Grades 2 – 3

Eight choices

Around the World and Back
Art History from Michelangelo to Warhol
How to Survive in Outer Space
To Infinity and BEYOND!
The Magic of Storytelling
Mindtrek Theater
Prove It!
Sustainability in Everyday Life

Around the World and Back

Imagine going on an exciting five week trip across the globe. Join our class and you can! Each week we will explore a new part of the globe. You’ll become historians, anthropologists, and archaeologists as we encounter various fascinating cultures. We will start off in North America to learn about ourselves and our neighbors above and below, then travel to South America to see how the rainforests grow. We’ll stop by Africa and learn about the foods that they eat. We’ll journey through Europe and Asia—imagine the people you will meet! Australia and Antarctica will be the last stops before we come back home. Buckle up and get ready to roam!

Art History from Michelangelo to Warhol

Picasso said, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.” Hold on to your inner artist by immersing yourself in the world of the masters and creating your own masterpieces inspired by some of the greatest artists the world has ever produced! Together we will learn about how art changed from Michelangelo’s angels of the Renaissance to our modern world of Pop Art and Andy Warhol’s Campbell’s Soup. Throughout the course, we will look at great works of art and learn how to examine and critique them. We will also discuss each artist and movement and create our own art inspired by the Renaissance, Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, Abstract, and Pop Art. Our class will end with a student art show, giving everyone a chance to show off their newest masterpieces!

How to Survive in Outer Space

Join our mission into the dangerous realms of outer space! We have been recruited as scientists to explore how things work on earth and apply this knowledge to traveling the universe. We will investigate a number of physical and biological systems, including robots, the human body, and agriculture, and use what we learn to determine how humans can survive in outer space! Our quest will involve curiosity-driven explorations of core scientific principles through hands-on projects, and collaborative discussions to extend our understanding to new realms. In this class, you will join fellow scientists on a first-hand examination of nature’s systems in hopes of learning how to keep us safe and comfortable during our mission to space!

To Infinity and BEYOND!

Join us as we explore the many components of the universe! During this course, we will discuss components of space travel, how scientists research our vast universe, and how scientific experiments can enhance understandings of the world. Our learning experiences will take the form of problem-based learning, where we will learn about the value of different perspectives, collaborate and work as a team to complete project work, and practice expressing our individual voices throughout our scientific explorations. Our expedition will lead us beyond earth and into entirely new worlds of our own creation!

Course descriptions for 2nd/3rd grades continue on next page:
The Magic of Storytelling

There is something magical about the phrases, "let me tell you a story" and "once upon a time." With a few words we can be transported to another world! Have you ever wondered what exactly is the story of storytelling? What is it that makes a story come to life? How do stories originate, become popular, and change over time? In this class, we will dive into these questions and together explore the magic of storytelling. We will discuss urban legends, fairytales, folktales, movies, and more! We will also make magic of our own by creating, sharing, and discussing our original stories. Come with us and discover the magical world of storytelling!

Mindtrek Theater

Theater has existed for centuries, and has the power to help us make sense of our past, present, and future. In Mindtrek Theater, we will talk about the conventions of theater and explore how these theatrical elements can help us make sense of a specific problem that we choose as a class. Students will work through all the obstacles of designing a play, including creating characters, scripts, props, and backdrops while engaging in problem solving and team-work challenges. At the end, we will have a full theatrical performance which solves all aspects of our chosen problem. You don’t want to miss this unique experience!

Prove It!

The earth is round. The speed of light is faster than the speed of sound. Humans are closely related to chimpanzees. These are some examples of statements that are considered scientific facts, but how do we know these things are true? In this course, we will work like scientists by putting bold scientific statements like these to the test through hands-on experimentation and critical examination of current and historical research. Once we have mastered the scientific process, we will turn to our own sense of how the world works and end the course by designing experiments to test our own questions. If you've always wondered how we know the things we know, now is the chance to prove it!

Sustainability in Everyday Life

Where does our food come from? What happens to things we put in the garbage? How can we make sure we have enough clean water? These questions are related to the concept of sustainability. In this class we will learn about the impact that our actions can have on the environment, both good and bad. Each week we'll focus on one interesting aspect of our environment, like our water supply and agricultural systems. Through discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on projects, we will investigate current environmental problems and brainstorm solutions, both big and small. At the end of this class you will have a toolkit of sustainable practices that you can use in your everyday life!