

# Explorations: Minimester 2010

Beginning in 1998, St. Margaret's Minimester program entitled *Explorations* has provided a wonderful opportunity for students to learn outside of core subject areas. The structure of Minimester has allowed students to learn in extended periods of time with more hands-on experience. Faculty have been able to teach different classes of interest to them, and we have been able to bring in outside teachers and experts as well. This has also been a time for the school to offer trips abroad and domestically relating to both service and travel. This year each student will choose one of the following courses. Seniors are required to do an Independent Study Project which generally takes the form of serving an internship with an organization, institution or business in which the student has a special interest. Seniors may complete an ISP based on a particular class during Minimester.

## **SERVICE FOR TODAY IS SERVICE FOR LIFE**

*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.—Winston Churchill*

At SMS, we believe that education for life is providing the opportunity to walk in someone else's shoes. The Minimester course is in continuation of that philosophy and encourages the expansion of service beyond the doors of our school - from Tappahannock, Fredericksburg and Richmond. Some examples include a partnership with local animal shelters, homes for the elderly and homeless in the nearby communities, and the Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge

**Cost:** No extra cost

**Faculty:** *Maggini, Carney, Foulk, Hicks*

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## **THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS: VIRGINIA ADVENTURES**

*Virginia also holds the distinction of being the birthplace of eight U.S. presidents. No wonder they say that Virginia's history is America's history!*

If you like traveling in time, camping in the Art room, reading stories of the unknown, and writing poems about your adventures, this class is for you. We will spend time on and off campus traveling to sites rich in the story of Virginia and America, going where man has been before. Options may include seeing an archeological dig at Jamestown, visiting the haunts and ghosts of Edgar Allen Poe's Richmond, as well as the homes of U.S. Presidents and founding fathers, and an overnight in Washington D.C., our nation's capitol. On campus, we will work on creating a portfolio of our time travels through prose, poetry, photography, and paintings...5 new memorable P's

**Cost:** No extra cost

**Faculty:** *Velletri, Fritz, Lloyd, Armor*

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## **ZEN AND THE ART OF . . .**

*The world is like a mirror you see. Smile and world smiles back.—Zen proverb*

This Minimester class inspires students to discover their Zen in a variety of experiences. Let your imagination go wild! Express your creative personality through food art, dance song, floral arrangement, hat making, trips to dinner theater, art galleries and a Kennedy Center Performance.

**Cost:** No extra cost

**Faculty:** *Edwards, Cresson, Klein, Rixey, Spraitzar*

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## **HAMMER AND NAIL: COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

*No one has ever become poor by giving.—Anne Frank*

St. Margaret's is committed to educating girls "for fulfilling lives of work, study, and service." In support of our school mission, we will travel to Charleston, SC, and work with the United Methodist Relief Center and Habitat for Humanity building projects. There will also be one day of free time to enjoy the Charleston area.

**Limit:** 12 students

**Cost:** \$375 to cover lodging, meals, transportation, and a donation to the Methodist Relief Center.

**Faculty:** *Cutter and Ruebush*

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## NEXT STEPS: THE COLLEGE PROCESS

*Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got.—Janis Joplin*

This is an experiential class geared for 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will

- **Develop** SAT Test-taking strategies in an SAT preparation class. This is a daily class with required homework.
- **Assess** individual interests and abilities and learn to search for “good fit” colleges.
- **Debunk** college application myths.
- **Discuss** issues related to college campus life and the application process.
- **Create** a resume and college application essay.
- **Experience** life on campus by visiting a variety of colleges: large, small, single sex, co-ed, urban, rural and highly selective.

**Limit:** 22 and preference given to 11<sup>th</sup> graders

**Cost:** \$850 which will cover an external SAT prep class, materials, class texts, and college tours.

**Faculty:** Gross, Farmer, Brooks, LaLiberty, Spears, Howard

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## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: SERVICE TRIP

*Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things connect. —Chief Seattle*

This course offers a wonderful opportunity to serve others in a very unique environment. Working with an orphanage in Monte Cristi, students will tutor and teach English to local children, entertain with skits and drama, complete physical work projects, and have one day for some sightseeing.

**Cost:** approximately \$1650

**Faculty:** Meyer and Abbott

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## ARIZONA ROAD RULES: AN RV EXPERIENCE

*Through travel I first became aware of the outside world; it was through travel that I found my own introspective way into becoming a part of it.—Eudora Welty*

Based on the popular California Road Rules two years ago, we will travel in deluxe recreational vehicles as we explore the Grand Canyon and other great national parks of Arizona. There is much time for bonding, reflection, and service in the Navaho community as well as visits to roadside attractions around the state.

**Cost:** Approximately \$1700

**Faculty:** Dickinson and Haney

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## EGYPT: DISCOVERING THE PHARAOHS AND THE PYRAMIDS

*Today the traveller on the Nile enters a wonderland at whose gates rise the colossal pyramids of which he has had visions perhaps from earliest childhood.—James H. Breasted*

Come with us as we cruise the Nile to famous sites as the Temple at Luxor, the Valley of Kings, Edfu, and the Aswan Dam at Lake Nasser. We will end our time in Cairo where we will spend the night underneath the Pyramids at Giza and explore the Egyptian Museum, and both medieval and modern Cairo.

**Cost:** approximately \$3300

**Faculty:** McDowell and Kollaros