

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



## AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM

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PROGRAM GOAL: \$500,000  
TIME FRAME: 2023-2025

### OPPORTUNITY

- Introduce a premier Experiential Learning Program that isn't "pay to play," putting emphasis on equitable and inclusive opportunities.
- Deepen student perspectives and understandings, further preparing them for life beyond Friends School.
- Create a program that works in conjunction with character development and our SPICES- Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship.

### OVERVIEW

At the start of this academic year, Virginia Beach Friends School is launching *Beyond the Classroom*, an equitable Experiential Learning Program that will be the cornerstone of a Friends School education at all levels. The experiences introduced will empower students to discover new passions, apply their knowledge, and to one day, make a difference in a global society. *Beyond the Classroom* will be a defining moment in history for Virginia Beach Friends School that will strengthen our roots for the next 75 years.

### IMPACT

- Add off-campus experiential learning trips at appropriate grade levels.
- Offer professional development centered around experiential learning.
- Embed students within the broader community to strengthen ties while giving back.
- Provide new and improved experiential learning manipulatives and resources.
- Launch a guest speaker and visitor series introducing notable, influential, and inspiring guests to students at all grade levels.

### GOALS

- \$500k pledged within 2 years.
- Establish a *Beyond the Classroom* endowment.
- Boost enrollment and retention.
- Strengthen roots for the next 75 years.



# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING DEEP DIVE

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### EARLY SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

- **Norfolk Zoo Comes to You**

Learn more about our 4 legged friends!

- **Sensory Garden**

Feel and experience senses in the outdoors!

- **Local Artist and Musical Presentations**

Gain an appreciation for the ARTS!

- **Meet Community Heroes**

Local police, firemen, and military service members visit campus!

- **Virginia Aquarium Comes to You**

Marine Science fun in the classroom!



### LOWER SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

- **Colonial Williamsburg**

Explore the wonders of the world's largest history museum!

- **Jamestown**

Visit the site of the first American colony!

- **Richmond**

Spend the day at the Children's Museum!

- **Eastern Shore**

Explore the Virginia Coast Reserve & the Coastal Research Center!

- **Lynnhaven River**

Foster our 20 year relationship!

- **Virginia Beach Symphony**

Experience a full orchestra and learn about the different instruments!

- **Virginia Aviation Museum**

First in flight & make your own planes!

- **Virginia Living Museum**

Learn about Virginia indigenous species!







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### 5TH GRADE TRIP EXPERIENCE

#### 2 DAYS / 1 NIGHT

##### The Outer Banks & Kitty Hawk

A trip focused on local history exploring The Outer Banks & Kitty Hawk to learn more about the first airplane flight and the Roanoke Colony, all while gaining confidence being away from home for a night. Students will return to campus with a new-found respect for The Wright Brothers and those who founded the first English settlement. The experience culminates with an evening presentation to parents and guests.



### 6TH GRADE TRIP EXPERIENCE

#### 2 DAYS / 1 NIGHT

##### Wintergreen & Charlottesville

A weekend trip to the Wintergreen & Charlottesville area! Students will spend a day and an evening at Wintergreen exploring team building activities which are a fun way to create trust, resilience, and perseverance.

Time spent in Charlottesville will include visiting an apple orchard discovering the process of growing and processing apples, as well as partnering on a small service project with the students at Tandem Friends School.



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### 7TH GRADE TRIP EXPERIENCE

#### 3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS

#### Richmond & Washington D.C.

With a focus on Civics, our 7th graders will have a chance to see both the Capital of Virginia and the Capital of the United States. Students will research a current bill being discussed in the State Legislature and meet with our local representative in Richmond. In Washington D.C. students will tour the amazing city, monuments, and museums, and will culminate by meeting with our District 2 Representative to tour the Capitol.



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### 8TH GRADE CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

#### 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS

**Destination to be decided upon by the students of 8th grade!** Students will be responsible for planning all aspects of the trip including budget, travel, lodging, food, and activities. Activities will be based on a selected educational theme and service component.

**The Class of 2024 will be going to New York City** with a focus on the ARTS. Students will spend time with members of the Brooklyn Friends School for Meeting for Worship and to work on an ARTS related service project. Students will take the opportunity to experience a Broadway show as well as an Off Broadway show, and will spend time wandering and touring the halls of selected art museums.

This project will be incorporated into the 8th grade Humanities and Math curriculum. Math classes will be dedicated to determining costs associated with the trip to create a budget. In 8th grade Humanities, students will read books that incorporate New York City themes and will study the city's role as a major port and cultural hub for the last 200 years.

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### ENROLLMENT & RETENTION

Retention is the most critical component to our long-term success. Families are more likely to remain in a school community where they see added value, and more importantly, when students are excited about future opportunities. To that end, *Beyond the Classroom* will work in conjunction with our goals to retain students.

#### Current

2023 - 2024 - Starts: 125 students, Ends: 130 students

#### Goals

2024 - 2025 - 150 students

- WHY & HOW- 1 year of *Beyond the Classroom* experiences, increased target marketing, word of mouth from happy families, radio/tv appearances, enhanced community presence, improved admissions process, investment in staff development, culture shift.

2025-2026 - 170 students

- WHY & HOW- 2 years of *Beyond the Classroom* experiences, 75% retention rate, wait-lists for multiple grades, increased brand awareness, enhanced campus, retained staff, revamped alumni association, expanded donor pool.

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### FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

To strengthen our roots for our next 75 years, we are adding to our already stellar academic and co-curricular programs by fully funding *Beyond the Classroom* over the next two years. Once this program is fully funded, Friends School will have the premier Experiential Learning Program in Coastal Virginia. Competitors have created programs but rely on a “pay to play” system which inherently reduces the number of potential participants. Friends School is going to provide these opportunities to **every** student of our community, as we truly value each and every student and hold strong to our value of equity. Your contribution can make this a reality and truly change the lives of our wonderful students.

#### GOALS

- \$500K pledged over 2 years
- Recognize a matching donor
- Establish the “Experiential Learning Fund Endowment” at the \$250K mark so the success of the program is secured for years to come
- Hire a Director of Experiential Learning

MAKE A GIFT

