

**MINNEHAHA ACADEMY**

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**JUNE TERM**

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**STUDENT & PARENT  
HANDBOOK**

**2008**

## **JUNE TERM DEFINITION:**

June Term is a week-long, authentic learning experience for upper school students. The program will occur at the conclusion of the academic school year, allowing students an opportunity to build bridges within our school, neighborhood, and global communities between people from diverse socioeconomic, generational, religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Learning experiences during this week will be designed to meet the goals of the real-life learning vision statement, as developed by the long-range planning task force.

## **VISION STATEMENT for REAL-LIFE LEARNING:**

This type of learning instills wisdom, compassion, respect, and understanding in order to prepare students for interactions in an increasingly global society.

The intentions of real-life learning are:

- to promote an understanding of another's life and point of view
- to provide opportunities for students to discover their God-given gifts
- to develop compassionate and globally-minded citizens
- to equip students with a willingness to give of themselves in service to God and others

## **COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

### **What is the format for June Term?**

June Term will occur during the week of June 2-6, 2008. Students and team leaders will visit community sites on Monday – Thursday of this week, and participate in a half-day, post-reflection retreat on Friday. On-site hours will vary. Most teams will be on-site during a typical school day. Some teams may stay on-site beyond the normal school day and designated week (including possible evenings or weekends), pending the site location/activities and the inclusion of sister-school visits, short-term missions trips, language study trips, and similar cultural immersion trips during June Term.

How does June Term fit the mission of the school?  
How can we justify this in our academic setting?

In our mission statement to “provide a high quality education integrating Christian faith & learning”, the mission of June Term reflects the mission of the school in these particular areas:

- “challenge ourselves and our students toward excellence, a deepening Christian faith, and a commitment to service”.

Furthermore, in our school-supported statement of what we believe, the following make a significant connection to June Term:

- “We believe in the development of the whole child. We seek to involve the students individually and corporately in meaningful activities which will allow them to deal dynamically and creatively with their development – intellectual, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual”
- “We believe that the avenues to understanding and knowledge are diverse”
- “We see our role as a Christian school not to shelter youth from the world in which we live but to ‘companion’ them as they examine other ideologies”.
- “We believe learning is a lifelong process. Minnehaha endeavors to provide the tools and excitement for learning throughout life”.
- “We believe in the importance of building genuine, Christian maturity. We hope that our graduates will display this mature Christian character and thus permeate society with Christian influence and practice”.

How many students will be in each group?

Will vary, typically between 8 – 12

Who are the supervisors?

Mrs. Amy Swanson is the program director for the June Term.  
 Mrs. Julie Johnson is the national & international trips coordinator for June Term.  
 Faculty and staff members will lead student June Term teams.

## What are the benefits of this program to my education?

- Makes learning more useful and relevant
- Promotes active learning
- Extends the boundaries of the classroom
- Promotes the value of diversity/ helps dispel myths and stereotypes
- Serves as a catalyst for increased maturity
- Promotes the development of compassion for others
- Strengthens analytical and critical thinking skills
- Fosters a sense of civic responsibility
- Strengthens interpersonal and communication skills
- Allows for integrations and synthesis of knowledge with experience
- Improves the overall school climate
- Allows students to serve as involved citizens in the community

## Is June Term optional or required?

This program is a required part of the upper school curriculum. Students will receive a pass/fail mark for this requirement. One-third credit will be earned toward Minnehaha graduation requirements for each year of participation.

## How will I earn a passing grade?

Faculty team leaders will assess each student on their team based on the following:

- Attendance (present throughout entire June Term program)
- Attitude (positive, respectful, cooperative)
- Behavior (responsible, follows school policy)
- Participation (contributes)
- Reflection (daily journal entries with reflective content and participation in organized group reflection during orientation sessions and post-reflection learning activities)

Students that meet all of these criteria will earn a passing mark.

## How much will this cost?

Costs will vary depending upon site assignments. Local learning site costs are minimal. National & international trips will typically range in cost from \$200 - \$3800 (all expenses included). Students currently on financial aid may apply for financial assistance for June Term expenses.

## What preparation will take place prior to the week of June Term to enhance the learning experience?

Faculty team leaders will regularly meet with student teams throughout second semester to discuss, plan, organize, and identify assumptions and concerns. The program director will facilitate orientation sessions for all participating students. Planning and orientation activities will emphasize strategies for building meaningful relationships within the community in order to support existing community needs without imposing upon the learning site. (See the orientation meeting schedule on p. 10)

## What safety precautions will be taken?

Each team will be partnered with an on-site community supervisor. Faculty team leaders and adult site supervisors will be present with students at all times. Students will become aware of personal safety considerations in orientation sessions – and will be required to remain in groups of a minimum of 2 students throughout the week.

Each team will have a first aid kit, student medical cards, and basic first aid information. The school nurse will provide instructions and medications to team leaders for specific medical needs. The school nurse will also be on-call throughout the week, beyond the regular school day. In the case of a medical emergency, parents will be contacted through the program director – and immediate medical care will be provided.

If you have any particular medical concerns or dietary needs for this week, please inform the school nurse.

## What will I do if I am ill?

Please follow school policy for reporting absences to Student Services. Also, a parent should contact the student's team leader, so that the team will not be waiting on you. If you are absent due to illness, the program director will consult your team leader about whether your participation throughout the week was substantial enough to earn a passing grade. If you are absent due to an illness, you may be required to make-up June Term during the summer.

### What sort of transportation will be provided?

Students **MUST** travel to and from partner sites with teams and team leaders. All students should be dropped off and picked up from the upper school campus.

Teams may travel via passenger vans, busing, public transportation, or air travel. The program director will organize all contracted transportation. Team leaders will be responsible for coordinating team transport on public transportation. Students taking public transportation will be required to pay for daily bus or rail line passes.

### Will this program extend beyond the regular school day?

The scope of each June Term experience will depend upon the assigned learning site. In some cases, the time of involvement will extend beyond the regular school day – including the possibility of overnight stays. In most cases, students involved in extracurricular activities that extend into the week of June Term will be assigned a site that doesn't interfere with outside-of-school activities.

### How will the learning sites be assigned?

Information on learning site opportunities will be provided to students at the Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> orientation session. Students will register for their top 3 preferences for site assignments within 2 weeks after receiving site information. Students will be notified of their site assignment within a few weeks of registering. Assignments will be based on both student interests and site needs. An effort will be made to consider student preferences; however, final assignments will be determined by the program director. Final site assignments are non-negotiable. *(See the sample site registration form on p. 11)*

### Will I be able to call home? Will my parents be able to contact me?

As per school policy, students will not be allowed to carry cell phones at learning sites. Team leaders will carry cell phones. So, if you are in need of contacting your parents, you will arrange to do so with your team leader. If parents need to contact your child during June Term, please contact the school office to leave a message that will be passed along to your son or daughter.

## What if I have a sports or personal conflict during June Term?

Please plan ahead to be free of any outside responsibilities during June Term week. Do not schedule medical appointments, family trips, private lessons, or other personal obligations during the designated times that you will be at your community partner site. Since participation in June Term is a graduation requirement, you may not be absent during the times you are supposed to be at your learning site. If you have any scheduled activities during the week of June Term, you have a couple of options:

- Select site preferences that have schedules that will not interfere with these activities.
- Make alternative arrangements with your coaches, advisors, employers, etc.

## What is my role at my learning site?

Your primary job is to use your observation skills, your listening skills, your intelligence, and your sensitivity to learn from the community of people that you visit. If there are opportunities to serve others, you should also be prepared to share your talents and skills to assist those around you. In everything that you do, you should be seeking to understand and support the people that you meet at your learning site.

## What will I do at my learning site?

Site activities will vary. Some sites may include service projects such as construction, painting, gardening, cooking and serving meals, cleaning, etc. Others may include interactive activities with children or senior citizens. Some sites may invite you to share your skills or creativity through teaching or performing. Still others may provide you with opportunities to participate in community programs with other teens or adults.

## What are the behavior expectations at my site?

All Minnehaha Academy rules are in effect at your site. It is also your responsibility to become informed of and obey the rules of your site. Please respect your team leader, your team members, and those you meet at your learning site.

## What should I do if I am having a problem at my learning site?

Please talk to your team leader about any problems or concerns that you may have.

### Will I be able to go back to the same learning site next year?

Students must go to a different learning site each year that you participate in June Term.

### If I have an idea for a community site for June Term, who should I tell?

Please give any contact information for local community partners to Mrs. Swanson. Please provide referrals for national or international sites to Mrs. Julie Johnson.

### If I am absent during June Term or do not pass, can I make up the credit?

Students who do not participate in June Term during the designated week will have to make up the lost credit during the summer. These arrangements will need to be made through Mrs. Swanson. Transportation, team leaders, and peer group collaboration will not be provided for students that need to make up the credit.

### How can my parents be involved?

Parent involvement will be helpful in the following areas:

- Provide reliable references for community partnerships
- Volunteers to provide meals or snacks for teams
- Provide or donate team-specific resources (tools, art supplies, gardening supplies,...)
- Contribute to a designated fund for scholarships for national & international trips
- Knowledge or experience with community partners that can be shared with teams in preparation for site experiences
- Encourage student enthusiasm and growth (ie: talk about your child's experience)
- Encourage further community sharing of June Term experiences by inviting students to share at your church, with extended family members, at local organizations, etc.
- Participate with your son/daughter in ongoing volunteer opportunities at the learning site

Parents should contact the program director to assist in any of these ways:

**Mrs. Amy Swanson**  
**Director of Cultural Immersion**  
**612-729-8321, ext. 1518**  
**Swanson-Amy@MinnehahaAcademy.net**

## ADDITIONAL Q & A FOR NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SITES:

### What additional expectations and requirements are associated with going to a June Term site beyond the Twin Cities?

#### **Paperwork:**

- U.S. Passport is required for int'l. travel (must be applied for by February of 2008).
- Some international travel may require a Visa document. If needed, this will be communicated to you in advance based on your trip.
- International travel may also require immunizations or medications. Please consult your physician and local travel clinic for medical advice on your travel situation.

#### **Travel:**

- Accommodations are pre-arranged and may include hotels, hostels, churches, schools, or home stays. Students may be required to bring bedding or towels.

#### **Costs:**

- Costs vary and typically range from \$200 - \$3800.
- Costs include transportation (flight, busing, etc.), food, & accommodations.
- International trips will require initial deposits in order to secure a flight booking. Total payment of all trip costs will be due at least 1 month prior to the trip.

#### **Preparation:**

- One or more additional evening meetings with students and their parents may be planned in preparation for extended trips. Attendance at these orientation meetings will be required.

#### **Length of Trip:**

- National and international trips will likely extend beyond the one-week June Term period based on time needed for traveling to the sites; typically ranging in length from 6 – 12 days.

#### **Post-Reflection Retreat:**

- Students on extended trips may not be able to attend the scheduled post-reflection retreat due to the trip length. In these circumstances, post-reflection requirements for these groups will occur during the trip – guided by the faculty team leader.

Any further questions about national or international June Term trips?

Please contact Mrs. Julie Johnson:

612-729-8321, ext.1733 or [Johnson-Julie@MinnehahaAcademy.net](mailto:Johnson-Julie@MinnehahaAcademy.net)

**SAMPLE REGISTRATION FORM**

**JUNE TERM LEARNING SITE SIGN-UP**

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME:

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PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR GRADE LEVEL:      9th      10th      11th

ARE YOU ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN LEARNING SITES THAT EXTEND BEYOND THE NORMAL SCHOOL DAY? (Circle One):

Yes    /    No

IN THE SPACES PROVIDED BELOW, PLEASE LIST YOUR TOP 3 LEARNING SITE PREFERENCES FOR JUNE TERM:

1<sup>ST</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>ND</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>RD</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Reminder!**

**You may NOT select a site that you visited last year.**