

international school
focus week 2025
may 19- may 23



Purpose of Focus Week

Students will access quality work and experiences, develop strong relationships with adults, and cultivate relationships with students outside of their usual social group in a stimulating environment outside of the regular curriculum and classroom. Each Focus Week activity provides instruction in work skills and career education in one or more of the following areas: *industrial arts, home and family life, business and office education, agricultural education, health occupations education, vocational education, trade and industrial education, and technical education*. Students earn their one required credit of Career Tech Education for successful completion of four Focus Weeks during grades 9-12. At the end of Focus Week, students should be able to describe in detail at least one career and its associated career path.

Students are not *required to pay* to attend Focus Week but we depend on parent support to cover the costs of these unique learning experiences. We are working hard to reduce the cost of Focus Week by using parent drivers, public transportation, and reduced food expenditures. Please donate to help cover the cost of providing these enrichment opportunities.

Focus week choices are divided by 6th Grade, 7th / 8th Grade and High School. Find the choices for your grade.

Please discuss with your family the following options and **select four activities**, ranked first choice through fourth choice. Focus Week is **mandatory** for all students.

Sign up for your ranked four choices starting Mon. Feb. 10 at 8:00 am until Community on February 12, 2025.

Sixth Grade

All 6th graders will have the opportunity to attend camp at Camp Orkila on Orcas Island in the San Juans for 3 nights/ 4 days.

6th Grade Science Camp on Orcas Island

Join all of your fellow 6th graders at Science Camp on stunningly beautiful Orcas Island, of the San Juan Islands, in the North Puget Sound. We'll begin the week at IS getting to know each other and meeting your cabin group in preparation for our trip to YMCA Camp Orkila for four days of fun and learning. At camp, you will walk the beach, visit the Marine Science Center, use the scientific method to explore the forest, pond, and garden, build relationships on Orkila's low ropes course, and participate in open recreation time and evening programs with your classmates. You'll create lasting memories and come back to IS ready to finish the year strong! We will depart on Tuesday morning and will return on Friday.

Careers Explored: marine biologist, outdoor education, natural science careers

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Art!Art!Art!

Form, shape, and carve your Focus Week to perfection. This class is about the art of SCULPTURE. From papier mâché to pop art, this hands-on class is about creativity. During the week, meet a career sculptor, explore monumental sculptures off campus, and create your own works. Maximum imagination, maximum inspiration, maximum fun.

Careers Explored: Art, Museum Curation, Civic Funding for the Arts, Urban Design and City Planning

Automotive

In Automotive Focus week, you will learn the basics of small engines, car maintenance, and different career paths in the automotive industry. You will have hands on experiences such as: painting metal, changing oil/tires, pulling apart a small engine, just to name a few. You will also have an opportunity to go on several field trips that relate to the automotive industry.

Careers Explored: mechanic, automotive designer

Building Business like a Boss

Do you want to build your own business? Do you want to be your own boss? In association with Junior Achievement, students will learn the practical skills required to plan, launch, and operate their own business venture with structured, experiential experience. Throughout the start-up process, participants collaborate, make crucial business decisions, practice communication skills, and develop entrepreneurial knowledge and skills within a streamlined, teacher-led experience. Additionally, students will go on a field trip to Junior Achievement's Finance Park which helps students build a foundation upon which they can make intelligent lifelong financial decisions, including those decisions related to income, expenses, savings, and credit. At Finance Park, students will also participate in a mock shark tank experience where they will pitch the business they created during the week. Lastly, students will participate in a field trip to a local business, providing them with firsthand experience of what it takes to run their own business successfully.

Careers explored: *Entrepreneurship*

Careers in Sports

This focus week will look into several different careers that are in the Sporting industry. Coaching, Physical Therapy, Athletes, and commentating are the goals to see throughout the week.

Careers explored: *Coaching, Physical Therapy, Professional Athlete, Sports Broadcasting*

Civil Engineering

In this short course, students will design and build various civil engineering projects with Legos, Minecraft, and other media. There will be opportunities to learn some programming with Scratch or other languages.

Careers Explored: *Mechanical engineering, civil engineering, programming, civil engineering*

In Drama we Speak Your Language

Are you interested in acting, writing, music, and technical support to collaborate on creating a play from scratch within just one week? Performance at the end of the week. This will be a play ABOUT YOU and your stories.

Careers explored: *visiting the REP so anything related to production of a show from raising money to stage manager*

Exploring Local Government

Join us for an immersive week of hands-on learning about local government in Bellevue! Students will tour the Bellevue Police Department, engage with city officials, and participate in interactive case studies on real community issues. Through site visits, discussions, and problem-solving activities, students will gain valuable insights into how local government operates and how they can make an impact in their own communities.

Careers Explored: *Police officers, fire fighters, engineers, city planners, public works staff,*

A Global Culinary Journey!

Are you ready to explore the world through food and culture? Sign up for an unforgettable adventure where you'll learn to cook authentic dishes, play traditional games, and experience the essence of five amazing countries—all in just one week! Join us for hands-on cooking workshops, engaging cultural activities, and the chance to build friendships through fun and teamwork! Bring your appetite, curiosity, and team spirit!

Careers Explored: *culinary careers*

The Great Outdoors

This focus week is all about being in the outdoors. We will do some hiking in the local area, learn about outdoor survival, work on trail restoration with park rangers, and develop our understanding on how to preserve the national forests. If you like the outdoors, this is the group for you!

Careers Explored: *Park rangers, City of Bellevue Employment*

Profiting from Non-Profits

Our aim is to explore as many local non-profit organizations as possible as we venture around the community to meet people who arenot trying to make money? Huh? Is that what a non-profit is? Come to Profiting From Non-Profits to find out! Be ready to ask questions, meet community members, and pitch ideas on how to best serve your community.

Careers Explored: *Non-Profit, business*

Mt. Rainier *Prior application required

Are you passionate about the outdoors and eager to learn about the environment? 7th and 8th grade students have the opportunity for a 4-day, 3-night stay at Mount Rainier Institute. Students investigate how the diverse ecosystems of the Mount Rainier region impact their daily lives through science, history, mathematics, and the arts. They explore the lives, relationships, and movements of plants and animals. Students also meet historical characters, play games, and go on hikes. They venture into the forest at night and sing songs by a campfire. Students are challenged both individually and as a part of a team. They encounter wild and beautiful parts of Mount Rainier National Park and return to their home community with a sense of empowerment and responsibility to make a positive difference in the environment in which they live every day. The program is based at the University of Washington's Pack Forest and will travel to Mount Rainier National Park.

High School – Ninth through Twelfth Grade

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Careers explored: Art, Museum Curation, Civic Funding for the Arts, Urban Design and City Planning

Automotive

In Automotive Focus week, you will learn the basics of small engines, car maintenance, and different career paths in the automotive industry. You will have hands on experiences such as: painting metal, changing oil/tires, pulling apart a small engine, just to name a few. You will also have an opportunity to go on several field trips that relate to the automotive industry.

Careers Explored: mechanic, automotive designer

Building Business like a Boss

Do you want to build your own business? Do you want to be your own boss? In association with Junior Achievement, students will learn the practical skills required to plan, launch, and operate their own business venture with structured, experiential experience. Throughout the start-up process, participants collaborate, make crucial business decisions, practice communication skills, and develop entrepreneurial knowledge and skills within a streamlined, teacher-led experience. Additionally, students will go on a field trip to Junior Achievement's Finance Park which helps students build a foundation upon which they can make intelligent lifelong financial decisions, including those decisions related to income, expenses, savings, and credit. At Finance Park, students will also participate in a mock shark tank experience where they will pitch the business they created during the week. Lastly, students will participate in a field trip to a local business, providing them with firsthand experience of what it takes to run their own business successfully.

Careers Explored: *Entrepreneurship*

Civil Engineering

In this short course, students will design and build various civil engineering projects with Legos, Minecraft, and other media. There will be opportunities to learn some programming with Scratch or other languages.

Careers Explored: *Mechanical engineering, civil engineering, programming, civil engineering*

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Careers explored: *Park rangers, City of Bellevue Employment*

Museums and More!

There are so many fun museums that focus on different niches, from art to plants to culture. During this Focus Week, we will explore several museums in Seattle and Bellevue, with an eye to what it takes to build and maintain a collection, as well as the role museums play in the larger culture. It's gonna be fire.

Careers Explored: *curator, botanist, historian, security*

Photography: Capture your city's beauty and stories

Spend a week exploring your city through photography, capturing its beauty and storytelling essence. Start with urban landscapes and skylines, shooting cityscapes at different times of the day. Dive into street life, documenting candid moments and everyday interactions. Highlight architectural wonders by focusing on unique buildings, symmetry, and creative perspectives. Discover nature within the city, from parks to urban wildlife, contrasting greenery with concrete. Uncover hidden gems and local stories by photographing lesser-known spots and the people who bring them to life. Finally, bring it all together by curating a photo series that tells a compelling visual story of your city and your friends

Careers Explored: *photography, reporting, journalist*

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Careers Explored: *Non-Profit, business*

Quantum Art

Focus on merging certain art applications with quantum information science and engineering (QISE). Students emerge having produced art projects that either utilize QISE or educate the public on QISE; students emerge understanding fundamentals of quantum science. Students will meet college students & faculty (virtually and by tours to UW) who use Quantum Science, Information, and Engineering in important applications. We'll be approaching QISE through art - for our own edification and for public edification.

Careers explored: STEAM - with a focus on quantum information, and how art and science overlap and support each other.

Storytelling with a Side of Podcasting

Spend the week exploring the art and craft of storytelling! Workshop a story from a brainstorm to a polished performance suitable to be shared in a podcast. In this focus week we will review material from the popular podcast "The Moth" to understand the power of story telling and how we can use story telling techniques to use our experiences to help ourselves and others grow.

Careers explored: Storytelling, Podcasting

HS Counselor for 6th Grade Science Camp on Orcas Island

This Focus Week is closed. Preregistration was required.

Join all of our 6th graders at Science Camp on stunningly beautiful Orcas Island, of the San Juan Islands, in the North Puget Sound. We'll begin the week at IS getting to know each other and meeting your cabin group in preparation for our trip to YMCA Camp Orkila for four days of fun and learning. At camp, you will walk the beach, visit the Marine Science Center, use the scientific method to explore the forest, pond, and garden, build relationships on Orkila's low ropes course, and participate in open recreation time and evening programs with your classmates. You'll create lasting memories and come back to IS ready to finish the year strong! We will depart on Tuesday morning and will return on Friday. Earn 50 hours of community service! *Prior application required!

Careers Explored: camp counselor, outdoor education, marine biology

Taiwan Trip This Focus Week is closed. Preregistration was required.

Students will participate in a weeklong trip to Taipei, Taiwan. They will visit Formosa Television studios to learn about how news reporters do their job, how tv stations are run, watch a live taping of a soap opera, and experience the technology of FTV's new virtual studio. Students will write, direct, film, act, and edit a short film using FTV's film sets. In addition, students will be in charge of producing two travel vlogs as we eat and travel our way through the heart of Taipei and surrounding areas. If you love to have fun while learning technical skills in media production, this is a Focus Week activity for you! Trip is planned in coordination with Kainan University and Formosa Television. Not recommended for vegans or students with lots of food allergies.

Careers Explored: Media production

French Exchange 2025 This Focus Week is closed. Preregistration was required

Embark on an unforgettable journey to France, beginning with a magical four-day exploration of the iconic landmarks and delectable cuisine of Paris. After immersing yourself in the vibrant city, board a high-speed train to Nantes for an enriching 10-day experience with a local host family. During your stay, engage in a day of French classes and indulge in diverse activities such as visits to the pristine beaches of the Atlantic Ocean, a majestic chateau, a traditional farmers market, and much more.

Preregistration for this exceptional Focus Week next year will take place in Spring 2024. Don't miss the chance to be part of this wonderful cultural odyssey for the next school year!

Preregistration for this Focus Week occurred Spring 2024

Music at Disneyland! This Focus Week is closed. Preregistration was required.

High School Students will experience what it is like to be a professional musician on this trip to the happiest place on Earth! They will prepare and perform a 30 minute concert in the park where they will be expected to uphold Disney's high standards of professionalism and excellence. Then they will experience a workshop with a Disney music professional in which they will learn what it is like to be a professional recording musician and perform along with famous Disney movies. Afterwards students will be able to experience the fun of the Disney theme parks. Sign up for this week occurred in December.

Careers Explored: professional musician, sound engineer, video editor, animator, multimedia artist