We will be staying at Wintergreen Lodge which is world renown for their “The Road Less Traveled.” See their website for more information: dogsledding.com

**Open only to 7th and 8th grade students. Course capacity is 15 students.*



SNOWBOARDING SKILL BUILDING IN THE AFTON ALPS

COST: \$200

COMPETENCY(S): LEAD MY LEARNING AND SUSTAIN WELLNESS

This course will provide you with five on-snow days at Afton Alps to build your confidence and technique as a snowboarder. Mornings feature professional group lessons; afternoons focus on guided practice, with Mr. Andrews (AASI Level II) riding with students and offering targeted tips. Students ride with friends, explore varied terrain, and celebrate progress every day. All levels welcome; helmets required.



SURVIVOR MPA

COST: \$200

COMPETENCY(S): BUILD COMMUNITY

Do you love the TV show "Survivor"? If so, this i-Term might be for you. Students will work in teams to solve puzzles, complete physical challenges, and compete to earn prizes. Throughout the week, students will study games and social theories. Likewise, students will explore interpersonal relationships and explore societal norms. Field trips during the week include an Escape Room and SkyZone Trampoline Park!



SKATEBOARDING AND DECK DESIGN

COST: \$200

COMPETENCY(S): LEAD MY LEARNING AND DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Strap on that helmet and buckle on those knee pads, we're going skating!

Minneapolis' 3rd Lair Skatepark will be providing skateboarding instruction for riders of ANY experience level. From folks who have never ridden a skateboard to advanced riders who know all the tricks, the amazing instructors will be teaching everyone new and awesome techniques in 3rd Lair's indoor skatepark. Participants will be broken into smaller groups based on their experience, giving everyone the time and attention they need to master some new skills. We'll be at the park every morning, from 9 AM-12 PM, returning to MPA for lunch and skateboard deck design in the afternoons. No equipment is needed; all rental fees are included in the cost of the class: helmets, pads, and skateboards. If you have your own gear, feel free to bring it along. Each student will also receive a blank skate deck to design and bring home at the end of the week. Waivers will be needed for all participants prior to class.



CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

COST: \$150

COMPETENCY(S): SUSTAIN WELLNESS

Ever get bored on road trips or plane trips or just sitting around? Crocheting is a great way to pass the time. Many projects are compact, making them easy to take anywhere. This course is designed for beginners who would like to learn to crochet. The focus of this course will be learning to crochet using The Woobles Kits (which will be provided). You'll start by making your very own Woobles and hopefully this will give you confidence to try other crochet projects. Keep in mind that learning to crochet takes time, patience, and perseverance. If this sounds like something you have, and would like to learn to crochet, this is the course for you.

If you already know how to crochet or knit, you are also welcome to sign up for this course and bring your own project to work on.



VARIETY DANCE + PHOTO

COST: \$200

**COMPETENCY(S): LEARN IN COMMUNITY, SUSTAIN WELLNESS,
AND COMMUNICATE IDEAS**

We are very excited to partner with Young Dance studio (<https://youngdance.org>) in St. Paul to offer Variety Dance + Photo! Students will go to the Young Dance studio each day, learning a variety of dance styles from different instructors. Students can plan on daily sessions of two of Young Dance's most popular classes: Capoeira (an Afro-Brazilian art form intersecting dance, acrobatics, martial arts, music, and culture) and Dance + Photo (exploring the intersection of dance and photography). And the other daily sessions will be based on the interest of the group and may include Afro-Latin, Hip Hop, Ballet, Modern, Choreography, or Yoga. All skill levels and all experience levels are welcome!



FIT FAB AND FUN

COST: \$125

COMPETENCY(S): SUSTAIN WELLNESS

Want to stay active and have fun—no matter the weather? Fit, Fab, Fun lets you explore a variety of exciting individual activities like archery, Topgolf, bowling, and rock climbing. Whether you're aiming for the bullseye or reaching new heights on a climbing wall, this course helps you discover new ways to move, challenge yourself, and have a blast.



RACQUET SPORTS ACROSS THE TWIN CITIES

COST: \$250

COMPETENCY(S): DESIGN SOLUTIONS SUSTAIN WELLNESS

Dive into the fast-paced world of indoor paddle sports with this dynamic one-week exploration. Each day focuses on a different sport—racquetball, squash, table tennis, and pickleball*—providing hands-on instruction, guided practice, and friendly competition. Each day you'll explore a new sport at a new location with a local instructor. We'll learn game fundamentals, technique development, and more. Whether you're looking to improve your hand-eye coordination, sharpen your reflexes, or just explore a new way to stay active indoors, this course offers a fun, energetic, and social environment to do it.

As part of the program, participants will also explore the design and performance aspects of paddle sports equipment. You'll test a variety of ball types to examine how materials, bounce, and speed affect gameplay across sports. In a creative, hands-on session, you'll even get to design and prototype your own custom paddle—combining functionality with personal flair. By the end of the week, participants will gain a solid foundation in each sport, understand the rules and nuances of play, and have the confidence to continue enjoying these lifelong activities recreationally.

*actual sports TBD based on cost and availability

