

International Trip

Haiti Service Trip (*Ms. Petzer and Mr. Peterson*)

Since the beginning of the year, students at Beacon Academy, in partnership with Rotary International, have sought to make a difference by raising funds for a Haitian community in need of sustainable clean water. Through a combination of “Water for Haiti Walks” and other forms of fundraising, students successfully generated awareness for the cause and met and exceeded their \$15,000 goal. The project is culminating in a trip to Haiti during which eight students will participate in the installation of a clean water well and celebrate its inauguration with the local community.

Morning Classes

Go Fly a Kite (*Mr. Mosher*)

We will design and build kites, then take them to the lakeshore and see if we can get them airborne. This challenging project will incorporate art, physics, and design and offer lots of time outside. Failure will be as entertaining as success, and we will get it all on video for an epic final presentation.

Science Olympiad Build Events Interim (*Ms. Terry*)

Students will spend time designing and building the first prototype for the Science Olympiad challenges that require pre-built submissions. Build events include: Mission Possible, Mousetrap Vehicle, Helicopters, Hovercraft, Optics, and Towers. Students do not need to be part of these specific Science Olympiad events to participate but should be interested and willing to help create one or more of these challenges.

A Flâneur in Chicago (*Dr. Cheney*)

First, we will do some reading about the culture of the nineteenth century Parisian *flâneurs*, who elevated city-strolling, loafing, and people-watching into an art form. Then our group will choose several good walking neighborhoods in which we will put what we’d learned into practice – strolling, writing short pieces of observation or poetry about what we saw, occasionally fueled by pastry and strong coffee.

Indian Folk Art: Gond Art from Central India (*Ms. Jansen*)

This course will give students an introduction to different forms of Indian tribal art with a focus on one particular folk art form called Gond from Central India. Students will learn about the mythology behind the images of animal and human forms used in this art form. They will learn the special techniques used by the artists and paint their own Gond painting.

Exercise Investigation (*Ms. Folger*)

The joy (and pain) of exercise! During this morning class we will try out a different exercise class each day. As a group we will attend lessons, try routines, and track data. We will look at different heart rates, the impact of sleep and hunger, and more. This week of fitness will be fun, hopefully challenging, and will help you reflect on fitness options best for you.

Coffee Shots from Around the World! (*Coco Sharp and Ms. Awan*)

This interim will explore cultural facts about coffee and espresso. We will also visit a variety of local cafes, so there will be plenty of opportunity to try a range of coffee drinks. We will learn interesting facts about how coffee can differ depending on region and about different brewing styles. So, if you are a coffee lover, want the chance to try out new cafes, and want to find out what makes the perfect espresso, this is the interim for you!

The "Cleanup Generation" Video Project (*Mr. Wilms*)

The current generation of students in America are inheriting a huge task to "clean up" after the current adult population. Using values that parents impart on their kids, the message will be reversed, and kids will be trying to get their parents to actually step up and "walk the walk" if they are going to "talk the talk." This project will meet in the morning session, and students will help in the production, writing, and shooting of the PSA video.

American & World History (*Mr. Schofield*)

Come watch historical movies based on American and World History and participate in engaging discussions with guided questions.

The Legend of Zelda (*Mr. Alvarado*)

This course will offer a brief history of the Legend of Zelda with some gameplay involved. We will be going over the different storylines within the series and what kind of impact some of the titles made in the gaming industry. Additionally, I will be bringing in some of my collection for you to experience.

Social Movements that Shook America (*Ms. Dixon*)

What are social movements? How do they start? Who starts them? While America has had hundreds of social movements, we will focus on Ms. Dixon's top five movements that have changed America: Women's Rights, Civil Rights, LGBTQ Rights, Black Lives Matter, and Labor Movements. We will watch a few movies and documentaries that look at and analyze the movements. Each movie will be followed up with questions and discussions based on what we saw. We will view the following films:

The Spook Who Sat by the Door (Civil Rights)(Dixon, 1972)

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin (Civil Rights, LGTBQ)(Singer & Kates, 2003)

**Boys Don't Cry (LGBTQ)*(Peirce, 1999)

**North Country (Women's Rights, Labor Movements)*(Caro, 2005)

**13th (Black Lives Matter)*(DuVernay, 2016)

Meat Packing in America- Still a Jungle Out There and **Hoffa (Labor Movements)* (DeVito, 1992)

** indicates movie is rated R and/or may contain adult content*

Afternoon Classes

Empathy and Video Games (*Mr. Small*)

Here are two things you might not have thought about together: empathy and video games. Specifically, this interim course will explore what it means to develop empathy, and how and why video games might be a useful tool. We will certainly discuss some important moments in video game history and get familiar with a few helpful philosophical debates, but the majority of our work together will be playing and discussing specific contemporary video games that attempt to develop empathy while also doing the other things that video games do.

Students DO NOT need access to any particular games or hardware. Students may choose to acquire specific games we play and discuss, but that is NOT a requirement.

Clay, Street Printing, and More (*Mrs. Lazarus*)

Three days will be spent working with clay at the Pot Shop, which is down the street from Beacon. You will have the opportunity to use the potter's wheel and/or to hand build with clay. One day we will have fun printing on T-shirts, hopefully using manhole covers and other metal steel grates to create interesting patterns and designs. Friday will be an open studio day to draw and paint.

Fee for the Pot Shop is \$80.00 (includes clay and glaze). Please make check payable to The Pot Shop. Please bring a solid color t-shirt!

A Film of One's Own: Five Female Filmmakers (*Dr. Ferguson*)

Kathryn Bigelow, the Oscar-winning director of *The Hurt Locker*, once remarked: "If there's specific resistance to women making movies, I just choose to ignore that as an obstacle for two reasons: I [won't] change my gender, and I refuse to stop making movies." Today, women filmmakers are shattering the Hollywood glass ceiling and are responsible for creating landmark films that continue to revolutionize contemporary cinema and challenge us to reflect on and reconsider our own values, beliefs, and identities. In this interim course we will view and discuss the following films:

Bend It Like Beckham (Gurinder Chadha, 2003)

Selma (Ava DuVernay, 2014)

The Hurt Locker (Kathryn Bigelow, 2009)*

The Kids Are All Right (Lisa Cholodenko, 2010)*

Lost in Translation (Sofia Coppola, 2003)*

Sign up for this interim course if you are interested in watching five great films and engaging in some post-viewing facilitated discussions!

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Yoga at Beacon (*Ms. Gomez-Escobar*)

Come enjoy a yoga practice that will enable you to leave the stress on the mat and feel renewed. Curious about Down Dogs, Cobras, and Lizards? Let's explore the poses, their meanings, and their benefits. You will learn about your body and yourself, allowing you to find mindfulness and peace. After a wonderful relaxation, discussions focused on Yoga as a life discipline will take place along with Mandala coloring.

Geekin' for a Greener Beacon (*Ms. Sloan*)

All jokes aside Beacon, there is a movement to make schools, homes, and businesses greener. Beacon needs to get on board, and we aim to do so this fall. During this interim, we'll investigate how to reduce our footprint and create solutions to set us on a path towards being eco-friendly. Sorting bins, worms, food waste, energy efficiency, electronics recycling – we will cover these topics together to start our week. In small groups, you will then choose a problem to focus and work on to create a solution. These solutions are not theoretical! By week's end we will start to implement your idea and set a plan to continue it with the community. The work of this interim will be hands-on, fun, and foundational for our school's culture and also awesome work for, you know, the Earth. If you too are Geekin' for Greener Beacon, join us!

Urban Sketching (*Ms. Burhani*)

In this course, students of all levels will engage in the immersive practice of urban sketching; drawing on-site at locations around the city. Students will use their preferred drawing medium and work in their own style and voice as they visit a variety of sites in Chicago and Evanston. Sites may include historic buildings, cafes, or public plazas. As a group, the class will curate a selection of sketches and create a blog in the spirit of urbansketchers.org. Things needed: A sketchbook and any materials one wishes to use (i.e., pencils, pens, markers, and/or watercolors, etc.)

LGBTQ History (*Quinn Mathews and Dr. Bator*)

This interim is going to cover the general history of the LGBT community and the people in it. It will also go more in-depth on a few events from the Gay Civil Rights Movement. The class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and film. The goal of this course is to learn as much as possible about the history of LGBT people and the intersection of queer history with the history that we're familiar with. Overall, it's going to be really fun, and I would encourage anyone who's interested, especially people who think they know nothing about LGBT history, to sign up!

Mixed Martial Arts and Self-Defense (*Aria Gill and Pascal Fraire*)

The purpose of this interim is to teach students basic martial arts and self-defense techniques. We will be going through simple moves, such as punches and kicks. Additionally, we will cover more complex moves, such as ground work and chokes. This interim promotes situational awareness and aims to set the groundwork for potential advancement in the mixed martial arts and self-defense world.

Brain Boggling (*Mr. Rudnick*)

In Brain Boggling, we will learn about the brain and ways to mess with it. Topics that may be discussed include (but are not limited to): animal intelligence, optical illusions, brain games, hypnosis, the psychology behind magic tricks, and using psychology techniques to mess with people. Students may even have the opportunity to design and run their own psychology experiments. Special guest experts are already booked to attend!