



LEARNING
joyfully

100%
EXPERIENTIAL

WORKING WITH
experts

15

DIFFERENT
CLASS OPTIONS



ONE WEEK.
ONE CLASS.
ZERO GRADES.

NEW
friendships

4

GRADES WORKING
TOGETHER



MPA
i-Term 2024

MPA MIDDLE SCHOOL i-Term

Week of March 4-8, 2024

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 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 Jenn Milam 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

SURVIVOR MPA

COST: \$200

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!



STRATEGY GAMES AND DESIGN

COST: \$50

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 i-Term course for you!



WOODWORKING: CREATING AND FINISHING FURNITURE

COST: \$75

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 machinery and power tools that allow them to cut, shape, and create their work. Students will also learn how to sand and paint/clear coat 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 flare to their project. Students will be able to choose one project to build from a list of different pieces. In addition to students building their own product, they will take a field trip to see how a business interacts with people who do woodworking daily or as a hobby.



STORYTELLER'S WORKSHOP

COST: \$30

Whether we realize it or not, stories surround us every single day. We say things like “Guess what happened today?” and “What did you do over the weekend?” as well as read books, watch movies, listen to podcasts, and more. But how are stories constructed? Why are they important? Are they different across genres, mediums, and areas of the world? These are some of the questions we will explore in the Storyteller's Workshop. This takes the foundation of what you might've learned in classes in school by expanding it and diving deep into the wonderful world of story. Not only will we examine different stories across genres and mediums, but we'll also be creating our own and hearing from professional storytellers. We won't just be writing (although there will be some of that!). We will also use video, hands-on design, speaking, and more to reveal our own stories to the world. So, sharpen your pencils, take out a notebook, and let's dive in. Your stories are waiting.



WILD WILD WEST: NATIONAL PARK EXPEDITION

COST PER STUDENT: \$ 2,649 (quadruple occupancy, if 16 register)

COST PER ADULT: \$ 3,046 (double occupancy, if 4 register)

Discover the natural beauty and wonder of the American Southwest. Land in Las Vegas and travel to Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon and then hike the South Rim and watch the sun set over the spectacular Grand Canyon. Trip participants will also go sandboarding at Coral Pink Sand Dunes and ATVing at East Zion. Airfare, meals, and excursion tickets all inclusive! Departing on Saturday, March 2. Returning on Thursday, March 7. Grades: 6-8 (Grade 5 students welcome, with parent)





CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

FRENCH IMMERSION TRIP TO QUEBEC, 2024

COST: \$2675*

*There is a \$350 supplement for a single room and \$225 to share a double room for adults who join this trip.

We are thrilled to announce an i-Term language and culture immersion trip 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 visit 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.



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

COSTA RICA 2024: ADVENTURE, VOLUNTEER, PURA VIDA

COST: \$2,750-3,000*

dependent upon cost of air travel at booking

*Based on three/four-person occupancy for student accommodation.

*Parents are welcome to travel—shared/individual accommodations will impact cost

This unique trip promises experiential learning alongside exceptional adventure experiences and meaningful volunteer opportunities. In beautiful Costa Rica, travelers will kayak, hike, and explore Pacific Ocean waters, waterfalls, and mangroves, and rainforest. Learning about unique flora and fauna will be an integral part of volunteer opportunities with sea turtle restoration efforts and reforestation projects, and trip participants will get to share experiences partnering with a local efforts in sustainability and environmental preservation.

In partnership with Morgan Expeditions, travelers will just minutes from Playa Linda beach. We've planned surf lessons and lots of activities for the adventure seeker!

This course is open to all students. Parents are invited to travel as well and are highly encouraged if the student traveling is younger than 12.

ARCTIC ADVENTURES

COST: \$650

includes travel and accommodations

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 dog sledding and learn about wildlife in the Boundary Waters. If there is time, we will stop at the International Wolf Center on Thursday morning. Back in the Twin Cities, students will learn about Inuit culture through cooking and games. Students will also fundraise during our celebration on Friday—all proceeds will support Save the Boundary Waters Foundation.



PlaMo BUILD-A-THON

COST: \$100

Ever heard of PlaMo? PlaMo is a combination of the words Plastic and Model. During our PlaMo Build-a-thon Course we will not only build plastic model characters, but we will also create an epic scene and/or environment for our characters to be displayed in. The scenes/environments will be created by use of various materials, paints, and modeling techniques. The final product will be put on display and showcased for us all to see. Students will be gifted one PlaMo model as a way of being introduced or reintroduced into the hobby. All other Plastic Models will be purchased when we take a field trip to Hub Hobby. Materials, paints, and tools will be supplied.



HOGWARTS WIZARDING SCHOOL

COST: \$200

Unleash your inner wizard and attend Hogwarts Wizarding School for i-Term. Share your love with all things Harry Potter and join us on a week-long experience that will begin with sorting ceremony, Potions, Care of Magical Creatures, Quidditch and becoming Ollivander's apprentice to master wand-making. The week will also require you to write fan fiction, poetry, and art about the characters as young students at Hogwarts. The week will include Wizarding Treats, Harry Potter trivia, Horcrux scavenger hunt, and much more to help your house with the Peacock Wizarding Cup. Register now to ensure our owls send you your acceptance letter.



SNOWBOARDING IN AFTON

COST: \$200

or park admission and lift tickets!

Equipment rental, including helmet, is \$48/day

Learn the FUNdamentals of snowboarding while enjoying the outdoors at Afton Alps! Boarders will spend the week in Afton learning to balance mind and body, taking healthy risks, and overcoming fears while having a great time with your friends. Boards can be rented at Afton, all you need is snow gear and an adventurous spirit!



ART ADVENTURE

COST: \$200

Explore a variety of art mediums off campus, around the Twin Cities. Experience hands-on artmaking led by local artists at local studios and art centers; For example, but not limited to silkscreen printing, marbling, mosaics, weaving, pottery (wheel throwing), etc. In addition to artmaking, students will tour current exhibitions, learn about community projects, and more. Take this opportunity to see first-hand the incredible art world that the Twin Cities has to offer!

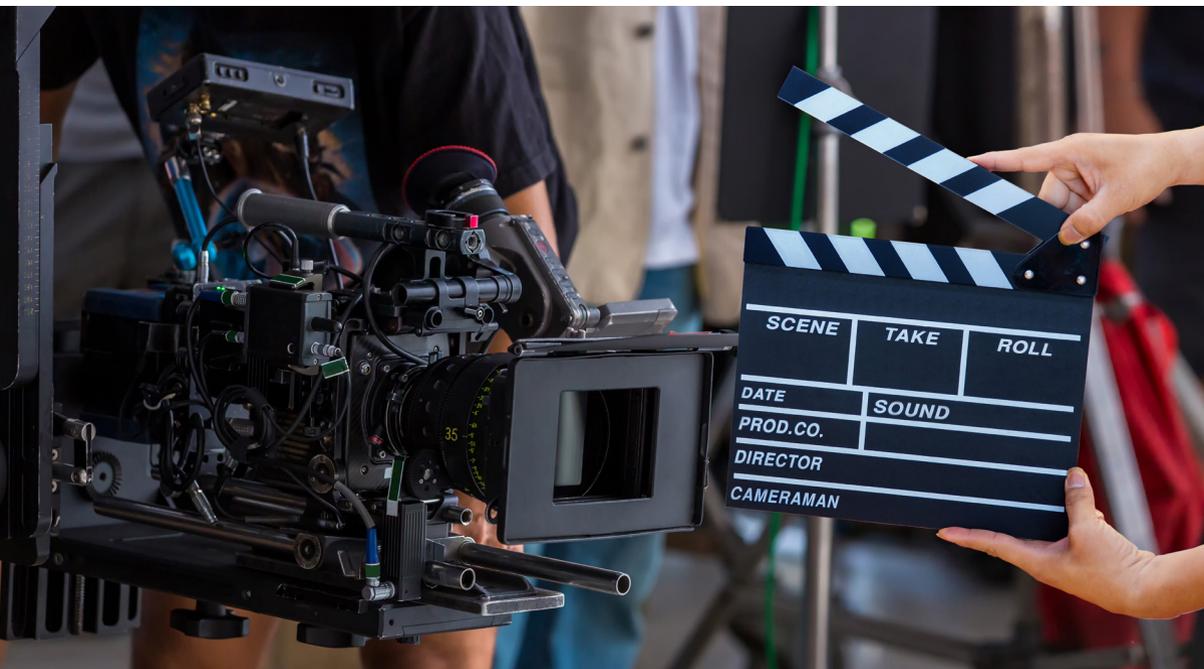
All those interested in art can have a great experience, learning new things, and creating art every day!



DIRECTOR'S CUT FILMMAKING

COST: \$50

Students will learn how to tell a story through film, including storyboarding, scriptwriting, editing, and sound design. This course allows kids to develop new ways of self-expression and independence, as students will be able to write and craft their own stories and develop the tone of their films through intentional direction and music choices.



SIR BOXING CLUB CLINIC

COST: \$275

SIR Boxing Club returns to MPA for i-Term! This is going to be a fast-paced week of training and personal adventure! No contact boxing focuses on full-body fitness, mental strength and agility, 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, to visit Coach C's new gym in Saint Paul for training! Led by Pro Boxer Cerresso Fort and owner of the award-winning SIR Boxing Club.



BREAKING OUT!: BREAKDANCING & GRAPHIC DESIGN

COST: \$200

With breakdancing (also called “breaking”) making its debut at the 2024 Summer Olympics, we’re going to explore the physical, artistic, and stylistic aspects of this amazing sport! We’ll look into breaking’s Bronx history, its deep ties to America’s hip hop culture, and current superstars who’ll become the world’s first Olympic greats. And with all that awesomeness as inspiration, we’ll learn our own breakdancing moves from a team of local breakers.



“ 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. JENN MILAM, MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR