Neuroscience 101

How do we learn? How does our brain make us different from all other species? We will investigate the form and function of the human brain. We will delve into the systems of the human brain and discover what happens when the systems function well and also what happens when the systems do not work well together. By dissecting a cow’s eye (optional activity!) we will learn more about how our vision works. Whether we are painting the parts of the brain, creating neurons, studying current brain news and research, or playing synapse tag, our brains will be active! Guest presenters, neurologists from UVA, will conduct hands on brain related activities, and examine our class’ questions and explain the answers. Students will select brain related topics, in groups or individually, research these areas of interest, and teach our class. It is my hope that your child comes home with an ignited interest in the brain and will continue to study neurology!

To Infinity and Beyond

What if alien invaders depleted earth’s resources? How could we continue to sustain life? This summer, your mission, should you choose to accept it, will be to find out how the Solar System can sustain life. Working as Solar F.L.A.R.E. (Future Land and Resource Expert) Agents, you will research, experiment, and document all relevant issues pertaining to the acquisition of resources from our Solar System. Acting as authentic scientists, you will use the tenets of the Nature of Science to conduct hands-on investigations, participate in field studies, and create models and simulations to real scientific problems. Science uses a blend of logic and imagination. Come prepared to use both!

American and International Folklore

Did you know that Johnny Appleseed was a real American pioneer? Have you ever wondered where such folklore originated? Not only will we be examining American folklore, such as Johnny Appleseed, but we will be taking an in depth look at folklore across cultures and examining the reasons why cultures need folklore. In addition to exploring existing folklore, you will have the opportunity to write your own! Come ready to embark on a journey across the globe.

Financing Your Future: A Study in Decision Making!

Have you ever wondered about the world of finance? In this course, we will simulate a financial life from a first job as a teenager to calculating our retirement. Along the way, we will learn about all that goes with life’s decisions from deciding on a career to buying insurance to setting aside money for retirement. How are financial choices made? What factors should you be thinking about? Get ready to pack 50 years of life into nine days as we learn how the financial decisions we make early in life impact our ability to have comfortable retirement. Be prepared to think critically!