



NEWSLETTER



the Center for Engagement Presents Howtoons Saturdays!



Snow-Tastic! - Through the creation of personalized snow globes, we will explore density and buoyancy as we “up-cycle” small objects from home into a mini-wonderland.

January 12th

Circuit Circus - Your self-made flashlights come alive to create a shadow world of circus fun as engineering, art and physics collide. This Howtoons project hasn't even been published yet!

January 26th

Veloci-Racers - No dinos here...these Veloci-Racers are all about speed. How fast can you power a racer with a mousetrap? A rubber band? A balloon? You won't want to miss this menagerie of mayhem!

February 9th

Pnifty Pneumatics - Air is all around us, and we're using it to power robotic limbs we create ourselves. We are going “out on a limb” with this one...

February 23rd

Parents and kids loved our Howtoons summer camp so much, they asked for more. So here we are...with MORE Howtoons. Each workshop is designed with the hallmarks of every CFE program: interdisciplinary curriculum, great staff to student ratio of 2-12 or smaller, hands-on exploration of STEM

and arts topics, a safe environment, professional staff, and lots of FUN!

While each workshop is designed for 10-12 year olds, we are happy to offer additional sessions for older or younger kids who are interested, so let us know if you have such a child.

We are also prepared to open additional sessions for kids who are wait-listed as the programs fill.

For more details, check out the website.

madisonelacademy.org/summer-enrichment/

Visit Us At KIDS EXPO

Stop by our table to get info about summer programs, meet staff, and see examples of student work from 2012!

March 16 & 17
Alliant Energy Center



In This Issue...

Howtoons Saturdays are HERE!

***What Makes MELA Unique?
Feature #2: Citizen Scholarship***

Admissions Applications

Upcoming Info Meetings

MELA Admissions Applications Are Being Accepted

Madison Expeditionary Learning Academy is accepting applications for the Fall of 2013!

The application process has two parts. First, students are asked to fill out a paper application, with the help of their parents and teachers. Second, students are invited to an "on-site" session, which includes a writing sample, an on-line assessment, and a personal interview.

As with many things we do, we looked at existing practices in comparable schools and combined them to meet our needs. We also looked at the practices of responsible qualitative researchers.

Qualitative research? Yes, you read that correctly. Qualitative researchers gather data from multiple sources. until patterns become evident. In our admissions process, patterns will help us see students as wholly as possible, which is an integral piece of making sure MELA is a good fit for the student.

It's no mistake that our admissions process is just as interdisciplinary as our curriculum!

Details of our application process are on our website. We encourage you to take a look and invite the 8th graders in your life to apply!

PERSPECTIVE

"I am very excited about this high school because it will engage students an critical thinking via an extremely unique, interdisciplinary, socially-conscious, curriculum. Through project-based learning, students will acquire essential problem-solving skills, and a broad prospective of the world around them."

Dr. Elizabeth Meyerand, PhD
Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering, UW-Madison
Professor: Departments of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering

EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE. -WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

"MELA will support teachers and students in the design of educational experiences that compel us into the real world. In this act of community engagement, the learning involved becomes so much more meaningful and inspires the very best from students and teachers alike. MELA considers the social development of teenagers and offers them a powerful vision of community leadership. Expeditionary learning at MELA challenges us all to live up to the recognition that we are all crew members in our community and that no one is simply a passenger. "

Jeff Steele, MA
Talented and Gifted Science
Resource Teacher, Madison Public
Schools



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, UNIQUE?



Several aspects of our school design are “unique.” Some are unique to Madison, some to Wisconsin, and some to the nation. In our last newsletter, we highlighted **Makerspace** as a unique feature of MELA’s design. This month, we shine the spotlight on **Citizen Scholarship**.

Citizen Scholarship: The intersection of knowledge, skills, and action is a critical place for adolescents to spend time. Expeditionary Learning offers an effective framework to support students as they are challenged to apply what they know to address real issues. Students **grow as scholars**, engaging in academically rigorous learning experiences that make content, skills and standards come alive. They **grow as citizens**, using their knowledge, skills and character to address community issues and do work that meets professional standards. And they **grow as leaders**, persisting until they meet high standards of quality, taking responsibility for their own learning and making a difference in their communities. Citizen Scholars are students who not only achieve academically, but also develop **character and skills** in problem solving, critical thinking, persistence and collaboration needed to succeed and tackle real world challenges. As the only EL high school in the Madison area, MELA is unique in its approach to Citizen Scholarship.

At the state and national levels, MELA’s commitment to Citizen Scholarship is unique, as well. One full day each week is committed to fieldwork, service learning and community lab time deeply connected to classroom expeditions. In addition, seniors will implement a year-long Citizen Scholar project and present their results to the community in a Symposium. Over four years, students will participate in **more than 1,000 hours** of time spent at the intersection of knowledge, skills and action. This level of commitment to Citizen Scholarship has exciting implications for what student will be able to accomplish in college and beyond!

UPCOMING INFO MEETINGS

**January 7, 2013 6:30p.m. Verona Public Library,
500 Silent Street, Verona**

**January 22, 2013 6:30p.m. Middleton Public
Library, 7425 Hubbard Ave. Middleton**



With a goal of 36-40 Freshman students for our first freshman class, MELA is working hard to get the word out. We have two remaining open information sessions on the calendar and are scheduling additional visits with middle

schools, churches and home school groups. Highlights of the evening include details about the academic program, unique features, school culture and co-curricular activities. Parents and middle school students are invited to ask

questions and meet community members working on this amazing school project. Come hear about this remarkable high school and see if it is a good fit for your family!

Location “Wish List”

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Proximity to Bike Path | Proximity to Capitol | Proximity to Lakes |
| 5,000+ Square Feet | Outdoor Space Nearby | Proximity to University |
| Adequate Parking | Access to Bus Line | Air Conditioning for Summer Programs |



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