



March 10, 2021

Dear M1-M4 Parents,

During the Spring Break, UNIS offers a **"Virtual Spring Camp"** with a variety of enriching activities such as **"Writing your Own Story on the Pandemic"**, **"Chess"**, **"Mock Trial"**, **"Digital Photography Artwork"**, **"Self Defense/ Bully Proof"** .

The goal is to offer a series of activities that the students will enjoy participating in, a series of activities and that will bring the students a new learning experience and a sense of accomplishment at the end of the break. The covid virus pandemic is a historical once in a life time extraordinary experience. Write Your Own Story on the Pandemic gives the students the chance to write their own story on the pandemic. It teaches the students the profoundly valuable craft of storytelling in a way that they will fall in love with writing. This program is provided by **"Written Out Loud"** directed by Joshua Shelov a graduate and an adjunct professor at Yale. The **Chess** enhances students' executive functioning skills. The **Mock Trial** is a hands-on simulation of the American judicial system. It helps the students develop analytical abilities and communication skills, display leadership in a court of law. The **Self Defense/Bully Proof** activity unlike martial arts, places emphasis on the avoidance of conflict and assertive mediation tactics. **The Digital Photography** teaches the basics of light, composition, and editing. The students will leave this course with the skills to create powerful imagery.

### Program Description:



#### WRITE YOUR OWN STORY ON THE PANDEMIC

Joshua Shelov a graduate and adjunct professor at Yale University created in 2007 a writing workshop called **"Written Out Loud"**. As the CEO and founder, he developed the program into an in person **"storytelling school"** for middle- and high-schoolers in Fairfield, CT, and Chicago. The pandemic of 2020 spurred the pivot into the virtual/Zoom world, where it has exploded into an international program with hundreds of happy storytellers and families. The students' writing skills - and love of writing - will grow by leaps and bounds, so will their courage, empathy, and collaborative spirit.

The program is designed to put every storyteller in a position to create with confidence and joy.

### HOW IT WORKS

These are joyful creative sessions, featuring storytelling games, activities, and exercises. The students' individual writing skill will grow by leaps and bounds. And so will their courage, collaborative spirit, and empathy.

Every morning the students will meet with their small "storytelling crew" in a one-hour mentored, joyfully creative Zoom session. Fueled by a discussion of their favorite stories, the students will start writing immediately after the session ends - 30-60 minutes of joyful writing immediately follows. The next morning, the students share their "story bursts" with each other. The story director shows the group how to blend their stories together into a single, unified whole, combining characters, plot elements, and settings. Sometimes the unified story can be a fantasy epic; sometimes the stories can be a series of nonfiction anthology. Regardless of focus, the work is fueled by genuine passion. A lifelong love of writing begins to grow.

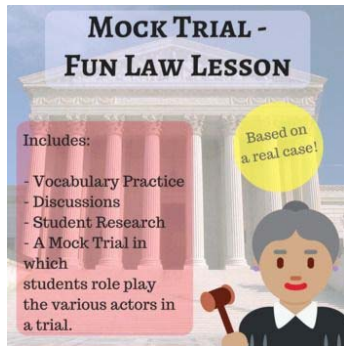


### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY ARTWORK

This introduction to Digital Photography offers students the opportunity to take good pictures and create artwork.

By learning the basics of light, composition, and editing, students will leave this course with the skills to create powerful imagery. This program is conducted by Didemus Potestatem.

**To enroll in this course, students must have access to a digital camera and memory chip.**



## MOCK TRIAL

Mock Trial is a hands-on simulation of the American judicial system. The goal is to help the students acquire a working knowledge of the judicial system, develop analytical abilities and communication skills, display leadership in a court of law, and gain an understanding of their obligations and responsibilities as participating members of our society. To do this, students write a trial script and play the roles of attorney, witness, defendant, plaintiff and Judge. They learn to present evidence, voice objections, answer impromptu questions from the other attorneys, how to impeach witnesses and deliver compelling opening and closing statements. This program is conducted by Didemus Potestatem. Materials for this course are provided by The American Bar Association.



## CHESS

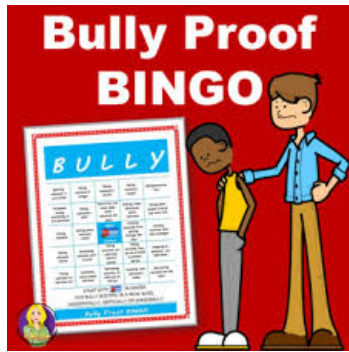
Multiple studies indicate that youngsters who learn and practice chess enjoy remarkable growth in areas as diverse as math, language, music and science. The instruction is provided by US Chess Academy

### **Logical Thinking**

Chess enhances children's executive functioning skills enabling them to plan ahead, reason strategically, shift gears and problem solve.

### **Empathy, Risk-Taking & Resilience**

Young chess players are strengthening their resilience - the ability to return and try again after a setback. They are building empathy - for their teammates and their opponents. They are growing as risk takers, ready to jump in when they spot an opportunity.



## BULLY PROOF SELF DEFENSE

"BullyProof" with Krav Maga is a self-defense system focused on mindfulness, awareness and de-escalation. In this course, the Instructors teach students to avoid possible perilous situations and assert themselves by using their voice, body language and defensive strategies.

Unlike martial arts, Bully Proof places emphasis on the avoidance of conflict and assertive mediation tactics. Krav Maga gives students the tools to protect themselves and advocate while instilling confidence and discipline.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

- All workshops are provided on ZOOM platform.
  - The MORNING program runs from 9:30AM to 11:30AM
  - The AFTERNOON program runs from 1:30PM to 3:30PM
  - The FEES are based on \$380 per week - morning or afternoon
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- Week # 1 => Monday April 5<sup>th</sup> through Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Week # 2 => Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> through Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>

I am at your disposal if you have any questions.

We look forward to welcoming the students to the Virtual Spring Break.

Kind regards,  
Lidana Jalilvand  
Director of Special Programs