RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

2026

YES PLAN

OVERVIEW - **Student cover artwork by: Alexandra Juarez**

Year End Studies (YES Plan) offers a variety of learning experiences for all Rutland High School students. The program is designed to provide half-day and full-day courses, seminars, field experiences, internships, community service and other teaching and learning opportunities. No students receive financial compensation for any of these learning experiences. Students are offered a myriad of enrichment courses giving them the opportunity to explore or enrich their learning beyond what has traditionally been offered during the school year. A normal and expected course load includes either: one (1) full-day YES Plan course or two (2) half-day YES Plan courses. **Students may not repeat YES Plan Enrichment courses they have already taken.**

SCHEDULE*

Credit Recovery	8:00AM	-	8:55 AM
Morning Class	9:00 AM	-	11:15 AM
Lunch	11:15AM	-	11:40 AM
Afternoon Class	11:45 AM	-	2:00 PM
Credit Recovery	2:05 PM	-	3:00 PM

*****Some YES Plan experiences may require specific schedules appropriate to course and PLACE (formally School-to-work) needs.

ATTENDANCE

Year End Study Dates: June 3rd to June 17th, 2026 (Dates are subject to change pending school cancellations). Students must attend and participate in Year End Studies, an integral element of the academic year. School attendance policies and all school rules and procedures remain in effect. Students must attend 11 of the 12 days during YES Plan, which includes Open House, in order to receive credit. **The Attendance Committee will consider special and unique circumstances, but only upon rare occasions will exemptions be granted. YES Plan daily absentee lists will be published at the end of the day**. Seniors are required to attend YES courses through and including the AM session the day before graduation.

CREDIT

Successful participation in Year End Studies for each year at Rutland High School is a graduation requirement except for students enrolled in Stafford Technical Center's full day programs. A special note to seniors: a failed Year End Studies course by a senior will result in that senior not being eligible to participate in the graduation ceremonies. The senior will receive a diploma upon successful completion of a Year End Studies option (see options below). These options are available only after the end of the school year.

OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO FAIL 2026 YEAR END STUDIES

Note: All options must be pre-approved by the Rutland High School Principal.

- Take a summer course for credit.
- Take a summer academic camp course for credit.
- Take a night course at Stafford Technical Center, Community College of Vermont or other educational facility.

- Perform thirty (30) hours of community service for each half day class (60 hours for a full day), which must be approved by the guidance counselor and the Rutland High School principal.

COURSE FEE WAIVERS

Students should consider all course options. Any additional costs for programs should not be a determining factor. For programs that incur additional fees, (admission fees, travel expenses, etc.) student fees may be waived by the YES Plan Committee or other arrangements may be made to allow student access. **Independent Study and PLACE experiences are not eligible for course fee waivers.**

COURSE FEE REFUNDS

Students who select courses that require a fee will only be eligible for refunds until May 1. Students will forfeit their fee if they make schedule changes after May 1.

ENROLLMENT

Class enrollments will be limited to the number listed in the course description. Students will select their course choices through an online scheduling process. This process will be explained in detail to students prior to their selection.

GRADING

Student grades will be determined by the degree to which a student has demonstrated proficiency in identified course standards. Teachers will use the school-wide transferable skills and proficiency scales to grade students at the conclusion of YES plan. Final Grades will be reported on a 0 through 4-point scale with half point increments. This grade will not be calculated into the student's GPA, nor will it be credit bearing, but successful completion is required for graduation. Grades will be entered into Jump Rope and tied to a specific transferable skill. The standard will be calculated as a part of the student's transferable skills transcript. Grades will also be entered into Infinite Campus and become a part of the student's academic transcript. A half-day YES plan will hold a weight of 10, and a full-day will have a weight of 20.

4- In addition to score 3.0 performance, the student demonstrates in-depth inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught.

3 – The student has met the standard.

2 – The student has gained an understanding of the vocabulary and simpler processes of the standard.

1 – With help, the student can demonstrate partial success with the vocabulary and simpler processes of the standard.

0 – Little or no evidence of achieving the standard.

GLOBAL STUDIES/STEM CONCENTRATION

Notations are provided for Yes Plan courses that fulfill Global Studies or STEM Concentration requirements.

Full Day Courses

Board Games and Beyond (Global & STEM) **Full Day**
Susan Ponto 15 Students
Are you interested in learning new board game, card games, or escape room strategies? If so, this may be the YES Plan for you. In this full day you will learn how to play new games and have time to explore the history of games and strategies for solving or winning. The games are NOT your typical Monopoly or Scrabble. We look at games like Catan, Arnak, Hand and Foot, Escape Rooms, Werewolf, and more. Project will need to be completed for the end of the course grade. You will have several choices on what form your project takes.

Community Service (Global) **Full Day**
Elizabeth Sampson, Paul Cherrier 20 Students
Students must provide transportation; Students must be able to take part in physical labor.
In this YES plan, students will volunteer for different organizations in the Rutland area and learn about some of the issues that our community is facing today. Students will have the opportunity to volunteer in multiple capacities to meet the needs of various organizations. They can expect to do tasks such as cleaning, landscaping, painting, sorting items, organizing things, window washing, etc. These organizations may include the Wonderfeet Kid's Museum, Rutland Free Library, Community Cupboard, Open Door Mission and more. Students will be responsible for choosing one of the organizations at the beginning of the course to report on at the YES plan open house. Journal entries with photos and comments on daily experiences will be required. Students who sign up for this YES plan should be ready to work for the entire day and represent RHS well in the community. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from all locations!

Day Hike Adventures (STEM) **Full Day**
Alyson Mack, Ron Eisenman 24 Students
Students must provide transportation
Join us for an adventure hiking through the unique and inspiring mountain landscapes that surround Rutland. Discover unique places that you didn't previously know about. On most days, you can expect to travel by foot between six and ten miles on the steep, rugged and remote trails of Vermont, New Hampshire and upstate New York. To meet the strenuous demands of the course, participants are expected to be in excellent physical condition. During the course you will learn techniques for safely traveling through the mountains, pack and prepare suitable food for hiking, and make appropriate preparations for your trip. You should be equipped with proper footwear and clothing. Since community service is another component of the class, participants will perform trail work maintenance at a local park, to foster a sense of teamwork and community. Finally, you will be required to keep a reflective and comprehensive journal that details your learning, including the area's flora and fauna, as well as your sense of accomplishment.

Estuaries and Wetlands (STEM) **Full Day**
Dawn Adams, Michael Ellis 10 Students
Students must provide transportation
Discover the wonders of Rhode Island estuaries and Vermont wetlands in Estuaries and Wetlands. In part one of this YES plan, spend three days and three nights at the Narragansett Bay Estuarine Research Reserve (NBERR) located on Prudence Island in Rhode Island. Learn about rocky shore, open bay, and salt marsh ecosystems on the New England coast through classroom and hands-on experiences and learning games. Participate in an invasive Asian shore crab study and a sampling survey of salt marsh plants. Learn challenges facing migratory birds due to habitat loss and climate change. Identify birds by their song as well as by sight. Contribute to a stewardship habitat restoration project. In part two of this YES plan, learn about Vermont wetlands through classroom activities and day field trips in Rutland County. Help restore wetlands in Rutland County, by participating in community service projects and/or gathering data for water quality studies at various locations. Collect and analyze authentic data on climate change in both Rhode Island and Vermont. STEM credit. Enrollment limited to 10.

Fly Fishing for Teens: Connecting Science, Skill, and Nature (STEM) **Full Day**
William Vandall 12 Students
Students must provide transportation
Fly Fishing for Teens: Connecting Science, Skill, and Nature
Discover the art and science of fly fishing—right here in Vermont! This program combines indoor learning and hands-on river experiences to teach students about aquatic life, insect cycles, native plants, and the balance of local ecosystems. Teens will explore how rivers work, tie their own flies, and practice casting techniques before heading outdoors to fish in real Vermont waters. Supported by the legacy of ORVIS, founded in Manchester, VT in 1858, students gain not only a lifelong skill but also a deeper appreciation for conservation and the natural world. Fly fishing offers calm, focus, and confidence—an ideal way to unplug, reduce stress, and connect with the beauty of Vermont's outdoors. Students will need to transport themselves. Therefore, students need to have a driver's license. Also, students CANNOT transport other students to fishing sites. Every student must drive themselves. VT Fishing License is required. Students should have basic fly-fishing equipment: Fly Rod, Reel, Waders, flies, tipet, and leaders. If not, some basic gear will be loaned to students for the course.

Hauntings in New England **Full Day**
Clarena Renfrow, Eric Snay 20 Students
Embark on a thrilling two-week adventure into the supernatural with Hauntings of New England! Travel across Vermont to some of its most legendary haunted locations, where history and mystery intertwine. Throughout the course, you'll learn to use specialized ghost-hunting equipment, conduct field investigations, and analyze your findings. You'll also dive into the historical events and folklore behind each haunting, discovering how fact and legend blend to shape New England's supernatural history. Whether you're a skeptic or a believer, this immersive experience will spark your curiosity, sharpen your observation skills, and leave you with a deeper appreciation for both history and mystery. Join us—if you dare—for an unforgettable journey into the heart of New England's most haunting legends

Hiking and Leadership While Exploring Vermont **Full Day**

John Cacace 15 Students

Students must provide transportation

Come explore Vermont! Hike local trails and visit some local destinations such as farms and nearby cities while learning about teamwork and leadership. It's easy to walk in the woods and only invest in yourself, but how do we act and respond when thinking of the larger group? Come learn and discuss what good leadership skills look like while enjoying the outdoors and exploring Vermont.

Hollywood and the Holocaust (Global) **Full Day**

Michael Carmolli 15 Students

The objective of this YES Plan is to look at how films about the Holocaust both preserve and pervert history. Most movies based on actual events are not very historically accurate. That does not necessarily mean they are bad movies. And being historically accurate does not automatically make for a good movie. A movie is essentially a visual method of telling a story. Filmmakers, (the writers, directors, producers, and actors,) are all storytellers. Some of these people regard the actual events which inspired the film as guidelines, or suggestions rather than requirements. Others do not consider the historical record to be optional, and go to great lengths to ensure authenticity. We will watch a number of films. Each of them tells a different Holocaust story. Some are much more historically accurate than others. I hope you will enjoy the films I've selected, and learn a little history as well.

Introduction to Stone Carving at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center **Full Day**

Beth McReynolds 15 Students

Students must provide transportation

Students will learn hands-on techniques for carving stone. This course will introduce the beginner to reductive art-making and three-dimensional thinking. Proper use of hand and pneumatic tools and a moderate piece of marble or alabaster are included in the fee. Discussions of safe studio practices and tool maintenance help make this course an excellent initiation to the craft of stone sculpture.

Keep It Local **Full Day**

Tegan Kirk- Elkin, Marisa Astin 16 Students

Making and eating food? Petting farm animals? Exploring local trails? What's not to love? Join this YES Plan and you will have the joy of doing these things and more. We will explore Vermont to discover the many products produced right here in our own backyard. Vermont has a rich history of dairy, agriculture, and manufacturing that we will be researching both through field trips, guest speakers, and outdoor exploration.

Lore and Storytelling in Video Games **Full Day**

Shawn Watkins 15 Students

How do video games tell stories? How are they different than, say, novels or short stories? In this class, we will examine video games as storytelling devices by playing through two games: The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild and Elden Ring. While we won't have time to finish these games in our two-week class period, we will explore the history and architecture of the worlds that these games present; we will share the fun, exhilaration, and sheer frustration of defeating enemies; and we will write short "histories" that fill out the story and lore of these games. Ultimately, we will act like digital archaeologists, exploring imagined worlds to learn about their history, their people, and the moral questions that our heroes face while traversing them.

The Finer Things Club: Inspired by The Office **Full Day**

Madeline Pritchard, Carolyn Gregory 20 Students

Take time to savor life's little luxuries in The Finer Things Club—an 11-day exploration of art, culture, and creativity. This program invites students to appreciate craftsmanship, mindfulness, and beauty in everyday experiences while connecting these ideas to develop relationships in a variety of professional, academic, and social settings. We will explore hospitality, entertainment, art history, and food.

Unified Sports Adventure **Full Day**

Adrienne Weld, Jason Cassarino, Catherine Wark, Jamie Nichols 32 Students

Have you wanted to get involved in Unified Sports and it did not fit in your schedule? Here is your chance to get involved! Special Olympics Unified Sports® brings together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to train and compete on the same team. By pairing peers with and without disabilities on the same team, students are given the opportunity to build more inclusive schools. Unified Sports promotes equality on and off the field. We currently offer six Unified Sports® competition experiences for schools and local programs: Bocce, Bowling, Basketball, Soccer and Team Building Games. This year we will offer this opportunity for Year End Studies. This course will bring Unified Sports to the next level! Students will have the opportunity to go on Adventures on and off campus and while applying Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to help build positive relationships and Adventures. The motto for Unified Sports is "On the field we're teammates and off the field we're friends".

Vermont Ecology (STEM) **Full Day**

Jody Sabataso, Casey Giordano 24 Students

Students must provide transportation

In this hands-on, outdoor course, students will explore and learn about many natural areas of Vermont, such as forests, wetlands and wildlife management areas. We will hear from professional foresters, park rangers, and plant and animal specialists from the Nature Conservancy (TNC). Students will learn the natural history of many of Vermont's plants and animals, the impacts of climate change, and land management methods that enhance conservation. Students will also learn about basic navigation and the identification of native trees and plants. Most classes will meet at the Bomoseen State Forest, but other natural areas in the area will also be visited, such as Killington Mountain, Pine Hill Park, Rutland City Watershed and Silver Lake in Brandon. Most class meetings will be within 20 miles of RHS. Students should be prepared to hike two to five

miles per day and be dressed properly for the weather and hiking conditions. Students should bring a lunch each day; we will eat lunch in the field.

Wizard of OZ - The Musical **Full Day**
Cathy Archer, Shannon Bonsignore, Sarah Koon 30 Students
Something special is happening during YES Plan this year. Students have the opportunity to take a journey over the rainbow and be a part of the first full musical at Rutland since COVID. Students will be involved in all aspects of this major production. Please Note: Auditions will be in February and the expectation is that lines will be owned when rehearsals start in April. Performance dates are June 5 and 6 and the two weeks before may include evening rehearsals.

Yes Plan "PLACE" **Full Day**
Ann Marie Mahar, Stephen French, Nathan Bellomo, Michele Geisler, Taborri Bruhl, Roman Smiechowski, Kim Ransom 30 Students
Students must provide transportation
This is a full-day YES Plan that allows 10th - 12th grade students the opportunity to explore a career that interests them. Students will be at a worksite of their choosing that is approved by the PLACE Coordinators. There, students will shadow a mentor and spend their time engaged in a work-based learning experience. Students will be responsible for keeping a log of hours, completing journal entries, and making a final presentation at the YES Plan Open House to talk about what they have learned Students enrolled in this Yes Plan will receive a Work Experience Application Packet to use when approaching their preferred job site. Students who do not turn in their Application Packet by the deadline May 3, 2026 will be removed from this course and required to enroll in another YES Plan. See Mrs. Ransom no later than March 1, 2026 for an application packet for this work experience.

AM Only Courses

Advanced Physical Computing and Robotics (STEM) **AM ONLY**
Greg Styles 15 Students
Come learn about microcontrollers (robot brains), sensors, and motors. Build a smart device and a robot with an authentic, real-world development system. Physical computing is creating smart devices that interact with the world around them. These devices can be a robot, a smart IOT controller, or whatever you can think of. A physical computer senses its environment, processes that information, and then performs some action. This “sense – think – act” cycle can also be used to define a robot. Learn a little electronics, connect some sensors, motors, LEDs, then write some code to make something interesting!!

Brewed Words: Creative Writing in Good Company **AM ONLY**

Mary- Pat Buss 16 Students

Step into Brewed Words, where imagination meets inspiration and every story starts with a good cup of creativity. In this cozy, coffeehouse-style writing class, students will sip, share, and shape their words into works of art. Each session blends fun, low-pressure writing activities with café-style conversations that spark new ideas and connections. From spontaneous story prompts and poetry to collaborative storytelling games, students will discover their unique voices while exploring fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. As the course unfolds, we'll move from free-flowing drafts to fine-tuning pieces for publication—learning how to revise, workshop, and polish writing for real readers. Whether you dream of publishing in a literary magazine, performing at an open mic, or simply writing for joy, Brewed Words offers a welcoming space to create and connect. No prior experience needed, just curiosity, courage, and maybe your favorite mug. Come brew your words in this interactive writing class!

Bridge to Honors **AM ONLY**

Michele Farkas 15 Students

This class is designed to help students move from CP level math classes into honors level math. Upon successful completion, this course will provide students who have completed Integrated Math 1 & 2 CP the opportunity to move into Integrated Math 3 & 4 Honors the next year. This class will focus on quadratic functions, the methods used to solve these functions, and additionally explore complex numbers. The pace will be rigorous and students will be expected to complete nightly practice problems. Students are placed in this YES Plan offering with the recommendation of their current math teacher.

Broadway Blooms! (Global) **AM ONLY**

Karrie Etzler, Jennifer Trudo 20 Students

Step into a world where imagination takes center stage! In this two-week YES Plan, students will explore the magic of musicals while creating beautiful hand-crafted flowers from pipe cleaners, ribbons, and other colorful materials. Between scenes of inspiring performances, we'll dive into lively discussions about themes, characters, and messages—building strong communication and critical thinking skills as we connect what we see on stage to what we make with our hands.

Each session blends creativity and collaboration, encouraging students to express themselves through both art and conversation. Whether you're humming along to your favorite musical number or twisting pipe cleaners into petals, you'll discover how music, storytelling, and craft come together to inspire joy, self-expression, and community.

Children's Lit: It's just for kids .... or is it? **AM ONLY**

Tammy Cabezola, Dina Spafford 24 Students

Join us for these ½ day sessions to read and explore –

Books that are filled with Rhyming and Rhythm Stories of Adventure on the pages within 'em.

Books that help teach us Important life lessons Stories in which we can see our reflection.

Books starring Princesses maybe Dragons and Witches or Hilarious Characters who leave us in stitches. So, where Caterpillars are Hungry and Things have gone Wild, you'll discover this literature's not just for a child

Dungeons and Dragons: The Adventures Continue **AM ONLY**

Heather Finch 15 Students

In this immersive session, experienced adventurers will dive deep into the world of Dungeons & Dragons, exploring advanced gameplay, storytelling, and collaborative world-building. This course is designed for players already familiar with D&D mechanics who are ready to take their campaigns to the next level. Students will refine their skills in strategic combat, creative problem-solving, and character development, while also exploring the art of Dungeon Mastering—from designing balanced encounters and dynamic NPCs to weaving rich narrative arcs that keep players engaged. Group collaboration, improvisation, critical thinking, and leadership will be key components of every session in a structured yet flexible environment. Expect dice rolls, daring quests, and deep discussions about what makes a story worth telling!

Life Changing Movies (Global) **AM ONLY**

Chris Siliski, Hilary Poremski 24 Students

Lots of great stories and well-loved movies contain the secret to a happy life because they follow a pattern called the "Hero's Journey". In this course, you'll learn about the hero's journey and how to identify it in classic movies like: Rudy, Rocky, The Pursuit of Happiness, October Sky, Hidden Figures, Good Will Hunting, and more. Through movies, journaling, discussion and creative activities, you'll also understand how the hero's journey applies to your own experiences, including what it takes to achieve your goals and become the "hero" of your life.

Party Like It's 1999 **AM ONLY**

Cindy Trevino 15 Students

Did you ever wonder what parties were like when your grandparents were your age? In this YES Plan, we will explore food, dance, fashion, decorations, movies, and games through the decades. Each day, groups will be responsible for researching different aspects of celebrations during decades beginning with the 1940's. The second hour will be sharing and celebrating. Be prepared to try interesting party foods, learn new dances, play new games, and share some fun with your classmates.

Physical Education in our Schools **AM ONLY**

Geoffrey Bloomer 15 Students

Students must provide transportation

Are you interested in working with younger students in our district? Are you passionate about education? In this course, you will learn about teaching and apply what you learn in the classroom. We will be going to different schools within our school district to support teachers in the Physical Education department. You will be expected to work with students and follow the directions of the lead teacher. You will design a unit plan and lesson plans to utilize at the different schools.

The History of Sports Through 20th Century Film **AM ONLY**

Michael Tully 15 Students

This course is an exploration of how sports have been portrayed, celebrated, and critiqued in film throughout the 20th century. From the iconic victories to the heartbreaking defeats, witness the transformation of sports narratives and their reflection of broader cultural, political, and historical

contexts. Engage with a diverse array of films that span various genres, showcasing the profound impact of sports on society. By critically analyzing cinematic depictions of sports, students will gain insights into the broader cultural dynamics that have shaped and been shaped by athletic pursuits on the big screen. Immerse yourself in the triumphs, challenges, and poignant moments that define the history of sports through the lens of 20th-century film.

The Psychology of Intelligence (Global) **AM ONLY**
Ellie Davine 15 Students
Human intelligence is the focus of this course. How are you smart? Are you "book smart", "street smart" or "art smart"? Have you ever wondered why some subjects come easy for you, while other subjects are difficult? Participants in this course will explore the different theories of human intelligence and the history of intelligence testing in the United States. Participants will personally reflect on their own intelligences and explore how this understanding can be beneficial to life choices. The culminating activity will be to design a Rutland Area Cultural Literacy IQ test for open house.

The World Peace Game (Global) **AM ONLY**
Michael Callahan 15 Students
The mission of this game is simple: achieve world peace. Sometimes though, the start is nowhere near the finish. As is the case for this game. Each group will have benchmarks set by the game maker to ensure that they can survive in the world. This game is riddled with obstacles, trials, and tribulations to test your mettle and your resolve to achieve world peace. Some tasks will be easier than others, just as some events can hurt you as much as they can help you. Choose each step wisely, as it could benefit you or it could bankrupt your country. Also, keep in mind that nations cannot achieve everything overnight. You need a vision. Developing your nations takes time. Be patient and good things will come to those that wait. On the other hand, be aggressive, and the world could be yours. You can decide what you would like your country to be and how they are perceived in the world. At any rate, your mission is to achieve world peace.

U.S. Women Army Nurses in the Vietnam War **AM ONLY**
Makayla Boisvert 15 Students
This course will focus mainly on U.S. women army nurses before, during, and after the Vietnam War, a perspective oftentimes overlooked in American History. During class time, you will read the novel "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, a fictional story about a nurse who served in the war and the impact it had on her life. By reading this book, we will explore the experiences of nurses and dig deeper into what their lives were like during this time, both as army nurses and women. You will also be expected to engage and participate in class discussions, and will reflect on what you read and learned by answering small writing prompts.

PM Only Courses

Alexander Hamilton: Media vs Reality **PM ONLY**
Michael Callahan 15 Students
How does a “bastard, orphan, Scotsman, impoverished immigrant” grow up to be a hero, a scholar, and one of the founding fathers of America? We will follow Lin Manuel Miranda’s musical masterpiece Hamilton, and learn the history behind the musical. Highlights include Hamilton’s traumatic background in the Caribbean, to becoming Secretary of State in George Washington’s first cabinet, and assumed to be one of the next great presidents of the United States, until the Reynolds’ Pamphlet, among other things, brought his political aspirations to a crashing halt. But what if the play is a lie? What if the songs you have been singing along to have been misleading and giving a false impression of history? What if Aaron Burr, the man who shot Alexander Hamilton in New Jersey in an 1804 duel, was actually the hero of the story who you all should have been rooting for in the first place? All of these questions and more will be answered with this YES Plan!

Books and Cookies (Global) **PM ONLY**
Hilary Poremski, Ellie Davine 30 Students
Do you love reading for fun? If so, this course is for YOU! The goal is simple: You will select books you want to read, get lost in them, and read (devour) as many of them as you can in these final days of the school year. Best of all -- you will not be required to write paragraphs or essays about them! Instead, you will keep track of your progress, complete short activities in response to your books, and complete a final, creative (fun!) project of your choice, based on your favorite book. And yes, we really do eat cookies! Our daily "cookie break” provides a perfect opportunity to chat with classmates about your reading and other common interests. We will read in comfortable spaces on school grounds and outside, when weather permits, and we'll take a field trip to Phoenix Books downtown, where you will be provided with money to buy a book! We also award prizes at the end of YES Plan for students who show exceptional determination and progress in meeting their personal reading goals.

Everyday Mindfulness **PM ONLY**
Makayla Boisvert 15 Students
Are you always stressed? Well, this may be the course for you! In this course we will learn and participate in different "mindful" activities that are healthy for the mind. Whether it is walking, reading, painting, baking, or doing a small exercise, this course will help teach you about different ways to “be in the moment” and allow your brain time to take a break. At the end of the course, you will choose which mindful activity that worked best for you, and create a presentation explaining the research behind mindfulness and why others should participate in these activities too!

I learned everything I need to know in life from playing board games! **PM ONLY**
Lea Pettis, Lynn Merritt 24 Students
Yahtzee! If you want to be a winner at the game of Life, sink a Battleship, or catch Miss Scarlet in the conservatory with the candlestick, come join us for board and card game fun! Take some Chutes and Ladders to Candyland, or Risk your life getting an Operation! Use your problem

solving, art, and acting skills to be part of a Charade or guess the theme! If you don't, you will go directly to jail, not pass go and collect $200. Participation in games builds teamwork, confidence and joy making the experience meaningful for everyone involved!

Introverts Unite Alone Together! **PM ONLY**

Heather Finch, Mary-Pat Buss 24 Students

Need a little peace and quiet to recharge after a busy school year? Finally—a class for people who thrive in quiet environments and prefer independent activities! Introverts Unite Alone Together! offers students a calm, comfortable space to relax and create without the pressure of constant social interaction or small talk. Students may bring their own tech-free craft projects, sketchbooks, puzzles, crosswords, journals, or good books to enjoy at their own pace in BLISSFUL SILENCE. There are no icebreakers, group activities, presentations, or "sharing with the class"—just a shared respect for quiet and personal space. The focus of this session is simple: unwind, recharge, and enjoy meaningful solitude in the company of others doing the same. Gentle background music, soft lighting, and optional creative prompts and crafts will help foster a peaceful atmosphere for reflection and focus, with the unspoken agreement that silence is golden. Enjoy this rare opportunity to have the time and space to be creative, contemplative, and comfortably antisocial—together.

Learning to Invest (Global & STEM) **PM ONLY**

Chris Siliski 15 Students

"According to the Federal Reserve and the Employee Benefit Research Institute, just 3.2% of retirees have saved over a million dollars" above and beyond the value of their homes. Take this Yes Plan to learn a simple process that these 3.2% of people understand that most Americans do not. In addition to the process, we'll talk about how to set effective short- and long-term goals and objectives, establish different types of accounts to help your money grow faster, and understand the potential risks and rewards of different types of investments like money markets, cd's, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.

Multicultural Food and Art (Global) **PM ONLY**

Marcy Green 15 Students

Do you want to learn about holidays, customs, and art from other cultures? Do you want to learn to prepare food from various countries? Do you want to create multicultural art? If so, join Miss Green's Yes Plan this year! We will be making jungle jute bracelets, Russian nesting dolls, Capiz wind chimes, and Carnival Masks as well as making delicious food! No fee or transportation required.

Music in Film **PM ONLY**

Brent Barnett 20 Students

This course explores how music shapes the cinematic experience and deepens storytelling in film. Students will examine the musical ideas and choices used in movie scores to enhance mood, character, and further the storytelling. Through listening, analysis, and discussion, the class will investigate iconic film soundtracks, study the collaborative role of composers and directors, and

consider how music influences audience perception. No prior musical training is required—just curiosity about how sound and story work together on screen.

Physical Computing and Robotics For Beginners (STEM) **PM ONLY**
Greg Styles 15 Students
Come learn about microcontrollers (robot brains), sensors, and motors. Build a smart device and a robot with an authentic, real-world development system. Physical computing is creating smart devices that interact with the world around them. These devices can be a robot, a smart IOT controller, or whatever you can think of. A physical computer senses its environment, processes that information, and then performs some action. This "sense – think – act" cycle can also be used to define a robot. Learn a little electronics, connect some sensors, motors, LEDs, then write some code to make something interesting!

Project Runway: Thrift Shop Edition **PM ONLY**
Alison Remy, Marcie Jones 15 Students
Project Runway: Thrift Shop Edition: a hands-on fashion adventure centered around transforming thrifted finds into runway-ready looks—no sewing experience required. Students will dig into local thrift hauls, explore creative reuse, and learn beginner-friendly techniques for cutting, embellishing, reimagining, and reconstructing garments. From turning oversized shirts into structured tops to reinventing denim or repurposing unexpected materials, this course celebrates creativity, sustainability, and personal style. By the end of the two weeks, every student will have created a unique upcycled outfit and styled it for a student-led fashion show. If you're into fashion, sustainability, or simply love making something new out of something old, this course gives you the freedom to create boldly and showcase your one-of-a-kind look on the runway.

You Design It (STEM) **PM ONLY**
Michele Farkas 15 Students
Have you ever wanted to design your own structure? A tree house? Gazebo? Sugar House? Shed? Do you think you might want to build a small structure in the future? A Playhouse? Ice Shanty? Covered walking bridge? Well then, this course is for you! You will learn about architecture and construction and how to create your own designs. You will visit structures such as covered bridges and apply their truss systems to your own building plans and corresponding model of the small structure that you could build someday. It could happen!

AM and PM Courses

Chess Jamboree (Global & STEM) **AM and PM**
Kelly Chabros 16 Students
Chess Jamboree is for students of all skill levels, whether you are new to chess or already proficient, this is a great way to practice and have fun with your peers. We will solve chess puzzles, practice drills, explore common openings, learn about famous chess players and compete in tournament style play. So, if you like chess or want to learn more about it come join the Chess Jamboree.

Coastal Navigation with STEM (STEM) **AM and PM**
Glenn Williams 15 Students
Students will learn the practical skills necessary for navigating a boat from point to point in coastal waters using a STEM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Students will learn how to read and interpret nautical charts (maps) and use appropriate tools. Topics covered include cartography, projections, latitude, longitude, spatial relationships, points, lines, planes, angles, scale factor, time, distance, properties of parallelism, weather, and current. Student teams will compete against each other in a mock sailboat race as well as plot each and every leg of a week-long sailing trip—including distance and compass headings—following given constraints. (Please note that the entire course takes place in the classroom and not on the water.)

Music, Dance, Film, and Food in the Spanish Language Classroom **AM and PM**
Karen Rogers 15 Students
Spanish is more than just conjugating verbs! Here is your opportunity to learn more about the Spanish-speaking world. You will be exploring the FUNdamentals of language and culture through music, dance, film, and food. You will learn some of the basic steps to some of the more popular Latin dances. You will sing along to a variety of music styles found in the Spanish-speaking world. You will prepare authentic dishes and watch Spanish-language film. Presentations on dance, music, food, or film are required.

Grove Street Campus Programs

Grove Street Campus - Outdoor Education **Full Day**
Katie Cacace, Ellada Siliski, Matt McDonough 15 Students
Students will be exposed to outdoor education through hiking, walking, games and community service. In terms of hiking and walking, students can expect to travel by foot between three and six miles on local trails. To meet the strenuous demands of the course, students are expected to be in excellent physical condition. Students should be equipped with proper footwear and clothing, and will be provided food and water each day. A community service project is another major component of the course as the class will help build trails at Pine Hill Park to foster a sense of teamwork and community.

Grove Street Campus School-to-Work **Full Day**
Ellada Siliski 24 Students
Students in grades 10-12 may participate in a School-to-Work experience by writing a proposal using the guidelines provided by the School-to-Work (STW) instructors. Students may pursue job shadowing experiences in the community as alternatives to the regular YES Plan courses being offered on campus. These off-campus opportunities should be career and/or skill oriented. If a student has participated in a STW YES Plan in previous years, they will be required to propose an alternative placement unless they can demonstrate new learning, as the importance of this opportunity is to explore options for the future. Students will need to complete a guided journal, Learning Experience Plan, Learning Agreement, Hourly Activity Log, and present a Final Project on the last day of YES Plan.

Grove Street Learning Kitchen **Full Day**
Katie Cacace, Ellada Siliski, Matt McDonough 15 Students
Students will become aware of the healthy choices available to them on a limited budget and plan healthy, affordable dishes. Under the supervision of guest chefs and teachers, participants will also learn various cooking techniques, while reading and following the directions for a variety of nutritious recipes. By preparing each dish in school, students will learn not just what to do but how to do it. Students will increase their nutrition, budgeting, shopping and cooking skills. Students will learn a variety of ways to cook; crockpot, stove, and microwave.