



MOUNDS PARK ACADEMY
i-TERM • 2018

MPA

MPA MIDDLE SCHOOL i-TERM

Week of March 12–16, 2018

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

Mounds Park Academy's i-Term provides students in grades 5–8 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 things 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

While students are required to 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 first choice. Course preferences are due in the Middle School Office by August 28, 2017. Once a student is registered and confirmed in a course, no changes will be made.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Several i-Term classes are covered by tuition; however, some courses require additional fees to help offset travel expenses. Families are required to pay these fees by the dates indicated on the registration forms.

USING THIS DOCUMENT

i-Term courses are divided into four categories—STEM, Global Leadership, Fine Arts, and Other. They are color coded as indicated below. Use this document to review course content and select your ideal i-Term course.

STEM COURSES

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COURSES

FINE ARTS COURSES

OTHER COURSES

i-TERM ONLINE:

moundsparkacademy.org/iterm

APP DEVELOPMENT

COST: NONE



Students in this course will learn app development for Mac, Windows, iPhone, iPad, and Android devices using Lua and Corona SDK. The focus will be on developing simple games, including using the built-in physics engine based on Box2D. By the end of the week, students should be able to create simple apps or games. Note: this course requires a lot of typing; students are encouraged to practice their keyboarding skills in advance. Participants should also be willing to experiment and puzzle things out; programming rarely works the first time!



ARCTIC ADVENTURES

COST: \$400.00



This course invites students to embrace winter with outdoor activities and learning about the Inuit culture. Participants will travel to Ely for three days to go dogsledding and to learn about wildlife and tracking, stopping at the Wolf Center on the way back to school. Back in the Twin Cities, they will work with a naturalist as they take an historical snowshoe tour at Fort Snelling State Park. Finally, students will create Inuit-style prints and learn more about the culture through music, cooking, and games.

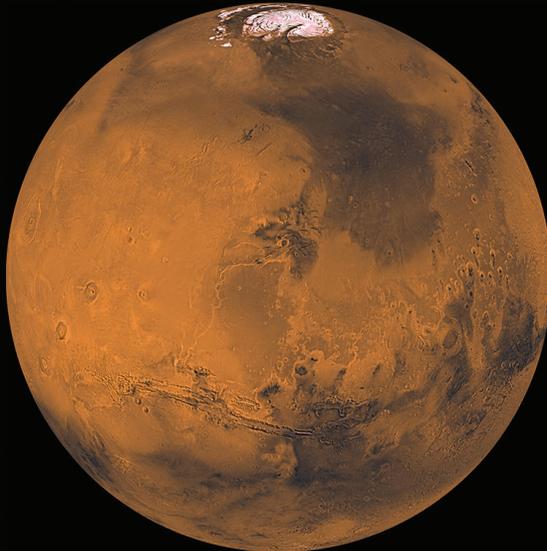


DESTINATION MARS

COST: NONE



Could humans live on Mars? If so, what are some of the steps that need to be taken to make life on Mars a reality? After studying the viability of sustaining life on Mars (including using NASA data to learn about landscape, weather, soil conditions, and other aspects), students will begin the planning process of getting supplies and humans safely onto Mars. Participants will begin by designing, building, and testing rockets and landing devices, and will develop a Martian habitat that is capable of sustaining life. This class is ideal for anyone who loves space exploration, physics, and a good challenge.



WOODWORKING: CREATING AND FINISHING FURNITURE



COST: \$25.00

This course is designed to make use of MPA's new Makerspace by providing Middle School students with the opportunity to build a craft, such as a bench, chest, birdhouse, or shelving unit, that is completely made from wood. During the week, students will learn how to safely use different woodworking machinery and power tools that allow them to cut, shape, and create their own unique items. Students will work both individually and in teams, and will be empowered to add their own personal flare once they complete certain structural requirements. Finally, students will learn from and work alongside experienced woodworkers and furniture makers, and will visit local businesses that reclaim and restore old furnishings.



SPANISH IMMERSION TRIP TO PUERTO RICO



COST: \$1,860

Students will embark on a five-day Spanish language and culture immersion experience to the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico. Participants will spend two nights on the fortified island of Old San Juan, a night on Luquillo Beach, and a night on the island of Vieques—home to the world’s brightest Bio-Bay. Students will learn about local history while exploring forts, castles, cathedrals, plazas, and botanical gardens. They will hike in the El Yunque rainforest and swim at La Mina Falls, learn about dinoflagellate and astronomy while kayaking across Puerto Mosquito, and dine at authentic local restaurants daily. The program fee includes all transportation, accommodations, breakfasts and dinners, fees, tours, taxes, tips, and travel insurance.



EXPLORING TWIN CITIES CULTURES THROUGH FOOD



COST: \$25.00

Food, cooking, and sharing a meal are part of the human experience, and we can learn much about different cultures by exploring how people grow, prepare, and share their food. The simple act of meal planning is rooted in tradition, has spiritual implications, and for many, serves as the basis for family gatherings. Students in this course will learn about the range of cultures in our own backyard—the Twin Cities—through exploration of the traditions that surround food and meal planning among the different people in our community. We will visit a variety of authentic grocery stores and restaurants, welcome special guests who will come to share their culture's food and traditions, and learn to cook an array of dishes. The week will culminate with a cultural feast as we embrace the diversity of our community through the fabulous world of food!

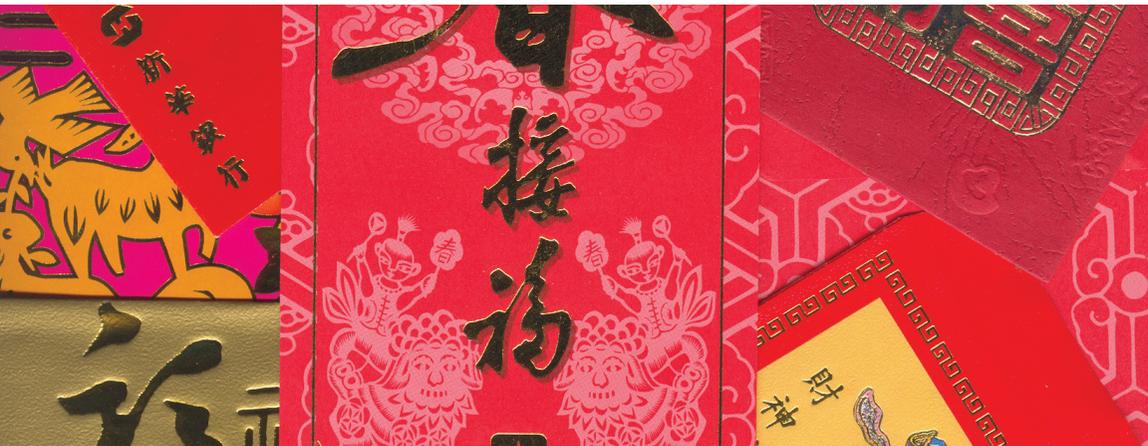


INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



COST: \$25.00

Would you like to learn a little about the most widely spoken language in the world? How about learning a culture that is more than 5,000 years old? One in five people on the planet speaks Chinese; if they can do it, you can too! In this class, students will learn to speak basic Chinese, including: greetings, names, numbers, colors, family, and food through games, songs, books, and movement. Participants will also try their hand at writing Chinese characters with a variety of medium, from pencils to shaving cream to traditional calligraphy brushes. In addition to language lessons, we will delve into some topics in Chinese culture, including tai-chi, art, and food. The class will travel to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts to view the Chinese art collection and to make some traditional folk art of their own, as well as shop at a Chinese market for snacks and ingredients to bring back to MPA for a traditional Chinese meal. This course will start you on your journey to understanding Chinese and Chinese culture without leaving the country!

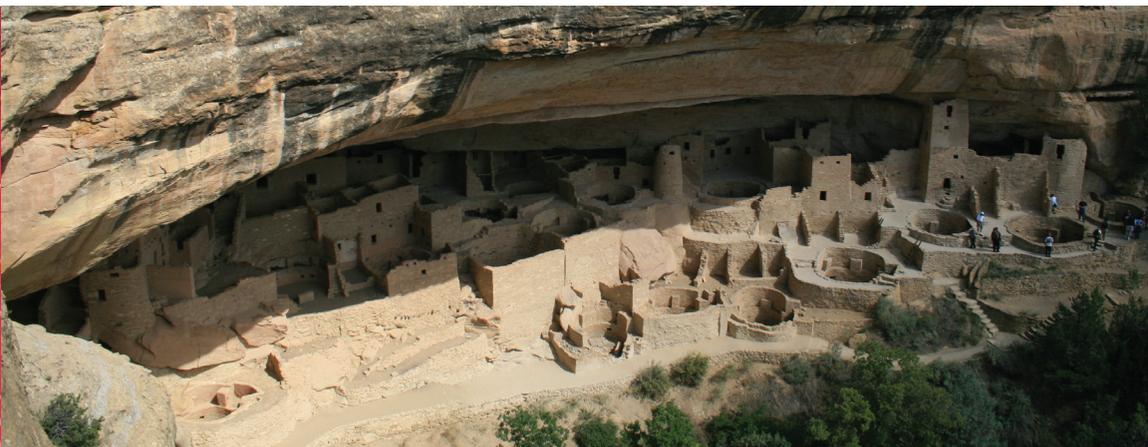


DIG DEEPER: CROW CANYON ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER IN CORTEZ, COLORADO

COST: \$1,210



Do you enjoy digging into history and sifting through the past? We will spend a week at award winning Crow Canyon Archeological Center in southern Colorado to learn about the indigenous Anasazi, or ancestral Pueblo peoples, through interactive, hands-on activities at an authentic archaeological site. We will learn about these ancient peoples and their culture through artifacts and geoarchaeology (looking at geography and geology, such as soil sampling), explore excavated sites, participate in an active archaeological dig, and visit Mesa Verde National Park, the UNESCO World Heritage site with its famous cliff dwellings. Far from the dry and dusty annals of history, this weeklong adventure will bring historical inquiry to life. The fee includes all transportation, accommodations, meals, and programming.



BACKSTAGE MAGIC

COST: \$25.00



Lin-Manuel Miranda, of Hamilton fame, encourages students to go backstage and work behind the curtains. In "Backstage Magic," MPA Middle School students are given this opportunity with hands-on opportunities in design, creation, and building through projects, field trips, and guest speakers. Students will draft, build, and paint scenery, as well as create costumes and props to be used in Lower School productions. Participants will also spend time in the control booth, programming cues, operating the sound and light boards, and calling cues like a stage manager. In addition, they will go beyond basic stage make-up to learn several special effects. Finally, students will take a backstage tour of two local theatres and visit CostumeRentals, which boasts more than 50,000 unique costume pieces. At the end of the week, students will leave with portfolios containing sketches and images of their work.



SOUNDSCAPES: EXPLORATIONS IN MUSIC COMPOSITION AND ARRANGING



COST: \$25.00

This class is for students who want to explore and unleash their musical creativity through composing and arranging. Through a wide variety of hands-on music composition and arranging projects, students will develop a greater understanding of the different elements of music, such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and form, while they experience the process and decision-making that happens when creating their own music. Students will use a variety of computer software programs and web-based tools to aid them in creating and notating their musical works. In addition to composing their own songs and arranging pop and show music for themselves and their friends to play on their instruments, the students will create soundscapes by recording sounds found in the everyday environment and organizing them into a unique and interesting composition. Students will also meet with local composers and take a field trip to the McNally Smith College of Music.



MUSICAL THEATER

COST: \$25.00



Do you love to sing, dance, and act? This course, co-directed by two artists from the Children's Theatre Company as well as MPA's own Fine Arts Department faculty, will enable students to explore ensemble numbers from the great revolutions of musical theatre such as *Evita*, *Newsies*, *Les Misérables*, *Ragtime*, and more. Participants will fine tune their acting skills by pursuing objectives, overcoming obstacles, utilizing tactics, and creating dynamic characters. They will also strengthen their vocal technique, expand their dance skills, and learn to seamlessly combine all three elements as the week progresses. Students will work both individually and in teams, and will share their work in a short showcase performance on Friday afternoon. This class is appropriate and accessible for all levels of experience.

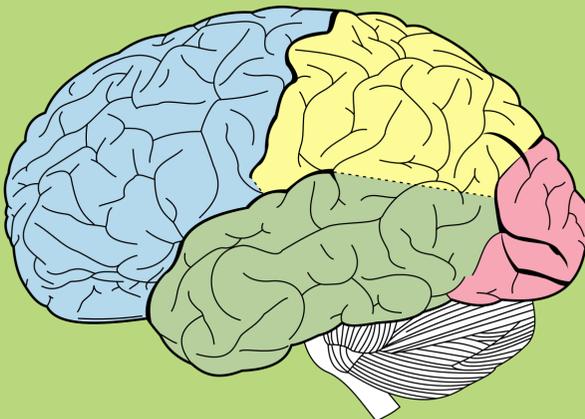


AN INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

COST: NONE



Where do superstitions come from? How does your body know what time it is? Why are we so attached to our things? Why do people get so anxious about math? This course will explore answers to questions such as these and many others as students gain a basic understanding of the field of psychology. Psychology is the study of behavior and the human mind. It seeks to understand all aspects of conscious and unconscious experience and thought, examining human beings both as individuals and as members of social groups. Students will learn about the goals, basic history, and subfields of psychology, and study topics such as: memory, thinking, and learning; families and human relationships; motivation and emotion, personality theories, and psychological disorders. Finally, participants will hear from experts in the areas of educational, clinical, social, and developmental psychology, and engage in activities to infer traits, determine the effects of multitasking, "sell" a point of view, and more.



MAKER POETRY

COST: \$25.00



Poems can create beautiful images in our minds. Wouldn't you like to share those images with others? A great way to enjoy poetry is to create a visual representation of a poem by making something that shows images from the poem and captures how it makes you feel. This course will allow students to explore their creative side through "visual poetry." Students will learn a variety of poetry forms and practice them throughout the week. Guest speakers/writers and field trips to local writing and makerspaces will enhance the experience. Additionally, students will use the MPA Makerspace to create visual enhancements to bring their poetry to life. The end-of-the-week showcase will include a poetry slam with the objects they made to complement their written pieces. Students will also create a chapbook—a collection of their favorite poems from the week—with illustrations and reflections as a keepsake.

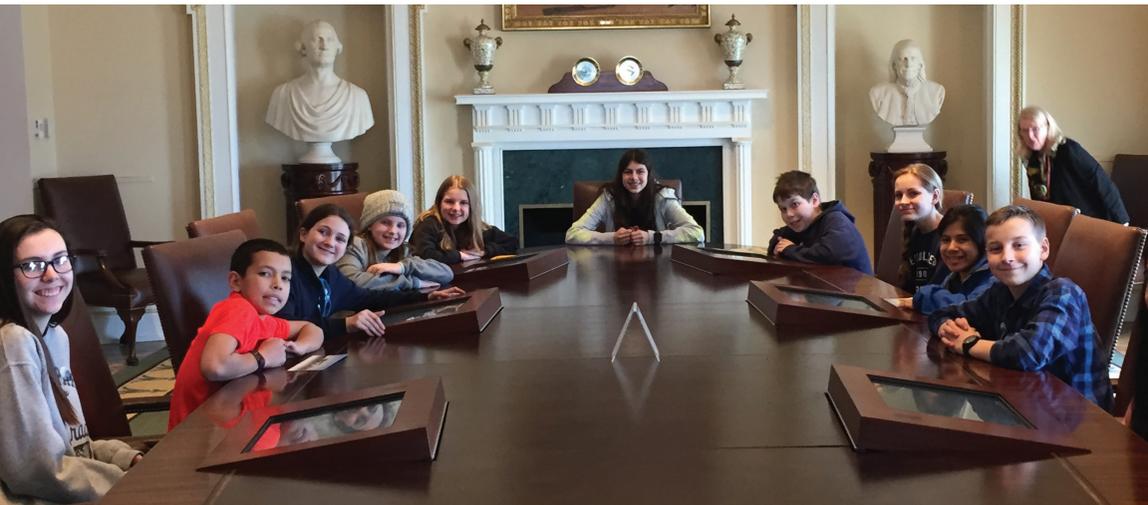


SOCIAL CHANGE: DISCOVERING YOUR VOICE



COST: \$25.00

This course challenges students to learn, lead, and effect positive change both globally and in their local community. Using a model of reciprocal learning (share and learn), participants will study a range of cultures and social needs through speakers, investigations, off-site community service activities, global experiences using MPA's virtual classroom, interviews, discussions, and social entrepreneurship challenges. The class will explore an array of areas, such as poverty, animal rights, physical and intellectual disabilities, environmental issues, and human rights. Students will learn how to effectively build awareness and discover various forms of engagement, such as grassroots, social media, politics, and partnerships in action. By the end of the week, students will better understand their passions, and how they can use their voices to be powerful change agents in the world.



“ I love teaching i-Term because sometimes regular classroom teaching can feel a bit theoretical or abstract. The i-Term classes provide a way for us all to flex our concrete, hands-on muscles for an entire week. There’s nothing quite like holding the results of your hard work in your own two hands! ”

– Ms. Blue, Middle and Upper School Faculty

MoundsPark

A C A D E M Y

2051 Larpenteur Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55109

651-777-2555
moundsparkacademy.org