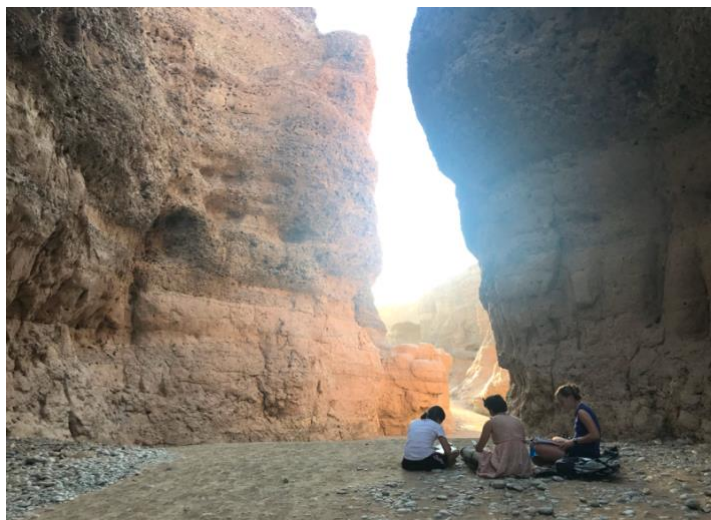




## Academic Overview

Students come to a Traveling School semester with various academic backgrounds. Our school builds an inclusive academic setting for each student to gain confidence sharing ideas, asking questions, actively listening and engaging in thought-provoking dialogues. Traveling School classes provide an integrated education that stretches beyond the boundaries of a single course or textbook. Our thematic curriculum centers relevant regional topics to expand students' ability to think critically and engage in each course with added depth and context. This approach allows students to enhance and diversify their perspectives as they learn through primary resources. The reflective academic environment is based on mutual respect, incorporating thoughtful silence and student-to-student discussion which creates space for diverse viewpoints.

The Traveling School's academic schedule and themes are place-based and relevant to engage students in their surroundings. Students are immersed in challenging topics and learn nuanced perspectives through their teachers, community members, guides and geographic settings. Although the academic



schedule varies from day to day and week to week, The Traveling School carefully records academic hours for each class whether a seminar-style lecture, an interactive academic exploration or a cultural exchange.

Traveling School courses focus on critical thinking and the ability to access, synthesize, evaluate and communicate information through various formats. Students are assessed through class discussion and participation, projects, presentations, homework, quizzes and tests. After the semester, each student

and their sending school receive a traditional transcript accompanied with specific course details plus student-specific comments about growth, proficiency and achievements.

The Traveling School is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS-WASC) as a Supplementary Education Program. Our transcripts and academic credits are accepted by public and private schools across the country.

## Course Offerings and Descriptions

The Traveling School is a transformative hands-on, minds-on interdisciplinary experience; topics transcend classes to promote robust class discussions. The required Traveling School courses integrate creative lessons, immersive experiences and multiple modes of thinking allowing students to develop critical thinking skills, empathy and passion for education. The supplementary courses help students progress classes needed by their sending schools, but do not allow for as much place-based, interactive

teaching. **Each student must enroll in a minimum of five required courses and can choose a sixth course as desired.**

<b>Course Offerings</b>	
<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Semester Credits</b>
Global Studies	2
Physical Education & Independent Life Skills	2*
Honors World Literature & Composition	1
Honors History & Politics	1
Honors Natural Science	1
<b>Supplementary Course</b>	
Algebra 2	1
Conversational Spanish *Required on Latin America Semester (Beginning, Honors Intermediate or Honors Advanced)	1

Notes:

- \*Physical Education & Independent Life Skills is pass/fail with no numerical grade.
- Algebra 2 curriculum does not match the curriculum of each sending school. Content will differ and each student is encouraged to address the differences with her sending school.
- A minimum of three students is required for a supplementary course to be offered. If the minimum is not met, we may be able to establish an independent study.
- Independent Study requests are not guaranteed. The Traveling School must approve requests and will determine additional student fee.
- Course changes during semester require the approval of a Traveling School administrator, student's home high school and parents.

**GLOBAL STUDIES** (Required)

This two-credit class is designed to be a thought-provoking, discussion-based forum that teaches students to make connections between recurring themes, ideas and concepts from the semester. The class has two primary focuses: first, to use multiple methods to provide students with critical thinking tools essential for higher level reasoning and critique; second, to use an interdisciplinary framework to explore how regional economic, political, social and environmental issues impact the people and land in our areas of travel.

The course poses essential questions for students to draw important connections and develop critical thinking skills to work through the complex questions that arise when investigating relevant topics in our region of travel. Each unit centers on a pertinent theme and engages diverse material through multiple disciplines, schools of thought and perspectives.

The Global Studies course will also emphasize active citizenship through community service and local engagement. Students perform approximately 15-20 hours of community service and engagement during the semester. During these experiences, students will ask questions and reflect to better understand local and regional issues. This course encourages students to return home and turn this knowledge into action.



#### *Global Studies Final Presentation*

Each student is required to give a final public presentation for a group of their peers within ten days of returning home. This presentation must be verified by a supervising adult and sent to The Traveling School for a final grade. Details are further described in the Student and Parent Handbook.

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & INDEPENDENT LIFE SKILLS (Required)**

Physical Education (PE) & Independent Life Skills (iLife) is a 2-credit pass/fail\* class that focuses on academic, physical and emotional successes and challenges. The PE component helps students maintain overall physical health, develop strength and cardiovascular endurance. Weekly iLife workshops help students develop skills to become healthy, productive citizens who take responsibility for personal well-being, as well as a social responsibility for participating positively in the larger community. These workshops explore and develop key aspects of communication, group dynamics, conflict resolution and leadership skills. The combination of PE & iLife helps students develop an awareness of balance and well-being. This is a participation-based class during workouts and class discussions.

**NOTE:** A *Physical Education & Independent Life Skills* pass grade requires a 70%. The Traveling School can award a traditional percentage grade if required. This request must be noted prior to the start of the semester on the Credit Transfer Form.

#### **HONORS LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (Required)**

Honors Literature and Composition is designed to provide students with critical reading and writing skills to engage with salient historical and socio-political issues in the region. Designed to expose students to



an assortment of highly acclaimed authors, students read two novels as well as short fiction, non-fiction and poetry focused on the region. This course combines reading with rigorous writing workshop practice to develop writing skills focusing on organization, clarity and creativity. Students will use drafting and editing processes to produce three major compositions as well as develop their ability to analyze texts, articulate and express their views to effectively communicate through various types of writing.

### **HONORS HISTORY AND POLITICS (Required)**

Using a thematic exploration of the region, students are asked to think critically about how contemporary regional issues reflect pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial historical events. Beginning with the question, '*What is history?*' and framing the myths upon which contemporary regional issues have been built, students progress to challenging personal and cultural assumptions by exploring biases, reading accounts from marginalized peoples, and engaging with a variety of relevant stakeholders. Through a historical lens, students will situate regional issues within the larger context of global economics, politics and social dynamics to study the ways in which power relations such as race, class and gender produce hierarchical social, political and economic realities for diverse groups of people. This course requires students to critically engage with difficult material, make connections between complex concepts and consider disparate points of view to move beyond a conception of history as strictly linear and temporal. Students will learn to assess and distinguish between different kinds of sources, research and present on various regional topics, understand and create maps, develop interviewing skills and write an historical essay. During this course, students will access, synthesize and evaluate information to communicate and apply social studies knowledge to real world situations.

### **HONORS NATURAL SCIENCE (Required)**

This course aims to cultivate students' ability to critically assess problems and logically develop solutions in our increasingly global society. This course enhances students' understanding of the natural systems that surround us, both in our immediate surroundings on semester and worldwide. Through a hands-on, interdisciplinary approach, students use observation and inquiry skills to explore these surroundings and make connections between the economic, social and political impacts on the natural world.

Students will read selections from journal articles, textbooks and other scientific literature as well as attend guest lectures, participate in discussions, lectures and in-depth field studies. This multi-faceted approach allows students to learn, process, evaluate and communicate reasonable conclusions using scientific inquiry and investigation. With the diverse environments of the region as our classroom, students will discover the value of observation, inquiry and inference in science. This course is designed around and meets the Next Generation Science Standards.



**CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH** – *Beginning, Honors Intermediate or Honors Advanced* (Required on Latin America semester / Supplementary for other course regions)

Prior to the semester, each student will complete a written and oral Spanish assessment in order to create three class levels composed of students with similar skill levels. While content varies across sending schools, course material is developed to increase each student's Spanish fluency through reading, writing and speaking during in-class discussions and interactive academic activities.

Each interactive Conversational Spanish course implements the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century from the National Standards in Foreign Language Education. These courses are taught using the 5 C's: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities. Students will interact and practice their language acquisition skills to engage with, learn about and understand the people, cultures and communities through which we travel.

### **ALGEBRA 2** (Supplementary)

*Fall Semester Prerequisite: Algebra 1*

*Spring Semester Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and first semester Algebra 2*

**Note:** *The Traveling School cannot guarantee complete overlap between a sending school math curriculum and The Traveling School curriculum. Our syllabi absolutely vary from the curriculum of each student's home high school. Students must work with their schools to recognize these differences and, if necessary, be prepared to do any additional work necessary to stay on track with home high school requirements.*

Algebra 2 is a sequential curriculum that enables students to build the foundations for a strong understanding of higher-level math. Students learn to conceptualize, analyze and identify relationships among functions graphically and analytically. Students are encouraged to master the concepts of various problem types and solution tactics, and a graphing calculator will often be used as a helpful tool to solve problems and analyze data. During this course, students will connect with the mathematical procedures

of problem solving and analysis, estimation, communication, associations and applications, and use appropriate technology.

<u>First semester topics:</u> Linear Functions Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities Matrices Quadratic functions Introduction to Polynomial Functions	<u>Second semester topics:</u> Logarithms Rational Functions Radical Functions Conic Sections Probability & Statistics
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