

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE 2025

GRCHS

Winterim



GRCHS

Winterim 2025

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

*God has given each of you a gift
from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve one another.*

— 1 Peter 4:10

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Winterim at Grand Rapids Christian High School engages students in a **two-week amplified learning experience**, allowing them to choose their **own courses of interest**.

Five components serve the *Winterim* objective:

dual-enrollment college courses, unique courses for on-campus instruction, college research and visits, travel, and shadowing professionals in internships throughout the community. During these two weeks, students may recognize new gifts and talents, have their directions affirmed or changed, or feel their spirits influenced.

Christian teachers and mentors support students in unveiling their unique passions and abilities, instilling confidence in their potential as children of God.

Partnership with the community is a vital part of *Winterim*. We are blessed this year by those who have offered to share their gifts of teaching, passions in life, and professional experience, leading students to discover their own true talents.

Learning beyond four walls increases students' momentum and desire to learn, advancing Grand Rapids Christian Schools' mission of preparing students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society.

Winterim occurs during **the first two weeks following Christmas break**, between semesters. Attendance is required as *Winterim* is a fully credited term composed of morning and afternoon sessions, five days a week.



Winterim Overview

Schedule

- *Winterim* is a two-week term based on the college interim model, starting immediately after Christmas vacation.
- Roughly one-third of students will spend *Winterim* off campus participating in educational or mission trips, college visits, or internships.
- For students taking courses, the day is divided into two sessions, with one course taken per session.

Morning session	8:20 am — 11:20 am
Lunch	11:20 am — 11:45 am (on campus)
Afternoon session	11:50 am — 2:50 pm

Attendance

- Because *Winterim* is only two weeks, attendance is crucial. Students who miss excessive classes may be denied credit for the course. Each circumstance will be considered on an individual basis.
- Students involved in extracurricular activities must choose a *Winterim* schedule that does not interfere with their commitments. Students should see a coach or administrator with questions.

Credits and Grades

- All morning and afternoon courses receive 0.25 credits each, while trips, internships, college visit experiences, and full-day courses receive 0.50 credits. Each student is required to earn 0.50 *Winterim* credits per year as a graduation requirement. *Winterim* courses will not count toward fulfilling non-*Winterim* graduation requirements.

Winterim Personnel

- Principal, Brad Mockabee / bmockabee@grcs.org / 574-5500
- *Winterim* Coordinator, Brian Karsten / bkarsten@grcs.org / 574-5508
- *Winterim* Assistant, Carolyn Groendyk / cgroendyk@grcs.org / 574-5819
- *Winterim* Internship Coordinator, Abby Vredeveld / avredeveld@grcs.org / 574-5501
- *Winterim* Registrar, Carrie Doezema / cdoezema@grcs.org / 574-5554
- Cover Illustrations and Catalog Layout, Krista Krygsman

Courses

New and exciting courses give students fresh and unique choices while allowing GRCHS teachers to share their own individual passions for specialties not offered in the core curriculum. Courses also allow for community partnerships as guest instructors come from a variety of disciplines.

During *Winterim*, GRCHS teachers and guest instructors mentor and expand student knowledge in key areas of interest, revealing gifts that can otherwise be hidden. With smaller class sizes and a more concentrated time frame, students are able to form a meaningful Christian bond with their teachers.

Enrollment

*Winterim*Fest is a time when students are introduced to all *Winterim* course offerings. This will take place during Lunch Hour/Office Hours on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, in Grand Rapids Christian High School's Town Square.

Registration is done online by seniority and on a first-come, first-served basis:

12th Grade Registration: Monday, October 28, lunch break

11th Grade Registration: Tuesday, October 29, lunch break

10th Grade Registration: Wednesday, October 30, lunch break

9th Grade Registration: Friday, November 1, lunch break

Instruction

Guest instructors from the community join GRCHS staff to teach *Winterim* courses. Small classes in three-hour blocks provide unique opportunities for instruction. Many courses include service-learning or hands-on, project-based experiences that can't happen in a normal school day. Other courses are team-taught and some courses take place partially or entirely off-campus.

All guest instructors have formally applied to teach a course and have been approved by Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

Expectations

Students taking courses must sign up online for either one morning course and one afternoon course or one full-day course. Attendance is mandatory, and absences may result in a loss of *Winterim* credits. Students may not repeat a *Winterim* course unless granted permission by the *Winterim* Coordinator.

Some classes tend to be more rigorous in nature, while other classes may be more hands-on and experiential. Students and parents must read course descriptions carefully to understand prerequisites, fees, and expectations.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Grand Rapids Christian High School is blessed to partner with Cornerstone University to offer dual-enrollment *Winterim* courses. 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students can take these dual-enrollment courses and receive both GRCHS *Winterim* credit and college credits at no additional cost. This is a great opportunity to earn college credit and get a taste of life on a college campus.

Participation

Students wishing to participate

- Must be able to attend class at the scheduled time.
- Must meet the minimum 2.8 GPA requirement of Cornerstone University.
- Must complete an application for admission to Cornerstone University. Online application links will be emailed to registered students.
- Should expect assignments, homework, and exams appropriate for the college level.
- Will need to provide or arrange for their personal transportation.
- May be required to purchase a textbook or visit the help desk for needed software.
- Are not required to take a second *Winterim* course.

Graphic Design I (MDA 213)

College Credit Hours: 3 credits

Schedule: 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor: Prof. Sodam Lee (Professor of Graphic Design at Cornerstone University)

This course teaches an overview of the graphic design field and industry, introducing students to the preferred software, concepts and workflows of this industry. Specifically, students are given an introduction to design concepts such as balance, contrast, scale, proportion, typography, and composition. Software introduced are the Adobe Creative Suite (CC), specifically Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign. Students are given collaborative design projects to work on which introduce and reinforce the taught principles of design. Students participate in interactive lectures, group conversations, online research and study, and more. Students are taught simplified workflows for software, such as vector graphics creation, Photoshop compositing and image enhancement, page layout techniques and file export preferences.



Creator's Retreat

Instructors: Abby Zwart (GRCHS English Teacher) and Larry Borst (GRCHS Bible and Theology Teacher)

In our busy lives, we don't often take time to pursue our passions. On the Creator's Retreat, you'll get the chance to spend two intentional weeks on a personal project—something you'll be proud of. We'll start in the classroom to prepare for our work, and then we'll head off campus to a retreat center to live and create together. We'll eat, worship, work, and play, then return to school to present our products. So what might you create? Music, visual art, film, poetry, fiction, nonfiction, spoken word, forensics speeches, podcasts, science experiments, inventions, woodworking, scrapbooking, dance, or whatever else you are moved to create.

Additional Note: Course includes the weekend (January 11-12).

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$150 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Prerequisite: Students will complete a post-sign-up application. See Ms. Zwart or Mr. Borst for more information.

Global Voices: The World of Interpreting

Instructors: Liz Vrooman (GRCHS World Language Teacher) and Danny Verbrugge (Founder of Linguistics International)

This course is designed to introduce bilingual students (and students who are developing their proficiency in a second language) to the art of professional interpreting. Students will participate in a training program which can result in Interpreter Certification upon successful completion of an interpreting assessment. The course will be facilitated by a certified interpreter and the Founder of Linguistics International (Grand Rapids), who has years of hands-on experience as both an interpreter and an interpreter trainer. Students will be exposed to the

fundamentals of interpreting which include protocols, attentive and empathetic listening, developing memory skills, and role-play. Join us and learn how to be a bridge for others in our local community!

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$850 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Prerequisite: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors (interested sophomores will be interviewed for eligibility) who are speakers (at least an intermediate level) of a language (in addition to English).

Life Skills in Skiing

Instructors: Chad Mencarelli (GRCHS Ski Team Coach), Jim Styf (GRCHS Ski Team Coach), and additional ski team coaches

Want to spend part of January hitting the slopes? Here's your chance! The course offers an introductory study of ski racing history, physics, ski equipment construction and theory, course setting and terminology, and psychology. The course will involve both classroom and on-snow study of skiing and ski race theory. In addition, students will take part in a service project in conjunction with Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. The on-snow training experience will occur at both local ski areas and areas located in upper Michigan.

Additional Note: This course schedule does not match GRCHS's *Winterim* schedule. Course includes a two-night trip to Crystal Mountain and several evenings at Canonsburg. Some days will involve a late start. Full schedule is available upon request.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$1,600 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Prerequisites: Students enrolling in this course will be expected to provide their own workable and safe ski equipment including, but not limited to: skis (with safe bindings), ski boots, poles, and winter attire. Students should also have experience utilizing surface (rope tows) and aerial (chair) lifts.

Morning Courses

- The Amazing Race
- An Economic Life
- Beginner Guitar and Songwriting
- CSI: Grand Rapids
- Developing Leadership
- Drawing the Human Form
- ESports: Team Building, Competition & Careers
- Food and Fitness
- Free Money? Write Now!
- From Manuscript to Bookstore: An Introduction to the Publishing Industry
- The Great Outdoors
- Homemade Cameras + Windchimes + Medieval Weapons = Physics Fun!
- Hooked on Crochet
- Intermediate / Advanced Rock Climbing
- Licensed to Drive But Clueless About My Car
- Life Together
- One Faith, Many Forms: A Primer on Christian Denominations
- Psychology in Film
- Segment 1 Driver Education (Grades 10-12)
- So You Want To Slay A Dragon
- Tee to Green: Golf Lessons for All Levels
- *Winterim* (Taylor's Version)

Afternoon Courses

- 3D Video Game Development with Unreal Engine
- Aliens, Evolution, and AI
- American Red Cross Lifeguard Training
- Anatomy Across the Animal Kingdom: A Comparative Dissection Journey
- Art Therapy with Salted Journaling
- Become an MHSAA Registered Official
- Behind the Scenes: Building Radium Girls
- Butter, Sugar, Flour.
- Cat Rescue 101
- Christian Fit Body Bootcamp
- Cooking and Culture
- Dogs!
- Exploring the Criminal Justice System
- Grand Rapids City Police Department: Youth Academy
- Hand Embroidery for Beginners
- Introduction to Rock Climbing
- Joy on Tour
- Lights, Camera, Action!
- Life in the Movies
- Making a Difference
- Making Music
- Much About the Dutch: Introduction to Dutch Language and Culture
- SAT & ACT Success Squad
- Segment 1 Driver Education (9th Grade)
- Strategy Games
- Take a Ride on the Magic School Bus
- Upcycle: Tinkering with a Purpose
- Watercolor Workshop
- WHODUNIT: A Murder Mystery Class
- *Winterim* Intramurals Adventure: Tournament Style

Morning Courses

The Amazing Race

Instructors: Travis Kuiper (GRCHS Math Teacher) and Dani Bosch (GRCHS Inclusion Education Teacher)

Competition is a fact of life. It's everywhere you look. It is innate and as old as human history. The stories of Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph and his brothers are all stories showing powerful competitive forces in the Old Testament. Competition can be healthy or unhealthy. It can build or destroy. This course will provide an opportunity to not only discuss competition but also to experience the healthy and unhealthy dimensions of it. The races and competitions students participate in will be the laboratory for the study of competition. Come experience the pains of defeat and the extrinsic and intrinsic rewards of victory.

Prerequisite: Students MUST sign up with a partner. Be sure both partners register for the course or you may be partnered with someone else.

An Economic Life

Instructor: Austin Heeres
(GRCHS Social Studies Teacher)

Embark on a captivating *Winterim* journey, delving into economics without complex math, while blending entertainment and education seamlessly. Immerse yourself in thought-provoking movies depicting economic principles and real-world scenarios. Engage in lively discussions where we'll dissect themes and apply concepts. Supplementing our screen time, we'll venture on enlightening field trips to diverse economic settings, observing classroom theories in action. Uncover the intricate web of supply and demand, fiscal policies, and market dynamics. "An Economic Life" offers a dynamic fusion of entertainment and education,

fostering and creating an understanding of economics beyond textbooks, leaving you inspired and informed.

Prerequisite: Students must have permission to watch R-rated movies. (Titles available upon request.)

Beginner Guitar and Songwriting

Instructor: Kendra DeVrou
(Director of Worship at Madison Square CRC)

Learn the basics of playing the guitar including strumming and picking chords, melodies, and scales. This course is designed for beginners, so it's fine if you've never even held a guitar before! Along with the techniques of guitar playing, we'll also get a chance to play songs and meditate on their history, meaning, and significance. We will have an emphasis on worship, and we will get to experience worship together along with writing our own song together as a class.

Prerequisite: Students must bring their own guitar. (Contact Mr. Karsten if you're interested but do not have access to one.)

CSI: Grand Rapids

Instructor: Dan Hoekstra
(GRCHS Science Teacher and Technology Coach)

Do you love a good mystery? Do you want to be the next famous crime scene investigator? Think you have what it takes to crack the case wide open? If you answered "yes," then put on your lab coat and safety goggles and check out CSI: Grand Rapids! Throughout your two-week training period, you

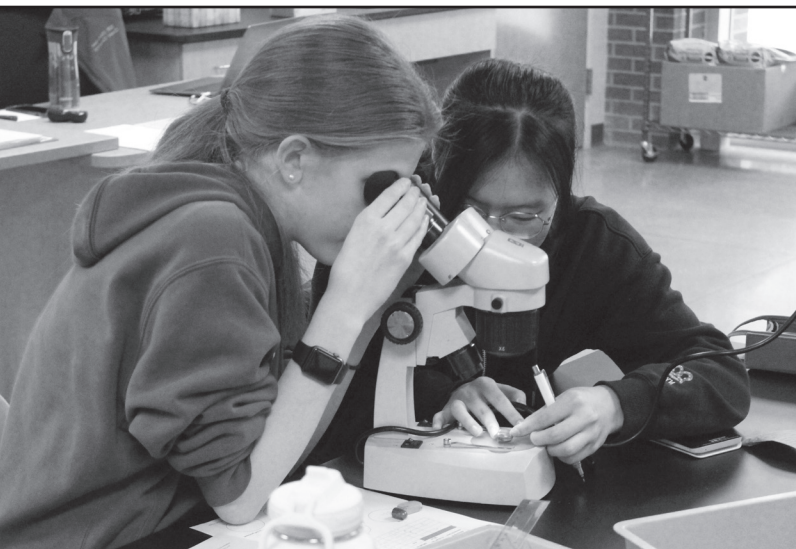
Morning Courses

will learn from real-life crime scene investigators as you dive into the world of CSI. You will perform the technique of DNA fingerprinting, learn how to analyze bullets, hair, dental impressions, and blood splatter, and study the skills required for successful crime investigation.

Developing Leadership

Instructors: Kelly Ruha (GRCHS English Teacher and Assistant Lacrosse Coach) and Eric Taylor (GRCHS Dean of Student Life and Varsity Basketball Coach)

Everybody has the ability to become a great leader on and off the field, and this class invites you to consider exactly the type of leader you want to be. We will discover what being a leader looks like in the context of sports by diving into a variety of different topics, such as creating a positive team culture and the dedication required to lead a team. We will have the opportunity to visit coaches, athletic directors, and others involved in athletics at schools such as Grand Valley, Calvin, Hope, and Davenport to expand our knowledge of what it means to be a great leader in sports—whether we're on or off the field.



Drawing the Human Form

Instructor: Jeff Condon (Pastel & Oil Artist)

This drawing class will focus on training our hands to draw what our eyes see. We will work with gesture, color, and portraiture from still life and a live model. Don't get freaked out—all levels are welcome and we will all improve, even during our short amount of time.

Esports: Team Building, Competition, and Career!

Instructors: Sandon Newton and Bradley Kingsbury (Protégé Game Studios)

Esports have exploded in popularity with high schools and universities looking to harness the good elements of video game play with mental and physical wellness. Esport requires an athletic mindset that focuses on optimizing your mind and body to perform at a high level during long video game competitions. The Protégé Esport experience will teach good health strategies in addition to social communication, teamwork, problem solving, and good sportsmanship through competitive video gaming. A field trip to a college Esport arena or to Protégé's PLAY Studio is planned.

Prerequisite: Protégé Game Studios uses the Nintendo Switch gaming console with the tournament-friendly video games "Rocket League," "Super Smash Brothers Ultimate," "Mario Kart 8," and "Splatoon 2/3." "Fortnight" may also be used, but with parental consent.

Food and Fitness

Instructor: Amy Petracek
(GRCHS Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher)

Do you want to practice some cooking skills and zest things up with a healthy twist? Are you tired of the same old workout routine, or looking to try something new? Then “Food and Fitness” is for you! We will try a variety of fitness activities, including things such as spinning, yoga, kickboxing, Zumba, ice skating, and more. We’ll also refuel after our fitness activities by making a variety of tasty foods, which will also include an Iron Chef-style competition. This class offers fun opportunities to collaborate with your peers, try new things, and learn some new skills.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$25 for this course to offset the cost of cooking/workout classes. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Free Money? Write Now!

Instructor: Lisa Rozema (GRCHS English Teacher)

Educational debt is the fastest-growing debt category in America today. According to the National Scholarship Providers Association, over 100 million dollars in scholarship money goes unclaimed every year (Forbes), yet finding time to identify scholarships and write strong applications is hard for students already balancing all the things. This class will give you guidance in identifying scholarships and essay contests, time to write, and feedback along the way. Students will be encouraged to enter the

Gerald R. Ford Foundation Essay Contest (top prize \$2,500) and the GR Economics Club Essay Contest (top prize \$3,000). Additionally, this course will be great for seniors who have been admitted to schools but need to write additional applications to scholarships or programs. Acceptance to honors programs, living learning communities, or school organizations often results in scholarship money, designated housing, or funding for study abroad. Get a head start on all of these this January!

Prerequisite: This class is targeted at Seniors, but open to Juniors or Sophomores interested in scholarship writing.

From Manuscript to Bookstore: An Introduction to the Publishing Industry

Instructor: Kelli Scholten (Program Manager at the Calvin Center for Faith & Writing)

How does a book get published? Join us as we delve into the world of publishing, learning about the many steps of the publishing process as well as the variety of career paths within the industry. Along the way, we will hear from professionals working in the industry in a variety of roles, and head out to visit local publishing houses and bookstores. You’ll also practice what you learn, working with classmates to select, edit, produce, and market your own chapbook. This class is perfect for avid readers, aspiring authors, and anyone simply curious about the world of publishing.

Morning Courses

The Great Outdoors

Instructor: Ross Graveling (Executive Director of Sportspersons Ministries International)

This class is designed to expose students to the outdoors. We will explore and learn about various activities to enjoy in the outdoors, including hunting, fishing, backpacking, hiking, outdoor survival, and gun safety. Creation is one of the ways we are able to experience and teach others about God; we will look at how to do this together. God has placed us on this earth to be stewards of His creation, so what does this mean for us and how do we care for the world He has given us as we enjoy these endeavors?

Additional Note: Students may be exposed to guns (firing pins removed for safety) and bows. Students will also have the opportunity to do an additional, optional, online component and earn their Hunter Safety Certificate.

Homemade Cameras + Windchimes + Medieval Weapons = Physics Fun!

Instructor: Matthew Falk (GRCHS Science Teacher)

Three epic projects in two weeks. We will first build pinhole cameras using oatmeal containers, pop cans, and electrical tape. Then, we will take pictures with our contraptions and develop them in a darkroom. Next, we will each build a custom wind chime worth proudly displaying outside our homes. With the remaining time, we will build catapults and launch balls at targets and compete for distance. Come have fun with physics!

Hooked on Crochet

Instructor: Yeo Myeong Yoon (GRCHS Math Teacher)

Be ready to unravel the magic of yarn, crochet wonders of vibrant colors, and bring creativity to create a craft of your choice. You can be an absolute beginner or be advanced with prior experience to join. In this course, you will be learning the foundational skills and patterns to be a confident crocheter. There will be a variety of options including coasters, a stuffed animal, a scarf, a hat, and many more to choose from and make your own. Come with an open mind and a willingness to challenge yourself and have fun!

Intermediate / Advanced Rock Climbing

Instructor: Frank Abissi
(NYSDEC Level II Rock Climbing Guide)

Take your climbing to the next level! This course focuses on building solid technique and good training habits as you work on more difficult climbs.

Prerequisite: Students must have climbing experience and be proficient in belaying.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$50 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Licensed to Drive But Clueless About My Car

Instructor: Donna Kamerman-Houskamp
(GRCHS World Language Teacher)

In this course, you will learn the various systems of a vehicle and understand the maintenance and repair demands for each. Thus, you will be able to communicate intelligently when your vehicle has a problem and not be at the mercy of a repair shop. You will also learn how to take preventative measures in vehicle maintenance.

Life Together

Instructors: GRCHS Staff

Life Together is a unique opportunity for all ninth graders to learn what it means to be Christian students who are part of a Christian community. Ninth graders from over twenty-five different middle schools will come together and spend ten days growing—both personally and as the class of 2028—as they participate in fun team-building activities, worship, community service, and a series of sectionals on a variety of subjects. Students will hear from Grand Rapids Christian staff and leaders from the community as they learn more about their gifts and talents and discover ways that God might use them to serve here at school, in their homes, and later in the workplace.

Prerequisite: All 9th-grade students will automatically be enrolled in Life Together during the morning *Winterim* session.

One Faith, Many Forms: A Primer on Christian Denominations

Instructor: Andrew Silagi (GRCHS English Teacher)

“One Faith, Many Forms: A Primer on Christian Denominations” is a course dedicated to giving students a deeper look into the many denominations that have developed within Christianity over the past two thousand years. Have you wondered what all the different churches believe and why they worship so differently? Are you curious about how these churches are a part of Grand Rapids and the surrounding area’s body of believers? Students taking this course will get to learn about—and get off campus at times to experience—the most historically and theologically significant traditions of Christianity that are still prevalent in Michigan and around the world today.



Morning Courses

Psychology in Film

Instructor: Jenn Benson
(GRCHS Social Studies and Psychology Teacher)

American movie audiences are fascinated by heartless serial killers, relatable characters who wrestle with psychological demons, seemingly incompatible couples, and families whose interactions mimic a circus act or a small-scale battlefield. Whether a serious drama such as *Good Will Hunting*, or a feel good story such as *Inside Out*, the dramatization of the psychological life of these characters keeps us glued to the screen. In this course, we will watch and analyze some of the all-time great psychological movies and learn about a variety of real-life psychological concepts and disorders. In this course, Hollywood and real-life scenarios meld together to create an unforgettable experience for students.

Prerequisite: Students must have permission to watch R-rated and PG-13 films. A film list, along with rating/reviews, will need to be signed by a parent/guardian.

Segment 1 Driver Education (10th, 11th, and 12th grade only)

Instructors: Staff from Official Driving School with support from GRCH staff

Grand Rapids Christian High School is excited to partner with Official Driving School to offer Segment 1 Driver Education. Students enrolled in Driver Education will complete their Segment 1 course requirements, which include basic maneuvers, compliance, and safe driving strategies. To meet state regulations, in addition to the *Winterim* class times, there will be two additional required two-hour sessions of class time: December 20 from 12-2 pm and December 21 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Throughout the program, in addition to their class

time, students must complete six hours of driving time and four hours of observation time—and with the December start date, these can be throughout Christmas break. Students will schedule their drives and observations on the first day of class. Driving and observation time is typically done before or after class and will leave from and return to GRCHS. Official Driving will do their best to schedule drives and observations at a convenient time, but please try to make yourself as available as possible throughout the course. We will hold a parent meeting prior to the first day of class with more details as well.

Prerequisite: Students must be 14 years and 8 months old by 12/20/2024 to enroll in this course.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$450 for this course that is collected prior to *Winterim*. (This is a discount from the usual Segment I course fee.)

So You Want To Slay A Dragon? (Tabletop RPGs)

Instructor: Nate Vanderzee
(GRCHS Video Production Teacher and Technology Coach)

Before *Zelda*, *Final Fantasy*, or *The Witcher*, role-playing games were played with friends around a table. They'd delve into dungeons and explore far off galaxies with nothing but dice, pen and paper, and their imaginations. This course will explore the exciting world of tabletop role-playing as we trace the history of the genre; learn how to play several game systems; and hold discussions about games, role-play, and faith. Students will also learn to lead a group as a game master. Much of our learning will take place with dice in hand as we explore rich fantasy and science-fiction worlds, and we'll even engage in exercises that have us creating our own worlds and stories.

Tee to Green: Golf Lessons for All Levels

Instructor: Clark Klaasen
(Golf Professional)

Get a jump-start on your golf season with lessons focused on swing instruction and training. Gain balance, speed, mobility, and control on your swing and learn how to use your core and legs to maximize results on the course. Regardless of whether your game is subpar or under-par, this course will help you improve.

Winterim (Taylor's Version)

Instructor: Libby Nelesen

Join Mrs. Nelesen as we explore the unbelievable career of Taylor Swift. From her country beginnings to her genre-defying pop, we will dive into Taylor's wide-range of impacts, uncover all the easter eggs, and discern how we can engage in such fandom through a biblical lens. Through critical listening, comparative analysis, friendship bracelet making and arguing which album is best, we will gain a comprehensive understanding of how Taylor Swift has shaped modern music and pop culture. This class is perfect for long-time Swifties or for those who want to discover what she is all about. Screaming your favorite song lyrics is 100% guaranteed.





Afternoon Courses

3D Video Game Development with Unreal Engine

Instructors: Sandon Newton and the staff from Protégé Game Studios

Work with a professional video game developer to learn the tools, processes, and techniques to create a 3-D video game. The course will expose students to 3-D Modeling programs and the Unreal Game Engine, which is used professionally in the video game industry. Students will learn to create 3-D video game assets, rig and animate characters, and design a game level by placing these assets into a game level using the Unreal Engine.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$100 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Aliens, Evolution, and AI

Instructor: Faith Stults (The Biologos Foundation)

Science and technology shape our daily lives and society as a whole in powerful ways. So what does it look like to follow Jesus in this scientific world? Come along on a tour of the universe as we consider how science and technology can help us to know, worship, and serve God more deeply. We'll explore everything from the Big Bang and aliens, to evolution and climate change, to artificial intelligence and beyond. All perspectives and questions are welcome!

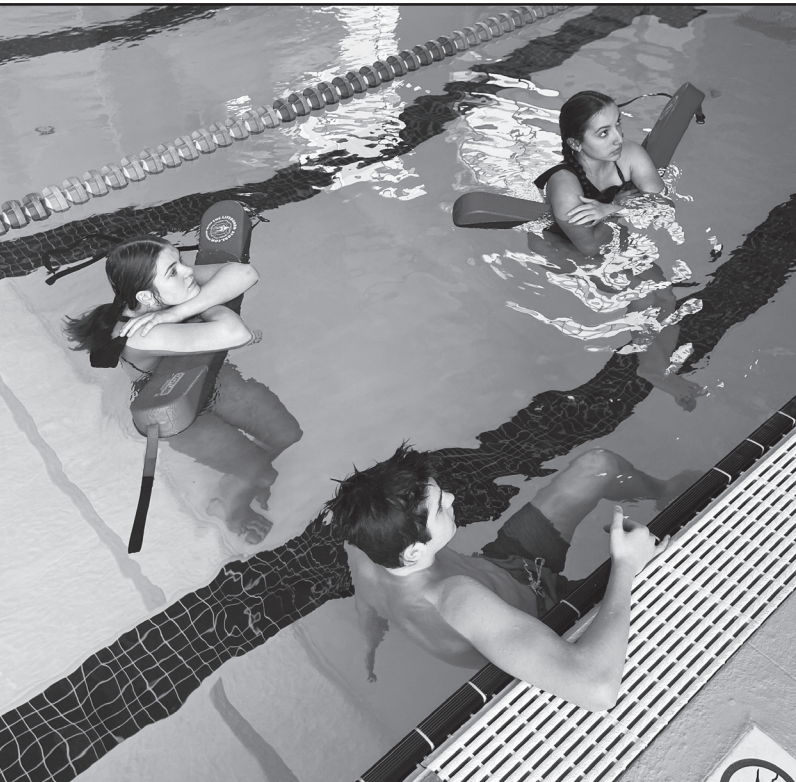
American Red Cross Lifeguard Training

Instructors: James Valentine and the Staff at the Kroc Center

This course provides the necessary knowledge and skills to become a professional lifeguard. Lifeguard candidates will learn how to prevent, recognize, and respond to aquatic emergencies and provide care for breathing, cardiac, and first aid emergencies until EMS personnel can take over. Training includes in-water and on-land scenarios, videos, and discussion. Upon successful completion of a practical skills test and a score of 80% or higher on the written exams, participants will receive a two-year Waterpark Lifeguard/First Aid/CPR/AED certification.

Prerequisite: Students must be 16 years old or older and must pass the pre-course skills test consisting of 300-yard continuous swim using a combination of front crawl and breaststroke, two minutes of treading water without using hands, and a brick test, which requires swimming 20 yards without goggles to retrieve a 10-pound brick from the bottom of the deep end and kicking 20 yards back with the brick within one minute and 40 seconds.

Additional Note: There is an online portion that must be completed outside of the class. Information for the online portion will be emailed from the American Red Cross before the class begins.



Afternoon Courses

Anatomy Across the Animal Kingdom: A Comparative Dissection Journey

Instructors: Staff at the VanAndel Institute

Explore the world of comparative anatomy while using your dissecting skills! Over the course of the program, you will dissect five diverse organisms—shark, squid, starfish, fetal pig, and frog, discovering their unique anatomical structures and functions. Through hands-on dissections, you will identify similarities and differences among these organisms, gaining insights into their evolutionary adaptations and biological systems. This program, hosted at the VanAndel Institute, offers a comprehensive understanding of how different species' anatomy reflects their ecological niches and evolutionary history, providing a deeper appreciation for the complexity of life.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$50 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Art Therapy with Salted Journaling

Instructor: Sarah Marentette
(Bible Study Leader and Creator of Salted Journaling)

This course is an invitation to use art therapy as a way to develop students' devotional practice. We will use mixed media art from photography to paper to watercolor and acrylic painting. We will have a provided Salted Journaling Journal for the foundation of most of the work. Salted Journaling is based on Matthew 5:13: "We are the salt of the earth," and its goal is to preserve God's Word. This course will also include a daily devotional and conversation about how verses can be used to enhance your relationship with God.



Become an MHSAA Registered Official

Instructor: Dave Nieboer (GRCHS Academic Skills Teacher and Varsity Football Coach)

Looking for a side hustle? A chance to earn some extra money while staying active? Become a registered official with the MHSAA! There is a shortage of officials in Michigan, so you will easily be able to find work—and the pay is great! Registered officials are making twice as much as they did last year. During class we will spend time going through online modules for your sport of choice. For the rest of class we will be developing our skills by playing and officiating different sports.

Behind the Scenes: Building Radium Girls

Instructors: Kate Mellitz (GRCHS Director of Theatre) and Chris Cook (GRCHS Center for Arts and Worship Technical Director)

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be part of the crew for a Stage Company production? Come find out what technical theatre is all about and help us build the set for this year's winter show: Radium Girls. Students will learn how to use basic power tools, practice faux painting techniques, and earn recognition in our playbill and thespian points.

Butter, Sugar, Flour

Instructor: Kelli Basher
(Certified Wilton Method Instructor)

Join me and step into the wonderful world of cake decorating! Learn the essentials of baking from scratch as I guide you through techniques for making cookies, cupcakes, and cakes. From mixing the perfect batter to learning about different decorating mediums, you'll build a solid foundation in creating sweet treats. Explore simple yet stunning decorating techniques, including easy icing designs and beginner-friendly fondant work. Uncover the joy of transforming your treats into edible works of art while gaining confidence in the kitchen. Join me for a hands-on experience filled with laughter, learning, and of course, plenty of delicious goodies to enjoy!

Cat Rescue 101

Instructor: Priscilla Meeuwenberg
(GRCHS English Teacher)

Love cats? Want to share that love with some cats waiting for their forever homes? Cat Rescue 101 is for you! You'll learn about the good work being done in our community to decrease the feral cat population and find homes for some sweet felines. We'll spend most of our time at Second Chance Cats of West Michigan, a local cat rescue. We'll learn about running a shelter, from intake to adoption, take in some basic medical knowledge of cat care, work in the shelter by cleaning the cats' rooms, and most importantly, show love to all the furry residents.

Prerequisite: Students must be comfortable physically and medically (non-allergic) with cats.

Afternoon Courses

Christian Fit Body Bootcamp

Instructor: Jawaun Kenney (GRCHS Academic Interventionist and Varsity Football Coach)

This *Winterim* course will allow students to develop a workout plan and build healthy eating habits. The course is designed to encourage total body health and strength. There will be an emphasis on positive lifestyle changes and avoiding the improper use of crash diets. We will explore many different ways to stay in shape while working all muscle groups. Our class will also navigate the best options for maintaining a healthy food intake plan. The purpose of “Fit Body, Fit Mind” is not just to create a healthy body but a healthy mindset toward fitness—with God at the forefront.

Cooking and Culture

Instructors: Raquel Bartaway (GRCHS World Language Teacher) and Shelly Hendricks (GRCHS World Language Teacher)

Do you like to cook? Do you like to eat? Are you pretty adventurous about trying new foods? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then you will love being part of “Cooking and Culture!” We will be focusing on Spanish and Latin American cuisine and will make and eat a variety of appetizers, main dishes, and desserts. We will also explore the culture of the countries whose dishes we are sampling and may visit local restaurants and markets. The best part is that you will walk away from this class with a complete cookbook that includes all the recipes we try. Come cook, eat, and experience culture with us!

Dogs!

Instructor: Becky Kissinger (GRCHS Math and Educational Support Services Teacher)

Do you have a dog? Would you like to someday? Is there a picture of your dog on your phone? Let’s celebrate God’s amazing creation by learning more about “man’s best friend.” We will spend two weeks learning all about dogs, including breeds, genetics, health, training, grooming, and service dogs, just to name a few. We will read the training book *The Loved Dog* by best-selling author Tamar Geller. We will meet dog experts, go on field trips, work with dogs, meet a GRPD K-9 unit, do a doggie service project, and even have a dog show with our very own dogs! If you love animals and enjoy hands-on activities, this is the class for you.

Exploring the Criminal Justice System

Instructor: Stacy McGinnis (School DEIB Consultant and Retired Superintendent of a Juvenile Detention Center)

Do you have an interest in becoming a police officer, lawyer, or probation officer? Or, are you curious about courtroom proceedings? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this course is for you! We will examine the legal process from arrest to the courtroom, and we will actually observe a live hearing and tour the GRPD. This course will feature guest speakers, including a few professionals in the criminal justice field. Students will also experience a virtual tour of the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center as well as a field trip to the Kent County Courthouse.

Prerequisite: Students must have permission to view R-rated movies. Titles available upon request.

Grand Rapids City Police Department: Youth Academy

Instructor: Ofc. Andrew Snyder
(Community Engagement Unit of the GRPD)

This program is intended for students who may be interested in learning about or pursuing a future career in law enforcement. This program is designed to give students a taste of what being a police officer is all about. Students will head off-campus daily to receive hands-on instruction from officers representing many of the different units within the Grand Rapids Police Department. This training will take place at the Grand Rapids Police Department. This is a great opportunity for any student who wants to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of police officers.

Hand Embroidery for Beginners

Instructor: Megan Karsten
(GRCHS Academic Skills Teacher)

Have you ever wanted to add your own personal flair to your backpack? Or add some cute florals to your favorite pair of jeans? In this class you will learn to hand embroider along with your instructor! You will learn what it looks like to pick up a new hobby with grace and how to lead yourself without having a handy expert. This class will provide you with the time and space you may have never had to pick up this new hobby. Students in this class will make lots of mistakes and should have a growth mindset. We will work through 2-3 different embroidery projects hoping to end with embroidering one of your personal items.

Introduction to Rock Climbing

Instructor: Frank Abissi
(NYSDEC Level II Rock Climbing Guide)

Even though rock climbing has been around a long time (the first recorded mountain climb is in the Bible), rock climbing is one of the fastest-growing sports today. This course will show you the basics of climbing, starting with safety and climbing movements. Everyone will learn how to inspect and use equipment. We will look at leadership roles in climbing and climbing instruction. We will also explore teaching climbing to people with disabilities. Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$50 for this course. Financial aid may be available. See Mr. Karsten for details.

Joy on Tour

Instructors: Abby Vredevelde (GRCHS Front Office Staff and *Winterim* Internship Coordinator) and Melissa Allen (GRCHS World Language Teacher)

You have a gift—and we're going to use it to brighten other peoples' days! The purpose of this class is to bring JOY to those who need a boost. We will selflessly serve and deliver and create joy for others. We'll read up on the "why" we do this, discover what we ourselves require to pour out joy, and we'll get out and do the joy-bringing! We will meet ahead of time to plan out our goals and giftings to best fit this group!

Afternoon Courses

Lights, Camera, Action!

Instructor: Chad Kremer (Professional Film Editor)

You ever wonder what it takes to make a film? Well, wonder no more! Lights, Camera, Action! is a course with the sole intention to create one short film with your fellow classmates that will be entered in the Digital Arts, Film, and Television (D.A.F.T.) Michigan Student Film Festival. From the script to the screen, learn each role and how faith can play a tangible part in each facet of filmmaking. Experience the value of teamwork in this creative and technically intensive class with one goal in mind: finishing and premiering our short film to the world!

Life in the Movies

Instructor: Julian Newman
(Filmmaker, Artist, and Actor)

This course will combine love for film, the art of storytelling, and the personal pursuit of purpose. Using the famed screenwriter Michael Hague's 4 tiered elements of character and the 8 "Hero Truths", participants will go on a fun cinematic adventure. Students will break down movies, dissect story beats, and enjoy watching and talking films.

Prerequisite: Students must have permission to view R-rated movies. Titles available upon request.

Making a Difference

Instructors: Jane Hilbrands (GRCHS Academic Skills Teacher) and David Mosterd (GRCHS Bible and Theology Teacher)

Each day we will head off campus to visit organizations around Grand Rapids that work to improve our community. We will learn about local issues like the housing crisis, food insecurity, and

environmental initiatives. Not only will we hear from the experts in the front lines helping others, we will get to roll up our sleeves and jump in to make a difference!

Making Music

Instructor: Lydia Parker
(Freelance Professional Opera Singer)

In this course, we will be exploring the whys and wherefores when it comes to writing and appreciating music. We will be exploring it from a fully creative perspective, as well as from the perspective of music that is requested on a specific theme style, and or purpose. The goal of this course is to allow students to think about music more critically, to allow them to perceive music, not just as entertainment, but as something with a purpose. We will be looking at different genres and doing a little bit of musicology study, as well as some creative aspects, such as the composing of music.

Much About the Dutch: Introduction to Dutch Language and Culture

Instructor: Robyn Potts
(GRCHS World Language and Academic Skills Teacher)

Would you like to learn more about the Dutch heritage? In this class, you will experience a bit of what it means to be Dutch. You'll try out a few words and phrases, learn some history and traditions, and taste some food. We will visit a local Delft and wooden shoe factory, a Dutch history museum, watch a Dutch movie, and maybe even meet Sinterklaas. Wat leuk!

Prerequisite: Students must have permission to view the R-rated movie, *Oorlogswinter* (Winter in Wartime).

SAT & ACT Success Squad

Instructor: Samantha Hartemink
(SAT/ACT Workshop Instructor)

Test taking isn't anyone's favorite activity, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun learning the tricks and hacks for the ACT and SAT. This class will help you plan to achieve your best score on the ACT and SAT. It's a *Winterim* class that has the potential to put money in your pocket—at least in terms of college scholarships!



Segment 1 Driver Education (10th, 11th, and 9th grade only)

Instructors: Staff from Official Driving School with support from GRCH staff

Grand Rapids Christian High School is excited to partner with Official Driving School to offer Segment 1 Driver Education. Students enrolled in Driver Education will complete their Segment 1 course requirements, which include basic maneuvers, compliance, and safe driving strategies. To meet state regulations, in addition to the *Winterim* class times, there will be two additional required two-hour sessions of class time: December 20 from 12-2 pm and December 21 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Throughout the program, in addition to their class time, students must complete six hours of driving time and four hours of observation time—and with the December start date, these can be throughout Christmas break. Students will schedule their drives and observations on the first day of class. Driving and observation time is typically done before or after class and will leave from and return to GRCHS. Official Driving will do their best to schedule drives and observations at a convenient time, but please try to make yourself as available as possible throughout the course. We will hold a parent meeting prior to the first day of class with more details as well.

Prerequisite: Students must be 14 years and 8 months old by 12/20/2024 to enroll in this course.

Course Fee: There is an additional fee of \$450 for this course that is collected prior to *Winterim*. (This is a discount from the usual Segment I course fee.)

Afternoon Courses

Strategy Games

Instructor: Matthew Falk (GRCHS Science Teacher)

Join us if you love to play strategy games and want to play a lot! Learn how to play—and win—a wide assortment of strategy games. We will plan to get off-campus to check out a local game store, but will also spend the bulk of our time learning to play *Settlers of Catan*, *Cities & Knights of Catan*, *Ticket to Ride* (multiple versions), *Bohnanza*, *Splendor* (with expansions), *Power Grid*, *Bears vs. Babies*, and more!

Take a Ride on the Magic School Bus

Instructors: Stephanie Boven (GRCHS Science Teacher) and Jillian Konyndyk (GRCHS Science Teacher)

Seat belts everyone! Ride on the Magic School Bus with Mrs. Boven and Ms. Konyndyk as we explore Grand Rapids through the eyes of a scientist. We might not be able to swing through the stars, but we can visit the planetarium. We might not be able to get baked into a pie, but we can bake pizza pies! Each day, we'll watch an episode of your favorite childhood science show, then hop on the bus for an adventure around Grand Rapids to explore the episode's themes. We'll venture to the water works, a local restaurant kitchen, the recycling center, the landfill, the AirZoo, farms, a fitness center, museums, and more. Ride on the Magic School Bus with us! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Upcycle: Tinkering with a Purpose

Instructor: Kevin VanHarn (GRCHS Business Teacher and Adventure Club Coordinator)

Come join us as we work out of the bike shop at Upcycle Bikes! Students will learn from a seasoned bike shop veteran and will work on bikes in the shop. These bikes are cleaned, upfitted, and donated to people who need reliable transportation. This course is for those who are interested in serving the community and tinkering with bikes! No previous experience necessary (although those with experience would be useful in completing more bike projects and helping others).

Watercolor Workshop

Instructor: Krista Krygsman (GRCHS Art Teacher)

Watercolor Workshop is a creative space where imaginative people like YOU can become more experienced with watercolor painting. You will have the opportunity to improve your art skills, learn abstraction and illustration techniques, explore urban sketching and bookmaking, practice color theory, and gain the confidence to paint your world fearlessly! Urban sketching trips will take you out of school and into our community to apply your new drawing and watercolor skills in various locations. All you need is a willing spirit and desire to grow!

WHODUNIT: A Murder Mystery Class

Instructor: Noelle Richter
(Former GRCHS English Teacher)

The scene is artfully constructed. Cue the corpse. Add in an unbecoming suspect or two. Call in the prying sleuth. Sprinkle in a series of clues, and we have the beginnings of a whodunit. Together, we will dive into the subgenre of whodunit by analyzing various murder mystery fan favorites. Play the role of detective as we uncover the elements of mystery in *Knives Out* (2019), the classic board game and film *Clue* (1985), and the iconic true crime podcast *Serial* (2014). Attend a murder mystery party. Unravel clues at an escape room. Enjoy a whodunit theater production, and design your very own murder mystery game. This class will give you the opportunity to practice analytical sleuthing skills and be your very own Mabel Mora, Nancy Drew, or Hercule Poirot.

***Winterim* Intramurals Adventure: Tournament Style**

Instructor: Harold Gee
(GRCHS Physical Education Teacher)

Students will participate in a variety of intramural tournaments, such as badminton, volleyball, and table tennis. They will also participate in several off-campus activities including possible sledding at Pando, activities at Craig's Cruisers, and ice skating at Rosa Parks Circle.



College Visit Experience

Finding time to research and visit colleges alongside school work and extracurricular activities is a challenge for many students. The aim of the College Visit Experience is to give students an opportunity to accomplish some of the necessary work needed as they make big decisions about life after high school, and to give time to do visits that are hard to fit in a busy schedule.

Enrollment

Registration for the college visit experience is done through the *Winterim* Coordinator (bkarsten@grcs.org) or the counseling office (janderson@grcs.org). Students who choose this option are first enrolled in a Google Classroom that is set up to help navigate the required elements. Additionally, students must do some pre-work like setting up visits and preparing a plan for the two weeks of *Winterim*. The College Visit Experience will be available to 11th- and 12th-grade students (and 10th-grade students with approval from their counselor).

Expectations

Students opting for the college visit experience are required to research and plan eight college visits (either in-person or virtual) prior to *Winterim* and then, during *Winterim*, attend those visits (and provide documentation). At the visits, students will complete a college visit note sheet and, if in-person, take some photos of their experience. Additionally, students will be required to research potential scholarship opportunities, write a brief reflection of their experience and future plans, and log their hours. For more information, contact the *Winterim* Coordinator.



Internships

W*interim* internships add to the high school experience by providing 11th- and 12th-grade students (and 10th-grade students upon request) with the opportunity to make connections between what they have learned in their classes and their work in the professional world. These real, working-life experiences can assist students in making college and career choices and provide the potential to gain an additional adult mentor in their field of interest. For example, students may realize that God is calling them to a career in the same field where they interned. They could also realize that their gifts do not align with this career. Either way, an internship is a valuable tool in providing a better understanding of living out one's faith in the workplace.

Enrollment

Students may apply to do a *Winterim* internship. It is the student's responsibility to line up the internship, and students are encouraged to begin this as early as the previous spring.

Internship applications are due November 4, 2024

Hosts

Internship hosts are community partners who support the mission of Grand Rapids Christian Schools and help to guide students and foster their talents as they become productive members of the community. While there is a small number of hosts who contact us with their willingness to take an intern, it is primarily the student's responsibility to find and set up an internship with a host. We encourage students to find their own internships through family, friends, or community relationships.

Expectations

To participate in *Winterim* as an intern is a privilege that involves significant responsibility on the part of the student and family. The internship is a formally-structured learning experience that starts long before the first day on the job. Student interns and their parents are expected to review and understand the application guidelines and responsibilities. All interns must participate in internship training during the fall of 2024.

A *Winterim* intern must accumulate a minimum of 50 hours from January 6-17, cannot be paid, and must arrange transportation for themselves.



An application will be required for final internship approval by the coordinator. Additionally, the internship will be evaluated through the student's daily record of hours and list of activities, host evaluation, a site visit, and a completed online portfolio. Applications are available online or from the *Winterim* Internship Coordinator (avredeveld@grcs.org).

Travel

Travel offers students distinctive experiences. While being immersed in a cultural experience, students learn firsthand by exploring and serving a community unlike their own. With a variety of locations, budgets, and formats, all students interested in travel have the opportunity to choose trips suitable to them.

Enrollment

10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade students may apply to travel for *Winterim*. Most student travelers applied and enrolled for trips last spring, but certain trips may still have space available. See the trip leader for more information.

Leaders

Trip leaders must be Grand Rapids Christian Schools employees. They will work with a variety of approved agencies to provide a life-changing trip for students. Parents may not create their own trips for their children.

Equity and Financial Commitment

Grand Rapids Christian High School is committed to providing travel opportunities for all students wishing to travel during *Winterim*. There are a

variety of trip options that vary greatly in price. Choosing to travel is a financial commitment, but Grand Rapids Christian Schools will provide some financial support to families that show need by completing an application. Each year, the *Winterim* committee will also select recipients for the Lifelong Explorer scholarship, granted to select applicants. GRCHS will also provide a few fundraising opportunities. A student's tuition must be in good standing to apply for travel.

Application Process

Once the *Winterim* trips are announced, the trip leaders will provide all application materials required. Each sponsoring teacher can use her or his own guidelines in qualifying travelers. A student's age, academic performance, application, and recommendation forms will all be considered.



Australia:

Outback Biology

Leaders: Paul Diekema and Kara Kits

Brazil:

Rio and the Amazon

Leaders: Julie Watson and Nate Zietse

Colorado:

Varsity Boys Hockey

Leader: Rachel VanSchepen

Costa Rica:

¡Pura Vida!

Leaders: Jonathan Quist and Sarah Quist

Dominican Republic:

Serve, Rest, Grow

Leader: Frank Padilla

Florida:

Sports Performance Training at IMG

Leaders: Diamond Dixon and Crystal Strickland

Ecuador:

Andes & Amazon Adventure

Leaders: Kara Kits and Paul Diekema

Japan:

Robotics, Engineering, and the Future of Cities

Leaders: John Christians and Neil Karsten

Los Angeles:

Christ and Culture

Leaders: Mark VanderWerf and Steve Tuit

Sarasota:

Alpha Win Triathlon

Leaders: Tim Stapert and Nick DeKoster

South Africa:

An African Adventure

Leaders: Seth Davies and Joe Brower

Switzerland, Italy, France, and Spain:

European Exploration

Leaders: Kathryn Camargo and Kirk Sundberg

How to Register

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dates for *Winterim* registration:

- **12th Grade Registration: Monday, October 28**
- **11th Grade Registration: Tuesday, October 29**
- **10th Grade Registration: Wednesday, October 30**
- **9th Grade Registration: Friday, November 1**

All *Winterim* registration will take place during the lunch break.

We will be using a *Winterim* registration system called SCHED. Prior to registration, students will be emailed directions and a video tutorial on how to register. When your registration window opens, you will be emailed a link to SCHED, and you are free to register. Registration help will be available during the lunch hour in the Garage on each day of *Winterim* registration.

If the course(s) that a student wants to enroll in are full at registration, the student may sign up on the waiting lists for capped courses. A link to the waiting lists will be sent to students in a registration email. Be sure to register for courses; do not assume an opening will happen. However, if openings occur, students will be placed into these courses based on the timestamp of the waiting list, so be sure to utilize the waiting list immediately after registration.



We are looking for
your **one, best photo**
sharing your *Winterim*
experience for our

2025 WINTERIM PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST!

**THE
CHALLENGE**

Photos that tell a *Winterim* story
will be the most successful.

Each student may only submit
one photo, so choose wisely!

You will be emailed a link for photo
contest submission during *Winterim*.

The deadline for submitting photos is
Friday, **January 24 at 3 pm.**

Three top prizes will be awarded,
and smaller prizes may be
awarded for different categories
(trips, courses/dual enrollment, and
college visits/internships) as well.

**THE
CHOICE
IS YOURS!**



**Winners will be announced at the
Winterim Celebration chapel**

