Robinson Center for Young Scholars

SATURDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

FALL 2016

WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

From star-gazing to math equations to finding the perfect word for the last line of your poem, Saturday has something for everyone. The Saturday Program offers science, writing, and philosophy courses, for 2nd - 8th graders. Our goal is to provide a challenging, fun learning experience, along with outstanding instructors and a community of peers. There are no grades, no tests, and no homework. It's all about learning in the classroom, trying something new, pursuing a passion, and having fun!

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Tuition is $225 for a 50 minute class and $425 for a 100 minute class. The registration fee is an additional $25 per class. Tuition is to be paid in full when the student registers for the course.

FINANCIAL AID: All students on Free/Reduced Lunch receive a full tuition & fee waiver.

HOW DO WE REGISTER?

Students should register for courses according to their **current grade in school**. There are no qualification requirements and class size is limited, so it is first come/first served; waitlists will be established if necessary.

APPLY ONLINE: *https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/enrichment/saturday*

COURSE DETAILS: *https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/enrichment/saturday/curriculum/*

IMPORTANT DATES:

SEPTEMBER 19: Registration Begins
OCTOBER 15: Classes Begin
NOVEMBER 26: Holiday – No Class
DECEMBER 10: Last Day of Classes

2 – 3rd GRADE

I WONDER | Philosophy

Debi Talukdar

Who am I? What is fairness? How should we treat animals? Children wonder about open-ended questions like these all the time. In this class, we will investigate a wide variety of topics, learn how to reason, and construct good arguments. The instructor will present a prompt - typically a picture book, or an activity that raises certain philosophical issues, but it is students' thoughts and questions that will determine the direction of the discussion. Through personal and group reflection, students will have the opportunity to consider their own views and other diverse perspectives. Appropriate for new philosophers. All genders.

4 – 5th GRADE

AN ADVENTURE IN THE WORLD OF IDEAS | Philosophy

Dustin Groshong

In this class, we will have fun doing philosophy together. One can do philosophy about virtually anything, and we will think about a wide variety of topics throughout the course, including the nature of reality, what it means to be free, and the existence of evil. What will make our investigations philosophical will be the methods we employ; students will formulate the philosophical questions that they are intrigued by, and then rigorously apply reason and intuition to try and arrive at their own conclusions.

Stories, art, games, thought experiments and more will serve as catalysts for our discussions, but how each discussion is framed and develops from there will be guided by the interests of the students. Everyone will work together to empathetically consider alternative perspectives, develop critical thinking skills, and feel empowered to express their own unique and valuable ideas.

DISCOVERING DNA | Biology

Becky Howsmon

Through a series of engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and the use of technology we will learn WHAT DNA is, WHO has it, WHERE it is found, WHY it is so important, and HOW it is used in research and medicine. We will engage in activities that include molecular modeling of DNA, isolating DNA, looking at traits and inheritance, and studying research data. By the end of this class students will have a better understanding of cellular biology, genetics, how various components of our bodies work together, and what happens when our systems don't function in the expected manner.

PICTURE PERFECT | Writing

Bill Carty

In this class we will delve into the intersection between poetry and visual arts. We will use examples from many artist-poets to match words to images, and foster a strong relationship between word and image, using techniques such as collage, erasure, and graphic novels. At the end of class, we will create a "mini-zine" comprised of student work.

SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORERS | Astronomy

Kristen Garofali

In the vastness of the Universe, the Solar System is our cosmic backyard. In this class, we will be Solar System explorers who are taking a voyage through both space and time to explore the planets, moons, dwarf planets, asteroids, and comets. We will also explore what we have learned about them from space missions like Voyager, Juno and New Horizons. We will begin our journey over 4.5 billion years ago to learn how the Solar System formed. Then we will continue to the present-day to see how our system compares with the planetary systems we have recently found around other stars. As explorers we will take what we learn on our journey to plan a future mission to an unexplored part of the Solar System.

6 – 8th GRADE

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS | Philosophy

Dustin Groshong

Since America declared its independence from British colonization, ideas about freedom, justice, and equality have been central to our identity as people and as a nation. Even today, the polarizing political climate appears to still hinge on our understanding these concepts--and yet we don't always seem to have a clear idea of what "freedom", "justice", or "equality" really mean.

In this class, we will use the philosophical tools at our disposal to form our own more rigorous understandings of these concepts, as well as topics such as "the American dream" and "the pursuit of happiness". Stories, art, games, thought experiments and more will serve as catalysts for our discussions, but the direction of each discussion will be informed by the interests of the students. Everyone will work together to empathetically consider alternative perspectives, develop critical thinking skills, and feel empowered to express their own unique and valuable ideas. Ultimately, we will all emerge with more nuanced views of America and the ideas that make it what it is.

POETRY LAB | Writing

Bill Carty

In this class we will develop the tools needed to become a budding poet-scientist (or scientist-poet). We will look at a range of examples from contemporary and historical poems to understand the relationship between science and poetry. In our writing, we will use science to help generate content for our poems, while also looking at how scientific principles can help us come up with new and exciting forms for our own poetry. In short, we'll create a "poetry lab" to show how the scientific process can help create artistic experiments!

STAR STUFF: STUDYING THE STARS | Astronomy

Kristen Garofali

The Sun is just one of billions of stars in the Milky Way galaxy. As a source of light and energy the Sun is both well studied and extremely important for life on Earth. But how does it compare to the billions of other stars in galaxy? Stars come in many different sizes, colors, and temperatures. In fact, most stars are born with siblings! In this class we will learn all about stars: how they produce light, why they come in different colors, how they form, evolve and die, and how they affect planets that have formed around them. At the end of this class we will know so much about stars, including: what will happen to our Sun when it dies, why there are no green stars, how we are all "made of star stuff" and so much more!