



LEARNING  
**joyfully**

**100%**  
EXPERIENTIAL

WORKING WITH  
**experts**

**12**  
DIFFERENT  
CLASS OPTIONS



ONE WEEK.  
ONE CLASS.  
ZERO GRADES.

NEW  
**friendships**

**4**  
GRADES WORKING  
TOGETHER



**MPA**  
i-TERM 2020

# MPA MIDDLE SCHOOL i-TERM

Week of March 2-6, 2020

## 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 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 September 6, 2019. Once a student is registered and confirmed in a course, no changes will be made.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Families are required to pay these fees by the dates indicated on the registration forms. Course fees are used to offset cost of transportation, field trips, special guests, and excursions.

## USING THIS DOCUMENT

i-Term courses are divided into three categories—STEM, 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.

# STEM COURSES

# CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

# CREATIVE ARTS & PLAY

i-TERM ONLINE:

*[moundsparkacademy.org/iterm](https://moundsparkacademy.org/iterm)*

# ARCTIC ADVENTURES

COST: \$500.00

This course invites students to embrace winter with outdoor activities and learning about the Inuit culture. Participants will travel to Ely for four 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.



# “I HAVE AN APP FOR THAT!” APP DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

COST: \$20.00

The digital world is full of apps, from games to travel, social and functional, and more! In this course, students will learn to design and develop apps using Lua and Corona SDK. During the week, students will explore the basics of the Lua programming language, develop a simple drawing app, and several simple games. Students will use the last day to develop an app of their own.

Students interested in this course should be proficient typists. Bring your creativity and great ideas—yours could be the next great app to take the world by storm!



# CALLING ALL MINECRAFT FANS!

COST: \$25.00

Do you love Minecraft? Come build, create, and solve challenges with Minecraft: Education Edition. Hone your coding skills by designing a magical castle with Code Builder, design new mobs, build new environments, and create mini-games—all with code! We'll round out the week by building something in Minecraft and helping it come to "life" in the Makerspace.



# WOODWORKING: CREATING AND FINISHING FURNITURE

COST: \$45.00

This woodworking course will allow students to build a piece of furniture that is completely made from wood. Within this course, students will learn how to use different woodworking machinery and power tools that allow them to cut, shape, and create their work. Students will also learn how to sand and paint/stain their pieces of woodwork. While students will have to follow directions on how to build their product, they will have the opportunity to add their own personal flair to their project. Students will be able to pick from a variety of furniture pieces. In addition to students making their own product, they will take a field trip to see how a business interacts with people who do woodworking on a daily basis or as a hobby. A guest speaker will also present on how he developed a passion for woodworking.



# GET OUT! OUTDOOR EDUCATION

COST: \$40.00

Want to explore nature in the Twin Cities? Hiking, environmental education, and lots of fun outdoors—rain or shine! This week-long adventure will take you to great trails, biking adventures, and nature centers. Join us for a journey to surrounding parks and get to know your own community and the great spaces to play, get fit, and appreciate the natural wonders of our part of the world.





# SPANISH IMMERSION TRIP TO PUERTO RICO

COST: \$2,040-\$2,195

(dependent on group size)

This five-day trip to Puerto Rico includes a variety of activities, visits to museums, and beautiful sites of the city and surrounding areas. The group will walk the city and its notable landmarks, explore the San Juan Botanical Gardens, visit the El Yunque Caribbean National Forest and Luquillo beach, and venture out on an island excursion and snorkel trip. Students will encounter the Spanish language and have the opportunity to learn and practice their own listening and speaking.

This course is open to all students; parents are invited to travel as well. A complete itinerary is available in the Middle School Office.



# CULTURAL GASTRONOMY

COST: \$75.00

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. As a Bohemian grandmother always said, “Food is love.” Learn about the array 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 establishments like grocery stores and restaurants, welcome special guests who will come to share their culture’s food and traditions, and we will culminate the week with a cultural feast as we embrace the diversity of our community through the fabulous world of food!



# DO RIGHT: COMMUNITY SERVICE SAMPLER

COST: \$25.00

Do you want to make a difference? If you have the desire to explore how the needs of the underserved are currently being met in our area, the courage to experience different ways of serving others first-hand, and the hope of discovering your passion for a cause that matters, this class aims to give you a taste of a variety of community service opportunities so that you will thirst for more. We will start close to home by serving in MPA's own neighborhood before expanding into the greater community. Excursions will include visiting an animal shelter, engaging with the elderly at a nursing home, sorting food at a food shelf, cleaning at a homeless shelter, and more.



# MUSICAL THEATER

COST: \$35.00

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. 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.



# A DIFFERENT LENS: THE WORLD THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

**COST: \$50.00**

An art critic once wrote: “Unlike any other visual image, a photograph is not a rendering, an imitation or an interpretation of its subject, but actually a trace of the world.” This course will explore the basic elements and principals of photography alongside the use of photography as a tool for social justice. How does a picture tell a story? How can photography be used to call attention to important social issues? What is the photographer’s role in (re)presenting the world around us? Explore these questions and the world around you through the lens of a camera.



# GAMES AND STRATEGY

COST: \$25.00

Would you like to experience different genres of games by learning to play a deck-building game called Dominion, a cooperative game like Pandemic, a bluffing game called Coup, and a tile design game like Azul? Playing strategy games develops analysis and problem-solving skills and helps build communication and negotiation ability through face-to-face competition and cooperation. Join us as we learn how to play, analyze, and form winning tactics and strategies for several different genres of strategy card and board games. We will also travel to Fantasy Flight Games in Roseville to interact with game designers, see how games are produced, and (if our timing is right) act as game testers. Afterward, we will develop and design a prototype for an original strategy game. If you love games and strategy, this is the class for you!



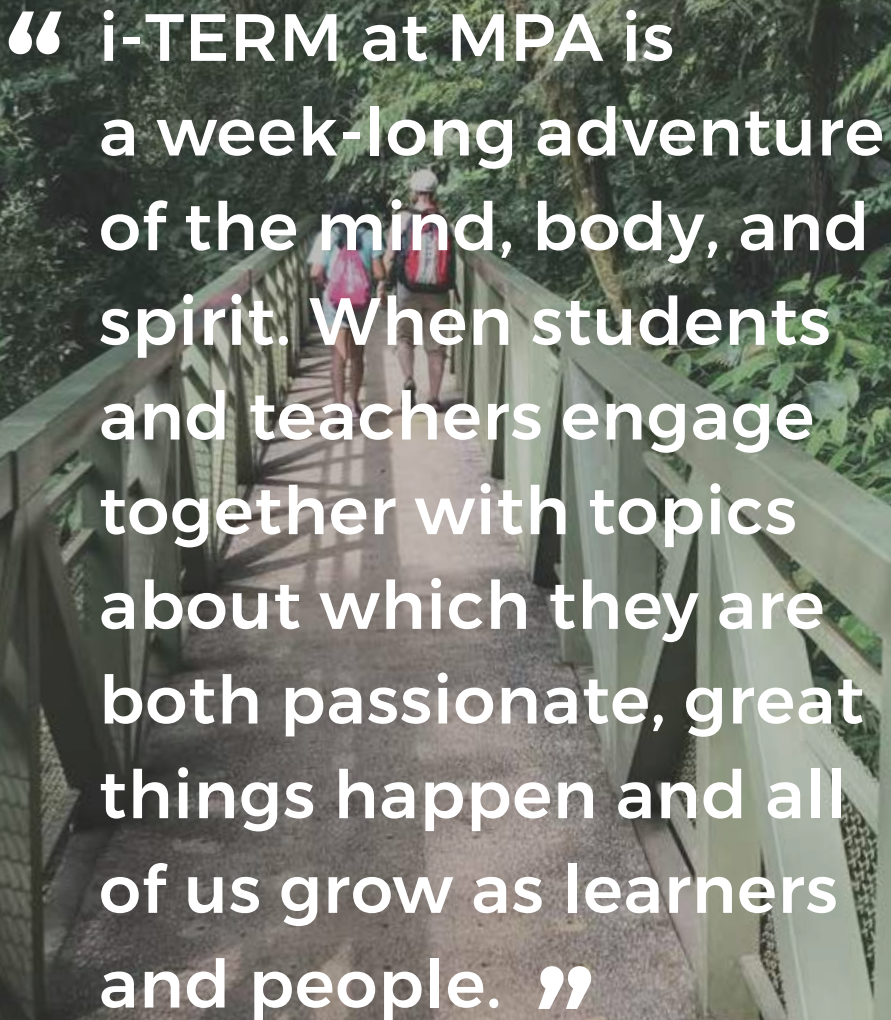
# SIR BOXING CLUB CLINIC

COST: \$150.00

SIR Boxing Club comes to MPA for i-Term! This is going to be a fast-paced week of training and personal adventure! No-contact boxing focuses on fitness and is extremely fun! In this one-week fitness experience students will learn basic boxing techniques while developing their confidence, character, and commitment. Students will venture into the community, too, for training!

Led by Cerresso Fort, pro boxer and owner of the award-winning SIR Boxing Club.





**“ i-TERM at MPA is a week-long adventure of the mind, body, and spirit. When students and teachers engage together with topics about which they are both passionate, great things happen and all of us grow as learners and people. ”**

DR. MILAM, MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR