

SATURDAY COURSE SAMPLE COURSES

101 THINGS - What Do YOU Want To Learn?

Come explore 101 things (give or take a few!) to learn or do before you reach high school. Ever wonder how to write in code? Interested in trying your hand at cupcake decorating? How about sewing a patch on your favorite pair of jeans, feeding a baby, or creating a book from scratch? Can you perform the Heimlich Maneuver, build a fire, cook a basic meal, use a compass, read a map, tell a joke, give a speech, make a secret container, take a good photo, sew on a button, do your own laundry, write a persuasive letter for an important cause, survive a shipwreck, or play a ukulele? Some things we'll actually do in class, some we'll read about, and others we'll postpone for future exploration (we won't actually wrestle an alligator, but we might read about how to do it... just in case!). There's no limit to the adventures on your "Life List" (which you will create during the session) and you can bet we will get some of those items checked off during our class time and leave the session with skills to pursue the ones that are still left after six weeks.

AROUND THE WORLD WITH ART

Get your passports ready, we're off for an incredible whirlwind tour of the globe as we create really cool art from around the world. We'll travel to many continents and make awesome art including Japanese Fish Banners, Indian Bhandani, and African Spirit masks. This class will be a great way to get to know distant lands and cultures without the jet lag, and you'll even end up with lots of terrific hand-made souvenirs from your trip.

BOSS KIDS - The Business of Doing Good

Do you look forward to the day when you can go out and change the world while earning money? Do you want to be the next big idea on Shark Tank? If so, Boss Kids can give you an early start as we pool our ideas and develop a thriving business plan. We will conduct market surveys, develop a product and launch a marketing campaign to sell your idea. You will attend board meetings and pitch your idea to potential investors (aka "sharks"). In the process we will discuss real companies like Amazon.com, Apple, Facebook and Snapchat and figure out what makes them succeed or fail. If you have lots of good ideas and like to work with a group of business savvy and creative kids, then this is the class for you.

BROADWAY BOUND!

Students will take to the stage and learn songs from famous musicals like Wicked, Les Miserables, The Lion King, and many more! And no Broadway show is complete without some jazzy dancing! So, warm up those vocal chords, dust off your dancing shoes, and pack your bags! We're Broadway Bound!

CAN YOU DIG IT? - Archaeology

Yes you can! Experience what it's like to travel back in time and write a story of what life used to be like. That's the job of an archaeologist! Learn how to dig, find artefacts, piece together a picture of the past and see why the rubbish of others is so important. Archaeology is the CSI of science, come and see for yourself!

CLAY TIME

Do you love to roll up your sleeves and get dirt on your hands? Or should we say "clay" on your hands? In this new course, students will be encouraged to express themselves by working on the pottery wheel, learning the fundamentals of hand building, and glazing and decorating their clay pieces. An example of one project will be "Make a Cup for a Friend"! After a discussion about the meaning of friendship, students will choose a specific person and then design the cup based on images that symbolize their friendship. Let's get started and "clay" around!

COMEDY, TRAGEDY, ADVENTURE – The Works and Times of Shakespeare

Calling all fans of comedy, tragedy, adventure, mayhem, swordplay, drama, suspense, mystery, and misdirection! If any of those words describe films or books you have enjoyed, then this is your chance to get up close and personal with the guy who started it all - William Shakespeare, the immortal Bard of Avon. We will travel back in time to a world of exciting characters, earth shattering events, monumental battles, treachery, and amazing stories. Widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language, his works are still as exciting, relevant, and understandable today as they were over 400 years ago. Whether you already know a lot about Shakespeare or not, this class is for you! Together we will be reading aloud some of Shakespeare's most thrilling plays and we'll even discover how many of our popular modern movies are based on his work.

COOL CARTOON CREATIONS

Did you ever read the cartoons and comic strips in the Sunday paper and wonder if you could create your own? Well the answer is YES. Anyone can learn to draw and in this class we'll create our own cartoon characters and comic strips. By looking at single cell cartoons, comic strips, and perhaps a longer graphic novel we'll discover the secrets to developing interesting characters that readers really care about. We'll explore comic strips that are serious, exciting, funny, political, historical, or even inspirational. In class you'll learn drawing techniques, design storyboards, and develop characters. At the end of the session you'll be well on your way to becoming the creator of the next Calvin & Hobbs or Spider Man.

EXTREME WRITING

With all the essays kids have to write in school, writing can sometimes feel overwhelming. But, did you know there are ways to make writing more interesting? And even...fun!? In this fast paced and edgy course, students will explore different writing styles: solo writing, group writing, prompt writing, or any other way to introduce a fresh perspective into their work. At times, we will rely on seemingly random activities (perhaps watching a movie clip, rolling down a hill, acting out a famous scene from a movie, listening to music, balancing on one leg while blindfolded, etc.!) to inspire new takes on writing. You may find yourself working on sports stories, mysteries, choose-your-own adventures, blogs, and who knows what else! So if you want to take your writing to new places, join Extreme Writing- the new and exciting way to write!

GEOGRAPHY OF SURVIVAL - Wilderness Survival Techniques Around the World

From the frigid Alaskan North to the sweltering Mojave Desert, indigenous humans have survived and thrived where many others have perished. In this course students will learn methods of surviving some of the harshest landscapes that the world has to offer. Want to learn how to make a waterproof shelter using only sticks and other objects in the woods, feed yourself with nothing more than a soda can and your shoe laces, make a full sized functional Navajo hut, or catch scorpions without leaving your bed? This course will mix a hands-on approach to learning survival skills with "outside of the box" thinking and the learning of useful information that will help in any and all situations that may arise. In addition this course will create a better understanding of other cultures through the acquisition of primitive skills and survival techniques that are practiced everyday by the local inhabitants. If you've ever wondered how anyone could live in a desert, above the Arctic Circle, or even just without electricity, grocery stores, or an iPhone, then this is a course you'll want to take.

GET GRAPHIC - Creating Posters, Illustrations, and More – by Hand – No Technology Needed!

Many of your favorite movie posters and illustrations are still created by hand by top graphic artists. In this class, you'll get a chance to improve your graphic art technique (regardless of your level of expertise) while exploring your creative side. You'll get the chance to draw from a choice of materials including pen and ink, Prismacolor pencils, and illustration markers. You may choose to work on an image for your favorite band, a movie poster, illustrations for a short story or children's book, or your own graphic novel, while being supported by a working professional artist. So join us and GET GRAPHIC!

IMPROV – AND SUPERSIZE IT!

Jump aboard this exciting class and explore the excitement of Improvisational Theater. We'll begin with group exercises, improv theater games, and skill building activities. Students will develop a sense of play and spontaneity and increase their ability to focus and listen to others. Improv helps actors to think "on their feet" which is invaluable at auditions, in a live performance, or even in their school classrooms. Students will be encouraged to use their imaginations as they learn to create characters, build scenes, and invent whole worlds without ever using a costume, prop, or set piece. Students will also practice teamwork to help them work as an ensemble and learn the discipline of performance. Many of the best actors and comics you are familiar with started off doing improv – now it's your turn to shine!

INVENTION CONVENTION

Are you burning with ideas, interested in how things are put together, and amazed at how our life has been changed by inventions? If so, come join us and become the next Thomas Edison. Each week, students will start with an assortment of everyday materials (cardboard tubes, tape, nuts & bolts, pieces of wood, plastic spoons, toothpicks, etc.) and then design and build an invention that solves a particular problem from the past, present or future. Working alone or with others you might design such things as an accurate, non-electronic timer, a device to move heavy objects, a better mouse trap, a single utensil to replace the fork, spoon, and knife, or a mechanical security alarm that will keep your younger sibling out of your room. We'll take a look at the work of some famous inventors, become more familiar with how things work, and analyze what makes a good invention.

LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE - Leadership Training, Public Speaking

Do you like adventure? Do you like to argue and figure things out? Can you make tough decisions and overcome difficult challenges? Might you be a future senator, CEO, explorer, teacher, coach, or Saturday Course intern? If so, this is the course for you! In this exciting course you'll get the opportunity to gain leadership skills that will help you in school and in anything you choose to do in life. You'll get a chance to explore and write about important issues and sharpen your public speaking and debating skills. And since good leaders also need to be good listeners and team members, you'll work with your classmates to tackle exciting challenges and brain-tangling problem solving activities. Could your team escape from a deserted island if all it had was a one-person boat? Could you make a speech in front of your entire school to convince everyone that they should stop littering and start recycling? Get ready for a variety of challenges and learn to take charge!

MAKERSPACE – Computer Aided Engineering

Do you like to design? Build? Challenge yourself and your peers? In this course, you will use the engineering design process as you sketch, both on paper and the computer, build models, and test your final prototype. Each project culminates in a race with your one of a kind vehicle. You'll get a chance to learn about engineering and physics through challenges that will pit you and your classmates against several more formidable opponents: gravity, friction, pressure, and wind. Expect the unexpected! Do you have what it takes to accept the challenges?

OCEAN COMMOTION - Marine Biology

You have just joined a team of oceanographers working for the New England Aquarium. Your initiation will be watching some amazing videos of what life is like approaching the ocean floor, and you'll be in charge of identifying specimens for an exhibit you are in charge of at the Aquarium. New exhibits may be about irregularly shaped fish, bottom dwellers, New England coastal fish, camouflage, unusual locomotion, sponges, guessing whether something is a plant or animal, predator/prey etc. You'll find out about species which fit your category and share your excitement and knowledge as we develop a full room, black light, musical aquarium display. While exploring the exciting underwater world, students will also have the opportunity to dissect sea stars and squid and learn about the internal and external anatomy of these amazing animals.

ON STAGE – Acting

Ever see an actor or actress in a play, TV show, or movie and think, "I'd like to do that!"? Then join us for a "dramatic" adventure in On Stage Act II. Acting is not only a challenging and rewarding career path, but can also be a great hobby. Acting encourages cooperation, communication, confidence, and public speaking skills as well. In On Stage we will participate in exercises that will help you express yourself in front of other people, and you'll have fun along the way. This class is appropriate for any level of student, from beginner to advanced.

REDUCE, REUSE, ReART

Start collecting now! Bottles, bottle caps, old magazine pages, plastic bags, foam trays or whatever you think you can give a second chance. You do not need expensive supplies to create a dazzling artwork or an object with a function. Many of the things we currently throw away could be reused and upcycled with just a little thought and imagination. We will be creating projects from the available materials specific to that day. You are encouraged to bring your recycled materials. We will also check out artworks of famous modern artists for inspiration. Let's ReArt!

ROBOTS RULE!

Can your robot pass a driving test? Can it move through a challenging maze? In this exciting robotics class, students will work in teams to build robots using Lego Mindstorm Kits. Through trial and error, students will reprogram and reengineer robots to complete individual tasks. Robots rule!

SATURDAY BEAT – Journalism

Did you ever think that you might want to work someday for your school newspaper, Sports Illustrated, or perhaps People Magazine? Well here's your chance to learn the skills you'll need! We'll learn techniques for interviewing, researching, and putting information together and you'll have the option of focusing your writing on news articles, sports, gossip, fashion, advice columns, or perhaps try your hand at all of them. When this course is finished you'll know a lot more about how to craft an interesting journalistic story and you'll have some pieces of writing for your own portfolio.

SATURDAY COURSE RUNWAY – Fashion Design

If you love clothes, color, patterns, fabric, drawing and making things, then this is the class for you. We will learn about fashion trends and costuming through the ages, significant fashion designers, as well as how to design contemporary fashions. While we won't be machine sewing in this class, students will learn embellishing techniques, some basic hand sewing, and how clothing is constructed to fit the human body. We will draw and paint fashion designs of our own vision for T-shirts, basketball sneakers, hats, jackets, or whatever inspires you. We'll create collage outfits from fabric swatches, magazines, and other materials. Students may get the chance to produce fashion designs using computers or iPad fashion apps, construct a model of a fashion runway, or transform existing T-shirts into one of a kind pieces – there are so many possibilities!

SCIENCE MAGIC

Wouldn't you like to entertain your family and friends with amazing magic tricks? Some of the most mind-boggling are based on scientific principles. We'll practice stunts using inertia, air pressure, surface tension, static electricity, center of gravity, and light. You'll even be able to do "impossible" balancing feats, make things disappear and create startling color changes. Through our magic we'll come to understand some important scientific principles. "Places everyone. Curtain is going up on Science Magic!"

SPACE INVADERS

Join us on our thrilling journey through the universe as we tour the solar system, the constellations, stars, nebula, planets, and beyond! We'll learn to tell time and to navigate using the night sky. Make sure you have plenty of life insurance just in case we collide with such "space invaders" as comets, asteroids or meteors, or in case we disappear into a black hole! When you return from your space venture your team will construct a room-size, glow-in-the-dark planetarium!

SUPER SCIENCE– Cool Science Experiments

Why does our hair stand on end when we remove our sweaters in the winter? Why is it hard to blow up a balloon in a bottle? Does air have weight? Why does a pencil seem broken when placed in a glass of water? There are hundreds of questions in science and in this active hands-on class we will do a variety of experiments every week to try to answer our science questions. We'll all learn some important scientific concepts, but we'll learn about each of them by doing an actual experiment. The results of these and many more cool science experiments will be shared with students who are doing the same activities in a separate class... in India! We are thrilled to collaborate "virtually" with Lakshya Kaura, the author of these experiments, and his classroom of students thousands of miles away!

SUPER SLEUTHS

Crime alert! Calling all sleuths. A crime has been committed and we need the most astute minds to help us solve the mystery and identify the perpetrator. As a detective on our squad, you will be examining the scene of the crime, analyzing the physical evidence left behind, interrogating suspects, and running tests in the science lab in order to determine who has committed the crime. What can fingerprint, chromatography, DNA, and fiber analysis contribute to our understanding? Can you solve the mystery? Crack the case? Put on your detective hat and join the Saturday Course squad of super sleuths.

TOWERS OF POWER – World Monuments

Why did the ancient Egyptians think pyramids were a good idea? Why did the ancient Celts like the sun so much? What happened at Pompeii? What does Machu Picchu say about the Incan culture? Answer these questions through building the monuments and seeing what they meant to the people who built them.

TRIAL COURT

Can you think fast and win a case? Become a lawyer and participate in cases presented before a jury; be a witness and testify; or be a juror who must decide if the defendant is guilty. We'll take a look at cases that are making headlines today as well as some that have helped to shape the laws of this nation. The outcome of any case is never known until the jury decides! As we play a variety of games and run our own trials, you will become familiar with the judicial system.

VIVA LA ESPAÑA– Spanish Culture, Customs, Language and Cooking

Hola! Come join us in our voyage through Spain where we will explore its culture, language, art, literature, music, and of course, tasty food. Spain is home to beautiful architecture, world famous artists, incredible scenery and much more! Students will learn how to speak some basic Spanish phrases, taste a variety of regional cuisine, and listen to music. This class is perfect for all students who would enjoy learning about this popular and interesting place. And perhaps it will inspire a real trip to this incredible country!

This class will be preparing and eating simple dishes that will include flour, butter, vegetable oil, cinnamon, sugar, chocolate, milk, cheese, rice, potatoes, tomatoes, ham, garlic and herbs.

WOODWORKING

Have fun learning the correct use of basic woodworking tools or improve upon the woodworking skills you already have in a relaxed and comfortable environment. Design, create, build, and paint a project of your choice. Make a box for storing your possessions or build a lamp for your bedside table. Create a pair of bookends to keep your library in order, or construct a shelving unit for your room. Chisel a personal plaque engraved with your name or perhaps create a game, toy, or bird house. This course offers a hands-on approach to learning as you discover the satisfying feeling of creating your very own masterpiece from a plain plank of lumber. You'll leave with work you have created and, equally importantly, with improved skills that you can continue to use for a lifetime.

WRITER'S EYE - Creative Writing

Tired of the same old writing assignments? Get ready to have some fun as you look at the world through your own imagination as well as through the eyes of others (not necessarily human!). You will develop your own creativity and deepen your writing skills as we explore new worlds through written expression. We will read poetry and stories, play with language, and find inspiration in a wide variety of ways. You will learn to use all your senses and knowledge of the world to create strong images in your writing. You will finish the class with a number of written pieces that can be added to your writer's portfolio.