

KYIV INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

KOZAK KORNER

Sat, May 8, 2021

Newsletter Issue #34



Knowledge • Integrity • Service

Kozak Korner #33. April 24, 2021

Director Message

Dear Kozak Community,

The Year of Accreditation

This year we have been undergoing our re-accreditation with MSA. The entire campus has been involved with ensuring our school is in accordance with the 12 standards required. The entire community, from parents, teachers, and students completed a survey that itemized every aspect of each standard. From that data, we have determined our strengths, weaknesses, and a plan for improvement for each standard.

We dedicated Coffee Chats to communicating information to parents and providing their input into our needs for improvement. Some parents attended our zoom meetings with committees to learn more about the process and continue the conversation. The whole idea of accreditation is centered around improvement. We are constantly searching for ways to improve, and this provides us the guidelines to follow.

May 18th is our School Visit from the MSA team. This year is unlike previous years. Instead of the MSA team flying in and getting to personally see and visit with the community, it is all online. We will have classrooms, teachers, students, parents, and staff asked to join the conversation via zoom to speak about and showcase our amazing school.

Below, you will see some infographics that have been designed to highlight the QSI and KIS objectives for growth and some of the next steps to improve in each MSA Standard.

We would like to thank everyone for all your help and involvement, as we have gone through this process.

Sincerely,



Luke Woodruff
Director
Kyiv International School



Corene Anderson
MSA Internal Coordinator
Kyiv International School



Yana Chopovska-Mudrak
Internal Coordinator
Kyiv International School

Victory Day



Kyiv International School will be closed on Monday, May 10th in observance of Victory Day.

Outdoor Classrooms



Spring time and warmer weather means that learners at Kyiv International School have been spending more time outside during class.

QSI & KIS OBJECTIVES FOR GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT

21ST CENTURY SKILLS GOAL

Students will demonstrate an increased proficiency in the 4 Cs of 21st Century Skills

- Collaboration Creativity**
- Communication Critical Thinking**
- *Organize **school action teams** to promote the understanding of the 4 Cs of 21st Century Skills among the community.
- *Provide **professional development** for teachers how to better develop these skills in lessons, assessment, and school activities.
- * **Communicate and celebrate** activities that highlight the 4 Cs.
- *Develop innovation spaces for activities connected to the 4 Cs and **integrate** its use to foster the development of these skills.

PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE!

MASTERY LEARNING GOAL

KIS will improve its Mastery Learning practices and understanding in a variety of ways.

- *QSI will **develop** Mastery Learning Training Modules for students, parents, and teachers to promote a better understanding of the key components of Mastery Learning.
- *Provide more **professional development** on the key components of Mastery Learning and best practices in the classroom.
- *Provide the opportunity for **feedback** aimed at improving the implementation and development of Mastery Learning.
- * Provide regular **Support** to teachers in the implementation of Mastery Learning.

LEARN WITH MEANING!

LITERACY GOAL

Students will demonstrate improved literacy skills.

- *Organize **school action teams** to evaluate school libraries and resources, as well as evaluate school data, curriculum, and program implementation.
- *Provide **professional development** and general literacy training for all literacy teachers to maintain best practices.
- *Identify a specific areas of literacy needs using baseline data for each year's school professional development.
- * **Communicate and celebrate** literacy progress, student work, and the literacy program at KIS.

LITERACY EXPANDS MINDS!

COMMUNICATION GOAL

KIS will promote positive and transparent communication and will improve reciprocal communication that promotes organizational understanding and active feedback.

- *KIS will host regular **Community Open Forums** focused on different topics.
- *Identify the best way to gather student and parent **feedback**, analyze feedback, and share results with the community.
- * Share and display the **organizational structure** of QSI and KIS along with the **decision making process**.
- *Ensure all stakeholders understand how the school communicates with the community.

BE CONNECTED!

Knowledge • Integrity • Service

MSA STANDARDS 1-6

Based on the survey results and meetings with staff and parents, below are some comments concerning some next steps for each standard and how the school could improve.

THE MISSION

- More conversation and focus on the mission with new and returning staff.
- Develop a KIS-specific Statement of Purpose
- Continue discussion connected to the mission during staff meetings to align practice and actions towards others.
- Promote and unpack the mission statement in the newsletter and other social media.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

- Create a consistent survey tool to provide longitudinal data.
- Streamline school and stakeholder communication to address all areas of school's programs and operations
- Share Climate Survey with the community earlier in the school year.
- Package and present the information from the climate survey

FACILITIES

- Continue to explore the possibilities of improving spaces within the school
- Look for the opportunity to expand the area of the campus with neighboring land
- Share facility improvement plans with the community.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

- Incorporate and build stronger alliances within our school population
- Publish any school affiliates
- Introduce the Advisory Board members and share information about the functioning of the Advisory Board with the community

FINANCE

- Share a year-end review of facilities and finances - where we have spent money, where we plan to spend money in the future to invest in the school environment and programs.
- Increase investor participation by looking into community partners as investors for scholarships, actions, or events.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

- Continue to recruit qualified substitute teachers
- Publicize the policy for submitting complaints and grievances
- Open more pathways for students to discuss their needs and concerns
- Train, support, and encourage teachers in providing an individual approach to assessing students, being flexible, and following our school philosophy "success for All"

MSA STANDARDS 7-12

Based on the survey results and meetings with staff and parents, below are some comments concerning some next steps for each standard and how the school could improve.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Work with students to take brain breaks during classes.
- Examine traffic patterns and busy times in the health center, and ensure that there is a plan for all students to be treated in a timely manner.
- Continue to improve safety drills and health and safety inspections at the school to proactively keep things properly maintained and increase the quality of care.

ASSESSMENT AND EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING

- Create a committee that oversees assessing student learning, school-wide performance, and provides training of teachers.
- Implement divisional subject teams to explore common mindsets, strategies, resources, and alignment.
- Create defined expectations for communication between parent-teacher and student-teacher among the different divisions.

STUDENT LIFE AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Provide more time for discussion of our code of conduct for students and staff at the beginning of each school year, and periodically throughout the year.
- Design a mentorship program for coaches and activity leaders.
- Have better access to information and details of all the sports, activities, competitions, travel and seasons.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

- An increase of professional development opportunities that include best practices, strategies in the classroom, vertical alignment with subjects
- Plan yearly meetings with core subject teachers to work on vertical alignment.
- Provide more parent workshops focused on understanding the nuances of the school's education programs

STUDENT SERVICES

- Improve the use and visibility of our alumni group for KIS with yearly meetings and a social platform to stay connected.
- Formalize an off-boarding program for families and staff who are leaving the school community.
- Continue to research and connect with any available community services outside of KIS. Seek online options and opportunities.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Increase training and professional development of students and staff use of educational technology, software, resources, and programs.
- Research new software and programs that could be used.

Upcoming Events

Middle & Secondary School Red/Black Day Schedule

May				
M	T	W	T	F
3 (a)	4 (b)	5 (a)	6 (b)	7 (b)
10	11 (b)	12 (a)	13 (b)	14 (a)
17 (a)	18 (b)	19 (a)	20 (b)	21 (b)
24 (a)	25 (b)	26 (a)	27 (b)	28 (a)

The community calendar highlights learning, co-curricular, student life, and campus wide events happening at Kyiv International School. The calendar also lists International Days and National Holidays that are reflective of the diverse community at KIS. View full calendar.

Notes: May 10 is Victory Day. There is no school on this day.

GO45 in the Middle School

Starting on April 12th, students and teachers in the middle school took part in the GO45 Challenge.

What does GO45 mean? GO45 = Get Outside for 45 minutes. The activity didn't matter, the challenge was to simply **GET OUTSIDE!**

Getting away from a screen and getting outside is good for our physical and emotional health. Sometimes, we need a little encouragement to take care of ourselves, especially during online school.

As of April 23: Collectively, we got outside for almost 17,000 minutes! Wow!

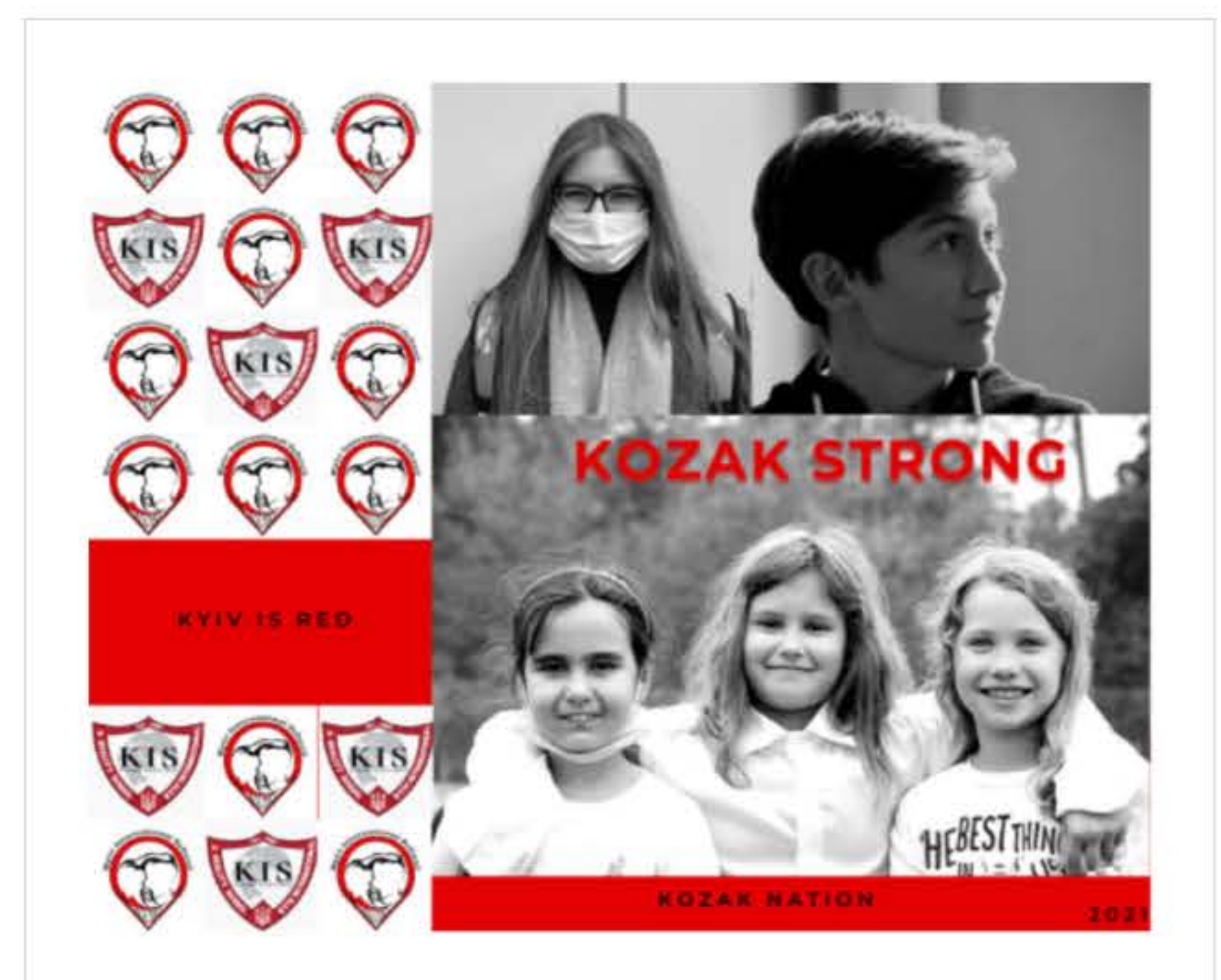
Grade Level: The 12-year-old Class had the most GO45 days recorded during the challenge.

By Cohort - most GO45 days recorded:

11-year-old Class: Homeroom 11-4

12-year-old Class: Homeroom 12-3

13-year-old Class: Homeroom 13-1



Languages Offered Online in 2021-22



Our online provider for QSI schools, QVS, can offer AP world language courses online. Of course, it is always best to attend face-to-face lessons, but if an AP language course is either not offered by us here at KIS, or doesn't fit a student's schedule for 2021-22, we can get the student that course online through QVS.

QVS asks only that students' express interest now so that they can staff accordingly.

These QVS world language courses would be offered as a mixture of asynchronous and synchronous instruction, with emphasis on the latter. This will be difficult to accomplish, but they think that world languages should be taught face to face (all courses should, but world languages perhaps more so than other courses), and if they need to be taken online, they should not be completely asynchronous, online courses.

We are truly fortunate to be in a position to offer this option. I would like to ask you, at this time, to express interest for online AP Spanish, AP French, AP German, AP Chinese, or other AP world language online courses. (To be clear, we currently offer AP French and AP Spanish here at KIS, so this is only if a student wishes to take a different AP world language or the French/Spanish class we offer does not fit the student's schedule.)

If there is a group of students within our QIS network of schools who need the same online AP world language course next year, there is still enough time to find a teacher and to prepare the course, rather than going to an outside provider to give us a completely asynchronous online language course.

Let Mr. Legan (scott-legan@kyiv.qsi.org) or Ms. Rech (lindsey-rech@kyiv.qsi.org) know your interest as soon as possible, please.

A Letter From the PTO



Dear teachers,

On behalf of all KIS families, let us express our deepest gratitude for playing such an important role in shaping our children's education. We appreciate you for all that you have sacrificed, for being so motivated every day even in this challenging time, for your patience and kindness, for your friendship and love.

You have instilled in our children a great value for education, and a real heart to believe in younger generations and inspire them to become themselves. You gave them all the reasons to dream big and all the resources to achieve it. We truly appreciate your contribution.

Wishing you a joy and happiness, strong KOZAK health and all-around wellbeing! Keep up the incredible work!

With love and respect,

PTO Board

Educator Profile Learning Stories



. Ruth Karnowski

Ms. Karnowski has over forty (40!) years of teaching experience. Her journey as an educator has taken her to Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota; the Minnesota State Prison for Juvenile Girls; a rural village in Alaska; the QSI school in Kosice, Slovakia; and now here at Kyiv International School.

Ms. Karnowski is one of the most upbeat and interesting people you are likely to meet (ask her about her signing experience in London).

As an educator, she is determined to "meet each student where they are and help them find their own special path to success".

5L Earth Day

Before Spring Break, students in Mrs. Legan's Five-Year-Old Class celebrated Earth Day online. Students discovered the meaning of Earth Day and learned what it means to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.



9B Persuasive Essay

Ms. Bateman's class recently concluded a unit on how to write persuasive essays. A persuasive essay is an essay used to convince a reader about a particular idea or focus, usually one that the author believes in.

Below are three that she wanted to highlight.



"Longer Recess Time in School" by Krystof

Elementary



"The School Day Should be Shorter" by Mykyta

Elementary



"Etiquette Should be Taught in Schools" by William

Elementary

Student Life

Middle School Drama

Middle School Drama, a vibrant and student focused after school activity, has been up and running since April 5th, meeting virtually twice a week. Despite the physical distance, these actors and their coaches are clearly having a ton of fun working on their skills:

With the help and support of their coaches, GREAT ideas are brewing, and it will be an exciting to see these students shine in their performances. With the ultimate goal of enjoying each other and working on their acting abilities as a collaborative group, these students are having an amazing experience!



Ms. Leisher



Ms. Hart



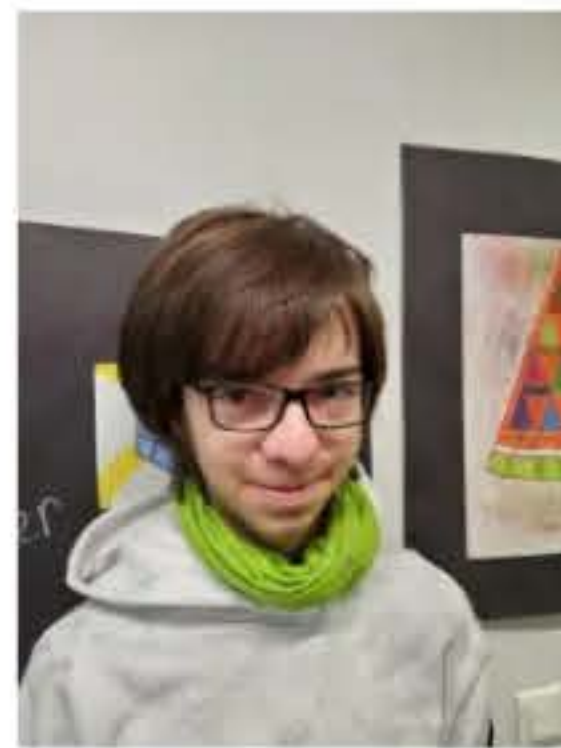
Ms. Butler

Middle School Knowledge Bowl

The CEESA MS Knowledge Bowl (virtual) competition took place April 23 and 24. Students from Kyiv International School competed along side students from the American School of Warsaw, American International School of Zagreb, International School of Krakow, International School of Belgrade, Anglo-American School of Moscow, NOVA International School, and Tashkent International School.

The Kozaks completed the tournament as the UNDEFEATED champions! In the words of Ms. Anderson - "we supported each other, we supported the other teams, and we were humble!". As special congratulations is extended to Sergii who won the Knowledge Bowl Individual Competition.

We are proud of you Kozaks!



The NHS Bedtime Stories Project




Welcome to the Bedtime Stories project! As the KIS National Honor Society, we invite you to settle in with your child, click on a video, and listen to our NHS students read their favorite childhood stories.

Visit [Bedtime Stories](#) to see a full list of videos.



KOZAK COACHING STAFF



"The better the communication... The better the team!"

CHARLES DIMPFL

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA USA
Kozak Coach since 2018
MS /Secondary Boys' Volleyball
VOLLEYBALL



The buzzer is unlocked!

CORENE ANDERSON

AUSTIN, TX, USA
Kozak Coach since 2019
MS Knowledge Bowl
KNOWLEDGE BOWL



The impossible takes a little longer!

DONNA BUCK

POINT PLEASANT, WV
Kozak Coach since 2019
MS Knowledge Bowl
KNOWLEDGE BOWL



That is correct for ten points....

WESLEY BUCK

ELMHURST, IL, USA
Kozak Coach since 2019
MS Knowledge Bowl
KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Graduate Spotlight



Name: Annagul

University and Major:

St. Thomas University (Miami, FL).
Criminal Justice with a minor in
Psychology.

Favorite Kozak Memory:

Winning the speech and debate
tournament with my partner, Andriy,
who carried our team to first place.



Name: Daniella

University and Major:

University College Cork (Ireland).
General Nursing

Kozak Message:

To current and incoming high
school students, is that it's okay to
not know who you want to become
or where you want to go. Life is full
of uncertainty, and the best way to
improve yourself is embrace that
uncertainty and make decisions in
the moment. Do what's best for you
and others, but remember that you
aren't defined by what people think
of you, but by what you think of
yourself. And if you're happy with
who you are then that's all that
matters.



Name: Dominika

University and Major:

Amsterdam University College
(Netherlands).
Bachelor of Science

Favorite Kozak Memory:

Valentine's Day Dance



Name: Hima Sri

University and Major:

Osmania University (India).
Chartered Accountant.

Kozak Message:

I am grateful for all the time in KIS. I
enjoyed all the classes, and all the
fun things happened in the past two
years. Thank You KIS! it was a great
experience indeed.



Name: Nicholas

University and Major:

Undecided.
Social Science.



Name: Srishti

University and Major:

Northeastern University (Boston,
MA).
Business Administration &
Communication Studies.

Favorite Kozak Memory:

It was any and all of the CEESA trips
I went on. Besides getting the
chance to improve my skills at the
competitions, it has always been an
amazing experience traveling with
my friends and building on my
school spirit. The trips gave me so
much exposure to different schools
and people; only furthering my
interest in exploring new cultures.
These CEESA trips are truly an
unforgettable part of my high
school experience!



Name: Tugra

University and Major:

Pepperdine University (Malibu, CA).
Computer Science.

Kozak Message: Thanks!



Name: Noelle

University and Major:

Leiden University (Netherlands).
Political Science (International
Relations & Organizations).

Favorite Kozak Memory:

The WW/W trip in 13yos to the
Carpathians, a vivid memory of
which is our kayaking expedition. It
started of all fun and games with
beautiful sights, stops at the shores,
and the occasional person falling
overboard, but it quickly got serious
as a strong storm hit. Evidently, it
must've been a truly frightening
experience for 13-year-old me as I
thought we would all get struck by
lightning, especially with no
civilization or cellular connection
around. Looking back though, the
trip was probably one of my favorite
Middle School experiences, and I
would definitely do it again!



Name: Sophie

University and Major:

University in Boston.
Business of Creative Enterprises.



Name: Vladyslav

University and Major:

Wirtschaftsuniversitat Wien (Vienna
University of Economics and
Business).
Business and Economics

Kozak Message:

I would like to thank all of my
amazing teachers for making this
one great senior year!