



LEARNING
joyfully

100%
EXPERIENTIAL

WORKING WITH
experts

13
DIFFERENT
CLASS OPTIONS



ONE WEEK.
ONE CLASS.
ZERO GRADES.

NEW
friendships

4

GRADES WORKING
TOGETHER



MPA
i-Term 2027

MPA MIDDLE SCHOOL i-Term

Week of February 22-26, 2027

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

Mounds Park Academy's i-Term provides students in grades five through eight with a unique opportunity to embody MPA's mission of thinking independently and learning joyfully by participating in a one-week enrichment experience. i-Term courses are designed to provide inquiry-based, experiential learning beyond the classroom. The project-based, focused nature of i-Term offerings enables students to learn new skills, do things that are not possible within a normal school setting, and be exposed to experiences they would not be otherwise. Students will venture into the community, work with experts in a particular field, and create new friendships along the way during this signature experience.

STUDENT OWNERSHIP

All Middle School students participate in i-Term, they are empowered to select a course that will either deepen their current understanding of a topic or introduce them to a new area of interest.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Students will be asked to select three courses for i-Term. While class sizes are purposefully kept small to ensure an intimate learning environment, every effort will be made to match students with their top choices. Once a student is registered and confirmed in a course, no changes will be made. Students should list three courses they want to take—please do not list a course you would be unhappy to attend.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Course fees are used to offset the cost of transportation, field trips, community and guest speakers, and other excursions. Once course selections are finalized, course fees will be assessed through the Business Office and Clarity. If the course fee associated with your student's preferred i-Term experience presents a financial hardship for your family, please contact Paul Errickson to discuss options.

USING THIS DOCUMENT

i-Term courses are divided into three categories—Making & Design Thinking, Culture & Community Explorations, and Creative Arts & Play. They are color coded as indicated below. Use this document to review course content and select your ideal i-Term course.

MAKING & DESIGN THINKING

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

CREATIVE ARTS & PLAY

i-Term ONLINE:

www.moundsparkacademy.org/i-term

WOODWORKING

COST: \$150

This course will allow students to build their own personal woodcraft following a given set of directions. Within this course, students will learn how to use different woodworking machinery and power tools that allow them to cut, shape, and create their work. Students will learn how to sand and paint (or clear coat) their pieces of woodwork. While students will have to follow directions on how to build a specific project, they will have the opportunity to add their own personal flair to their work. Students will be able to choose one project to build from a list of different pieces. In addition to students building their own product, they will take a field trip to see how a business interacts with people who do woodworking daily or as a hobby. By the end of this course, students will grasp the essence on how to create their own woodworking product from start to finish.



THE INK LAB: WRITERS WORKSHOP

COST: \$150

Calling all authors! This one-week writing extravaganza will have everything: writing challenges, field trips to inspire you, story time, work shares, and, best of all, a chance to craft the pieces that are rattling around in our heads. No matter what your genre—fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, you name it—you'll find a place here with people who love writing as much as you do!



BEYOND THE MUSEUM

COST: \$300

Have you ever wanted to explore Prince's Paisley Park, step inside a real castle, go behind the scenes at a theatre, or put your detective skills to the test in an escape room? In this i-Term, we'll spend the week discovering some of the coolest museums, historic homes, and cultural attractions around the Twin Cities. We might explore art, science, music, Minnesota history, and even enjoy lunch at a local restaurant or café!

Here's the fun part: **You'll help plan our adventures!** We'll have a few destinations scheduled ahead of time, but you'll also research possibilities and help decide where we go next. Along the way, we'll discover how these places tell stories and create unforgettable experiences. You'll keep a field notebook of your discoveries and use your favorite ideas to design your own museum or exhibit to share at the end of the week.



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

DIVE INTO MARINE SCIENCE

COST: \$2,250-\$2,500

READY FOR THE ULTIMATE MARINE SCIENCE ADVENTURE? Head to Key Largo, Florida for an unforgettable experience at Marine Lab where the classroom meets the ocean! Snorkel through crystal clear lagoons and coral reefs, explore mangrove forests and seagrass beds, discover tropical fish and fascinating sea creatures, and venture out to the Florida Keys. Become a real marine scientist as you test water quality, investigate microplastics and marine debris, identify plankton and invertebrates, study reef ecosystems, and explore animal behavior. Get up close with sea turtle conservation and take part in a coral restoration workshop with scientists working to protect our reefs. Swim. Explore. Discover. Investigate. Get messy. Get wet. Make memories. This is more than a field trip, it's your chance to experience the ocean up close and make a difference in protecting it!

**Open only to 7th and 8th grade students. Course capacity is 16 students.*



AROUND THE WORLD: CULTURE AND CUISINE FEATURING THE TWIN CITIES

COST: \$150

Around the World: Culture and Cuisine Featuring the Twin Cities is an exciting week-long middle school course that takes students on a global journey through the foods, traditions, languages, and cultures represented right here in the Twin Cities. Through hands-on activities, food tastings, cultural exploration, and local field trips, students will discover how communities from around the world have shaped Minnesota's rich cultural landscape. Students will visit international markets, learn about traditional dishes, explore global customs, and create their own "travel passports" as they investigate regions including Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. By the end of the week, participants will gain a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity, develop global awareness, and experience how food connects people, places, and traditions across the world.



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS

DOGSLEDDING WITH WINTERGREEN

COST: \$1,000

This course invites students to embrace winter with outdoor activities such as hiking, dog sledding, and polar plunging. Participants will travel to Ely for five days to go dog sledding and learn about wildlife in the Boundary Waters. If there is time, we will stop at the International Wolf Center. We will be staying at Wintergreen Lodge which is world renown for their “The Road Less Traveled.” See their website for more information: dogsledding.com.

**Open only to 7th and 8th grade students. Course capacity is 15 students.*



SNOWBOARDING SKILL BUILDING IN THE AFTON ALPS

COST: \$200

Five on-snow days at Afton Alps to build confidence and technique. Mornings feature professional group lessons; afternoons focus on guided practice, with Mr. Andrews (AASI Level II) riding with students and offering targeted tips. Students ride with friends, explore varied terrain, and celebrate progress every day. All levels welcome; helmets required.



LET'S BAKE! GF ONLY!

COST: \$200

Do you eat a gluten free diet, and you're sick of terrible excuses for baked goods?! Do you love someone who eats a gluten free diet, and you want to make something wonderful for them!? Then this is the course for you! In this course, we're baking all things gluten-free. From brownies to cookies, from breads to cinnamon rolls, we'll take you through the wonderful world of gluten free baking. This trip will also include two field trips to local, gluten free bakeries. Please note, all baking at school will be peanut/tree nut safe. However, we will use common baking ingredients such as eggs, milk, and soy. Additionally, the gluten free bakeries are not peanut/tree nut free bakeries.



SKATEBOARDING AND DECK DESIGN

COST: \$250

Get ready for a week of skating and skateboard design! Minneapolis' 3rd Lair Skatepark will be providing skateboarding instruction for riders of ANY experience level. From folks who have never ridden a skateboard to advanced riders who know all the tricks, the amazing instructors will be teaching everyone new and awesome techniques in 3rd Lair's indoor skatepark. Participants will be broken into smaller groups based on their experience, giving everyone the time and attention they need to master some new skills. We'll be at the park every morning, from 9:00a-12:00p, returning to MPA for lunch, then spending our afternoons designing skateboard decks together. No equipment is needed. All materials and equipment are included in the cost of the class: helmet, pads, board rental, skate instruction, and design supplies. If you have your own gear, feel free to bring it along if you'd like. Waivers will be needed for all participants prior to class. Each student will also receive a blank skate deck to design and bring home at the end of the week. It'll be an amazing week of learning new things!



ANIMAL APPRECIATION

COST: \$250

Spend the week exploring the ways that our lives are enriched by our relationships with animals. We'll go on an animal adventure throughout the Twin Cities, which will include meeting raptors, visiting a cat cafe, and learning about the ins and outs of animal rescue. We also will visit an equine therapy center where we'll learn about caring for horses and the many ways that they can help care for people. This is positively the best iTerm for animal lovers.



CREATIVE ARTS & PLAY

ROCK BAND

COST: \$375

Have you ever wanted to be in a rock band and perform? In this iTerm, Rock Band is designed for musicians and welcomes singers, guitarists, bassists, drummers, and keyboardists with at least one year of study/experience. Students will build confidence, performance skills, and musicianship while playing their favorite rock and pop songs in a supportive, non-judgmental community that encourages creativity and collaboration. Throughout the week, students will grow as individual musicians and as bandmates, culminating in a relaxed performance at our Celebration of Learning. MPA's i-Term Rock Band is crafted and led by Twin Cities musician Mike Michel.



FIT FAB AND FUN

COST: \$200

Looking for a way to stay active and have fun all year long? In Fit, Fab, Fun, students will explore a variety of individual activities that can be enjoyed indoors and outdoors, no matter the season. Through engaging games, fitness challenges, and skill-building activities, students will improve their overall fitness, build confidence, and discover enjoyable ways to stay active for life.



PAPER CRAFTS!

COST: \$75

Let's make stuff out of paper! We'll explore collage, quilling, origami, paper-making, embossing, punching, marbling, stamping and more in this hands-on crafting workshop. Students will design, sketch, and create cards, journals, and other small projects in a mellow setting. Though we may take a field trip to an art supply store and hear from special guests, our focus will be on MAKING in a cozy, quiet environment.

