

# Learning Has No Bounds Senior Signature Projects & Intersession



# Learning Has No Bounds Senior Signature Projects & Intersession



The Bay School of San Francisco  
35 Keyes Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
[www.bayschoolsf.org](http://www.bayschoolsf.org)



### › Intersession at Bay

Each spring Bay School students and their teachers venture out of the classroom and deep into the exciting world that surrounds them during Intersession week. Five full days of experiential learning await as students choose from more than twenty different courses offering a broad range of hands-on learning opportunities throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

It's a special time for students and teachers to share their passions together in small groups—whether it be filmmaking in the digital media lab, trekking through wilderness landscapes in Death Valley or along the Lost Coast, exploring one of the Bay Area's many ethnic neighborhoods, learning more about a favorite form of music or dance, sailing on a tall ship, building and launching a space balloon, breaking ground on a community garden, or building their culinary and historical knowledge of bread and the ancient cultural rituals of tea.

Courses are proposed by teachers and students working together, thus the selection of offerings varies each year. It's a time to work collaboratively; a time for students and teachers alike to directly experience that learning truly has no bounds.

#### SAMPLE LIST OF RECENT INTERSESSION COURSE OFFERINGS

- Alchemy – The Science of Magic
- Gallery Crawl and Poetry Slam
- Voyage on a Tall Ship
- Desolation Wilderness Backcountry Skiing and Snow-Camping
- The Sounds and People of San Francisco: Audio Storytelling
- Bay Space Program – Ikaros II Near Space Balloon
- Bay Area Organic Food Tour
- Marine Ecosystems
- Figure Drawing
- Minecraft – Creating Models in 3D
- Alternative Energy
- Bike the Bay
- Latin Rhythms Journey – Salsa Dancing
- Wilderness First Aid
- Audio Engineering and Sound Design
- Project Runway – Fashion design, sewing, and producing a fashion show
- Cyanotype Photography
- Computer Game Design
- End of the Line – Investigating mass transit

### › Senior Signature Projects – Expanding Students' Horizons

The Senior Signature Project Program is designed to be the culminating experience of a Bay School education and is the highlight of each student's 12th grade year as he or she embarks on a journey of personal investigation and discovery. Significantly different from senior programs at many high schools, successful participation in the Bay School program is a requirement for graduation and involves a minimum of 65 hours of field work for which students earn full academic credit for a two-trimester elective course.

The program offers a meaningful opportunity for each senior to pursue an area of academic or personal interest in depth with the close guidance of an experienced mentor who provides expertise and resources. Many Senior Signature Projects involve internships at Bay Area companies and non-profit organizations. Projects in recent years have included clinical trials at UCSF, jazz composition, starting dance and sports programs at local elementary and middle schools, building an electric bamboo motorcycle, photography and documentary filmmaking, marine mammal research, the production of a fashion show to benefit a school for single mothers, building an electric car, and creating a peer counseling program.

The program begins during the third trimester of the junior year as students begin to investigate and identify specific areas of interest. Guided by the full-time director and associate director of Senior Signature Projects, students learn to write project proposals and business letters in preparation for contacting individuals and organizations to serve as mentors. At the conclusion of their projects each student produces a deliverable from their work and makes a formal presentation to the school community. The program offers the important long-term benefits of encouraging students to focus on possible areas of study in college, future careers, and ongoing involvement in their communities as well as providing opportunities for them to learn valuable project-planning skills and gain experience working in a professional environment.

#### RECENT SENIOR PROJECT TOPICS HAVE INCLUDED:

- The Bay School Ancestry Project – Using molecular biology to determine the ancestry of Bay School students and faculty
- The Business of Baseball – Internship at the San Francisco Giants Organization
- Alternative Energy for the Bay School
- Teaching French
- Constructing a 3D Gesture Input System
- Developing a Promotional Video for Artistry Studios
- Delta Smelt, the the ecology of San Francisco Bay
- Song Writing, Recording, and Production
- Memory and Aging – UCSF neuroscience research
- The Dutch Crescent – Muslim immigration in the Netherlands
- Electronic Music Production
- Costumes and Movement in Theater
- Internship at an Architectural Firm
- Understanding the Biology of Cancer Stem Cells – Internship at a biotech laboratory
- Honduran Potable Water Project
- Sustainable Fashion Design
- Micro Finance Project in Columbia
- Writing a Screenplay
- Educational Campaign Promoting Safe Cosmetics
- Piano Composition and Performance
- Design and Construction of an Electric Car

