Students will hear about each course at an upcoming Community Meeting and will be asked to sign up for two courses: one in the morning (9-11:30am) and one in the afternoon (12:30 – 3pm) unless an all-day option is selected.

Note: Some courses offered do have fees associated with them. We make every effort to ensure that cost is not a barrier to student participation. If your family has financial need, please contact Siobhan Allen at salien@beaconacademyil.org by Monday, February 10. While we can never ensure placement in a particular Interim class, we will make every effort to ensure that cost is not a barrier to student participation.

All Day

Wilderness First Aid Certification & Wilderness Navigation

Description: Navigate the great outdoors with confidence! The first half of this week will be spent studying introductory level coursework related to outdoor medical training. Many employers in the fields of outdoor education, recreation, tourism, and travel require this course for their novice guides or trip leaders. Upon successful completion of the course (passing the written exam at 70% or higher), participants will receive their Wilderness First Aid certification. Course content will include lecture, hands on skill acquisition, and rescue scenarios outdoors and will cover topics including patient assessment, hypothermia and frostbite, altitude, allergic reactions, medical emergencies, and much more.

The second half of the week will take your skills learned and apply them to the outdoors with basic wilderness navigation skills. On Thursday and Friday, students will put their skills to the test with a 5-hour adventure race at two local forest preserves. In small teams, students will use maps, compasses, and clues, navigating a nearby wilderness area to find as many hidden targets as possible. This is a competition, but responsible, safe practices are the priority. Students should be prepared for a moderate, sustained physical effort in any weather.

Please contact Ms. Ruffing, ruffing@beaconacademyil.org or Mr. Kinder, jkinder@beaconacademyil.org asap with interest and more detail.

Fee: $275
Grade Level Opportunities of Engagement

Class of 2023

**Freshman Seminar: Leaders As Change Agents**
*Description:* As a Montessori High School, we see freshman year as a time for students to orient to their new environment - classes, students, one’s high school self. Sophomores have gotten to know the community: sophomore year is a time to step outside of oneself, to shape community, and to lead within it. Students will learn how to become successful, positive influencers and creators of change. For Interim, freshman will be responsible for contributing ideas, planning, and even leading events and projects integral to building and supporting the Beacon community. We will spend time introducing options to plan such as putting together programming for Treehaven, Spirit Week, designing a community art project, or starting a microeconomy (like Coffee Cart!). Freshman are required to participate in this course either in the *morning* or *afternoon* session.

Class of 2021 & Class of 2020

**College Week Tour**
*Description:* Students have the opportunity to use one Interim during their Beacon careers to visit colleges. Students interested must fill out an itinerary and submit to Mr. Freeman for approval. Upon completion of their trip, students must also submit a written reflection to Mr. Freeman and Ms. LoSasso. *This is a one-time opportunity for students during their time at Beacon.*

**Experiential Week**
*Description:* This is your chance to pursue your passion and get exposure in an area of interest off campus! Students will be able to select an organization or business to visit for four mornings or afternoons (depending on the partner’s availability) and will spend the last day at Beacon sharing and reflecting upon this experience. You will have the opportunity to shadow, learn about the business/organization, and contribute to its mission. Upperclassmen will get the option to participate in this course in the *morning* or *afternoon* session. Students from both morning and afternoon sessions will need to meet at lunch on Friday. Students will be responsible for transportation to and from their experience.
Morning

Please Note: Students enrolled in Drivers Education will have class in the morning session.

**Beacon Model UN**
*Description:* The Beacon secretariat will organize and run a mini-MUN. The conference is a great introduction and refresher for those interested in Model UN. Students will have time to prepare and try to solve interesting international crises and problems.

**Feminism and the Journey of the Disney Princess**
*Description:* The women of the Disney franchise have grown and changed with the women of America. Come learn and discuss the changing role of feminism alongside the changing representations of women in film. Knowledge of the Disney canon is recommended, but not required. All are welcome and costumes are encouraged!

**The Life of Jimi Hendrix**
*Description:* Students will explore the life, early influences, music, and untimely death of arguably the best and most influential rock and roll guitarist of all time, Jimi Hendrix. From his “lucky” injury in the Air Force to his most memorable concert performance, we will rock out and get to know how this creative genius took his influences and made them his own, influencing rock and roll forever, over his short life.

**Learning! The Musical**
*Description:* Each day we will cover another period in musical history. We will learn, listen and watch examples from different time periods. On the Thursday evening we will go to see Legally Blonde: The Musical at Northwestern University’s Ethel M. Barber Theater!
*Fee:* $10 for ticket to the play on Thursday, February 27th at 7:30pm

**Persuasive Public Speaking and Social Norms**
*Description:* Learn the art of public speaking, how to give a presentation, and the historical social norms that are still relevant to today. We will discuss public speaking techniques, tips, and tricks to help you clearly present your ideas and win over your audience.

**Reality Week: Project Great Amazing Top British Chef Bake-Off Runway Race!**
*Description:* Have you ever watched people try to do things in a hilariously short amount of time? Did you wonder what that was like, or say “Heck, I could do that”? This is the interim for you! We will do a short competition-show style challenge each day: the time limit is the length of morning interim! We can decide the challenges, format, and judging on day 1 -- after that, you and your team will have to execute on time each day. Possible challenges: bake a mouse a birthday cake, prepare an appetizer using Cheeto dust, make a high-fashion bathrobe with materials from Target, flavor a creme brûlée with only ingredients we have in the building, find the home of a former US Vice President...

*Fee:* $20
Soccer: Talk with your feet, play with your heart

Description: Learn how to play the beautiful game in a fun and developmental environment at the Quad supported by the Chicago City Soccer Club. This program is designed to educate soccer players on how to play while also developing their appreciation for the game of soccer. The coaches are all professionally licensed and sport safe trained, and ready to pass on their knowledge. Students will leave this interim learning different soccer techniques, tactical principles of play, and a better understanding of the game of soccer.

Fee: $130

Vampires, Video Games, and Anime -- Oh my!

Description: This interim course will focus on how an idea develops over time and across genres. In our case, the broad focus will be vampires, vampire hunters, and all that neato associated gothic stuff, and the specific prism will be the vaunted Castlevania franchise. Come for the bloodsuckers and the flawed humans who hunt them. Stay for the gloriously weird and complex web of ideas that circulate through a wide variety of cultural objects.
Afternoon

Please Note: Juniors that are full IB will be introduced to the Extended Essay during the afternoon session of Interim.

Escape Room
Description: Back by popular demand! Come talk about escape rooms, the types of puzzles used in them, and play some board game style escape rooms. At the end of the week, students will go do some real escape rooms! Participants must like logic puzzles, math games, riddles, and be ok with timed and sometimes mildly stressful situations (Note: nobody will ever actually be truly LOCKED in a room).

Fee: $50 for participating at local Escape Rooms

Health & Fitness
Description: Explore the variety of fitness classes offered throughout Evanston. Students will be exposed to different physical activities like cycling, yoga, Shred 415, and Spenga.

Fee: $80 total for all of the fitness classes

Political and Legislative Advocacy
Description: Do you feel strongly about issues that affect your local, state, national, and global communities? Do you have an interest in current affairs and political discourse? Do you want to learn how to become an effective advocate with your elected officials? If so, then this is the interim for you. During this interim course, we will learn about steps to becoming more politically engaged. From volunteering on local, state, and national political campaigns to working collaboratively with elected officials to advance legislation and public policy, we will consider various ways that you can become more engaged and effective public advocates. We will be joined by guest speakers from across the political spectrum, and you will have the opportunity to put your knowledge to work by planning and executing an advocacy action around a topic and position you care about.

Science Olympiad
Description: Students will spend time preparing for the regional competition. You do not need to be on the Science Olympiad Team to participate! We will work on and test build (Mousetrap Vehicle, Mission Possible, Boomilever, Protein Modeling), practice hands-on events like Forensics, Chem Lab, Experimental Design, Thermo, and WIDI along with review old tests and work on cheat sheets.

Spice Up Your Life
Description: In this interim, we will sniff, taste, identify and use all the Indian spices that make up the unique flavors of Indian food. We will learn about the medicinal benefits of these spices and how they have been used down the ages for wellness and to treat many ailments. And on the mouthwatering side of things, we will make a trip to Devon Avenue to sample some of the amazing variety of Indian street food, surprisingly different from the staple chicken curry and tikka masala! And lastly, of course, we will learn how to make some of these dishes that require almost no cooking, just assembling!
Stitch to Mend, Stitch to Connect
Description: Knowing how to mend a button or a tear in your favorite shirt is not only super useful, it’s also a great metaphor for humaning. How do we connect broken threads to make them stronger? How do we connect solid threads to reinforce them? Our interim will literally do this! You’ll learn how to sew a button, mend a tear, AND how to execute decorative stitches to embellish fabric. We’ll also attend the LFA FIRE Conference (where, along with other students from schools throughout the Chicago region, we’ll talk about how to communicate with each other in a super-polarized world). We’ll end the week by learning about restorative justice and celebration circles. No previous experience with sewing is required. The LFA FIRE Conference is a full day event on February 25th. Students who enroll in this Interim will miss their other session interim with lunch provided at the event.

The A² B² C²s of Becoming a Billiards Pro
Description: Ever wanted to be a pool shark? Impress your friends? Don’t go in as a rookie! Billiards is based on nifty skills like trigonometry and physics. Come learn the angles that will make sure you never miss a bank shot, then go practice bank shots. We’ll be learning the rules of common games like 8-ball and 9-ball, the math behind the angles, and practicing each day at Firehouse Grill. If you want to know the cool new slang like “lag” and “draw,” sign up for this Interim.

The Day the Music Came Back (New Play Workshop)
Description: What would it be like if you lived in a place where music was outlawed? Where you could be put to death simply for being in possession of a music player? In this dystopian world, a group of teenagers meets in secret to talk about what their grandparents remember about music, until one day there’s an ominous knock on the door... The Day the Music Came Back is a new full-length play by Alvaro Saar Rios, based on his 10-minute play that you may have seen last year in Beacon Theatre’s Spring Festival of One Acts. Alvaro will be returning to Beacon, along with guest director Katy Walsh, for a week-long workshop to develop this new play. We’ll talk about the play, the writing process (and re-writing process!), and you’ll get to read roles in this play to help Alvaro hear the text out loud. Maybe by the end of the week you’ll get to read a whole new draft, based on your process together! All are welcome--no theatre experience is required to participate.