

Minimester 2012 Classes

BahamasSailing

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." -- Mark Twain

Sign on for adventure as you live and learn aboard *Boundless*, a 46' ketch, while sailing the Exuma Island chain of the Bahamas. Six SMS students will hoist the anchor, take the wheel, and raise the sails during ten days of tropical exploration. Our trip will take us to uninhabited islands and pristine reefs, including the world's first underwater land/sea park. Snorkel over coral teeming with colorful marine life, explore a beach with no footprints, and trace the constellations all the way to the horizon. Learn marine science, navigation, astronomy, weather forecasting, seamanship—and how to make a great conch fritter!

The trip is limited to six students and the cost is \$1,575 plus airfare. See <https://sites.google.com/site/bahamasminimester2011> for more information.

Be All You Can Become: A Workshop for Physically Healthy, Active Teens(on-campus)

Looking to test and enhance your physical abilities during Minimester? Then sign up for Be All You Can Become.

Students will take part in a variety of activities that will challenge them both mentally and physically. Activities include the Presidential Fitness Test, running, ballroom dancing, an obstacle course, hiking, rugby, and a host of other adventures that involve keeping the body healthy. Students will track their nutritional and physical progress online.

Dominican Republic Trip

This trip offers a wonderful opportunity to serve others in a very unique environment. Working with an orphanage in the Dominican Republic, students will teach English to local children, play and spend time with children outside the classroom, participate in work projects, and learn about the history and culture of the country. The trip includes one day of sightseeing. Cost: approximately \$1700.

Modern Woman's Survival Guide (on-campus)

Are you a modern woman who prides herself on your resourcefulness? Do you want to be? Basic resourcefulness is absolutely necessary in today's world, and Minimester provides us with the opportunity to get better acquainted with a few skills that can empower us in our daily lives.

You'll learn about public speaking, cooking, sewing, personal finance, wellness, personal safety and etiquette to name a few. You'll take field trips, host parties and create a reference guide for future use. Most importantly, you'll emerge from Minimester confident that you can take on a wide range of life's challenges!

Next Steps

Next Steps is an experiential class designed to help SMS students prepare for the total college process. During the two weeks of minimester, students will visit college campuses: big/small, public/private, urban/rural, coed/all women's, highly selective and more welcoming. Each Next Stepper will assess her college and career interests, debunk common college myths, create an academic resume, complete a sample college application, and craft a college essay. She will also participate in an SAT strategies course to develop test taking skills designed to maximize performance on the SAT. Past students have said this class was life changing in that it opened their eyes to college opportunities and alleviated stress in the senior year through the prior completion of major application tasks.

The comprehensive cost for the full class, including the SAT course, college travel, materials, and text, is \$850. A \$100 deposit is required upon minimester registration, and the balance is due upon return from Christmas break.

More Than Meets the Eye: The "Secret" Art of Storytelling (on-campus)

Are you interested in tales of the unexplained, the spooky, the unsolved, or the weird? Have you ever wondered what secrets might be revealed in a home remedy, hex sign, or hidden clue? Ever tried your hand at creating "ghost fashion," story boards, or digital creations? This course will tickle your brain and make your spine tingle as you discover the many elements involved in suspenseful and artistic storytelling. Through discussion, writing, illustration, photography and local field trips, you will explore classic mysteries and craft your own spooky tales, as well as investigate other kinds of "secrets" revealed in folklore, images, and the world around us. Truly you will find that there is "more than meets the eye" in The "Secret" Art of Storytelling.

Scotties in Space (on-campus)

Whether it is the perpetual attempt to discover our origins, our never-ending pursuit of the next great frontier, or our continual quest to solve the most challenging mysteries of our very existence, our human curiosity has always stretched upward and outward toward the stars. If you dare to dream big, if you dare to tackle cosmic questions, if you dare to travel to farthest reaches of the galaxies, then climb aboard a ride we call "Scotties in Space."

In Scotties in Space, you will explore the mathematical, scientific, historical, and mythical questions, quandaries, and conundrums of that vastness beyond the surly bonds of Earth. You will meet heroes and heroines, real and imaginary, who risked all to discover what lies beyond our earthly atmosphere. You will visit museums and other places devoted to the study of space and space travel. And, finally, you will build your own rockets and launch them towards the heavens. **WARNING:** Not for the easily intimidated, the close minded, or the faint hearted.