

BELLE MEADE



School | Farm | Day Camp | B & B



Canoe Trip

At the beginning of every year we like to go on a canoe trip before the full swing of education begins. We go canoeing and kayaking down the Shenandoah River, which is a good distance in total, but very manageable spread over three days. The trip is a fantastic way to get to know all the new students and work towards common goals. This year, we had a lovely rainstorm that, while making setting up tents more difficult, made for a unique experience none of us will forget. Everyone kept high spirits while setting camp and making dinner. After the trip is done, we're all glad to be home. We are happy for the experience, and we all understand each other better.

Leif



New Students

Hello, Belle Meade family, my name is Sara Garcia. I am new to the Belle Meade School, but not new to Belle Meade. My mother lives on the farm and works here at the school. This summer I worked as a counselor at the summer camp and occasionally work at the bed and breakfast. I am in 12th grade. I enjoy horseback riding, art, and running. I am very much looking forward to my senior year at Belle Meade.

Sara

My name is Jasper Lee Gros. I am 16. I live on Sperryville Pike, Virginia. My mother is Monica Newell, and my father Tommy Gros. I often find myself indulging on my personal interests, such as gaming, and to a lesser extent drawing and writing. If I were to summarize my life in a sentence, it would show as such: school, home, school, home, school, home, weekend, school, home, school, home (CONT.)

Jasper

My name is McKaylah Brown. I live in Culpeper, VA, and I am a 17 years old. I like to swim, cook, and love puppies. I have been homeschooled since the 8th grade. I live in a house with my mom, my grandparents, my two sisters ages 14 and 6, my brother age 12, 2 cats named Crispy Toes and Midnight, and a dog named Bootsie. My brother and sisters go to public schools. My 14 year old sister is named Ryleigh and is in the 9th grade, My 12 year old brother is named Hayden he is in the 7th grade in a bunch of intermediate classes because he is really smart. Last but not least comes my 6 year old sister named Raegan; she is in the 1st grade.

McKaylah

My name is Edward, I am 16, and I live in Culpeper. Life is by no means normal. I am a practitioner of shaolin martial arts, a horse back rider, an archer, a writer, an anime freak, a lover of my dog Orville, and a fairly peaceful human being. I am very happy to be here at Belle Meade and not at a public school. My time is divided in about four different places: my girlfriend Julia's house, Kung Fu class, Belle Meade, and spending time with my best friend Ned. My list of friends is short, but that's okay because my friendships are strong. I am looking forward to this year, and I am curious about how my relationships, my Kung Fu, and I will change throughout this year.

Edward

Hi my name is Alyssa Amster, I am 12 years old. I like to go horseback riding, draw, do yarn crafts, and many other things. I have one sister and two dogs. I do a lot of outdoor activities. I like to hike, to go zip lining, to climb trees, and other things like that. When I am at home, I usually read, write, play with Gus, my younger dog, and whatever else I think of. My sister's name is Jessica and if mom would let her she would spend her life playing computer games and watching TV. My mom is a spiritual healer and reiki artist; she also announces at horse shows. My dad is a pediatrician and usually isn't home. I am usually here, there, everywhere - at school, at dad's office, or anywhere else mom puts me.

Alyssa

Strings

Belle Meade’s Strings class this year has several new members including Jasper Gross, McKayla Colgan, and Elliott Eaton. Strings this year has gone from being an elective to a full class. Like last year the students are in charge of collectively picking songs for the class to learn as a group. The first song that the class chose to learn is Wonderwall by Oasis. The class consists of an interesting variety of instruments including guitar, mandolin, violin, and the ukulele. The new students in the class fit in perfectly with the group and the students from last year seem to have progressed further in their music over the summer too. Students are already working together on songs and keeping Strings a fun and productive class.

Noah

Calendars and Other Fundraisers

This summer McKayla Colgan and I created a calendar for Belle Meade School. It was fun to make, and we were proud of the end result. Though this was a good fundraising choice, we have many more plans. Our next fundraising event is our Farm Tour on September 26th. We will be having a silent auction and would be very grateful to anyone who can help and participate. We will also be having hay rides, food, a chef cook off, and a hay bale maze. It’s always a blast, and we really encourage everyone who can to come. Our next event is our Halloween masquerade dance on October 30th. Please come in a costume. It’ll be really fun, and we always love it. Additionally, we will be having an open house on October 25th, and we greatly encourage everyone to come.

Ava

New Students Continued

My name is Thomas Gallagher. I was born in Nov. 16, 2003 in Virginia, and my parents are from Pennsylvania. I am 11 years old. I like video games, soccer, and tennis. I do not like working at school or anywhere else. I like candy. Our pets are 3 cats, 1 dog, 2 sheep, and 4 chickens. I am in a robotics club. We build robots and program them to complete challenges. I also play soccer, but I want to quit.

Thomas

My name is Jena Sanford, and I'm 14 years old. I have an older brother named Kevin. Kevin goes to George Mason University. My mom works at Linton Hall School and my dad works at NRA. Two Octobers ago I adopted a Sheltie Beagle mix, which I named Bella. I love talking Bella for long walks. I listen to music on my new iPhone, and I play games on there too. Also I like to do graffiti art which for me is that I put all the logos that I like into one big group. I ride my bike, my electric scooter, and go for walks around my neighborhood. My entire family lives in Warrenton, VA, but my parents used to live in Greenbelt, MD. They moved to Virginia because of my dad's job. My family and I have been to Disney World, Hersey Park, Kings Damion, and Sea Colony which is in Delaware. This past summer I've been working with dogs with Miss. Hornbaker who owns Hornbaker Dog Training. It was so much fun playing with all the different types of breeds and working with them and learning from her.

Jena

Horses

The Belle Made Equestrian program has lots of new people this year. They are Alex, Sofie, Ava, McKayla, Ryan, Edward, McKaylah, Sara, Elliott, Alyssa, Jharna, and Jena. Kodiak, in training and is coming along. Dakota is missing Lauren. Aisling is becoming a better jumper. Amethyst is becoming a good lesson horse. Omni is becoming a good trail horse; Cherokee is doing trail rides with Susan. We will be doing the Bull Run Hunter Pace. The people who will be in it are Alex, MaKayla, Sofie, and Ava. The horses for the event are Kodiak, Dakota, Aisling, and Amethyst. This event will be Sunday, September 27th at 9:00am in Madison.

Sofie



My Youth Summit

This summer, I attended the American Public Transportation Association Youth summit. I learned about the private and public sector of transit, and how they work together to create unique funding options. I met Eleanor Homes Norton, the US congresswoman that represents Washington DC. She really encourages the next generation to be active in transportation because transportation is the oldest government department and 50-70% of the work force will retire in the next 10 years. I also met a lobbyist and many other people who are interested in Public Transit. I made many new friends and learned about another internship I want to look at The Presidential Youth Council.

(www.presidentialyouthcouncil.org). I really enjoyed the time there, and I will be one of the next transportation secretaries somewhere.

James

School Electives

My name is Ryan Raiford and today I'm going to talk about cooking and gardening which are electives at Belle Meade. What we do in cooking is cook food. One day we cooked meat sauce and vegetarian sauce for the canoe trip. Japanese is a class taught by Ms. Alex. Gardening is where you plant stuff, whack weeds, mow grass, and harvest food. Riding is where you ride horses in the ring and on trails. Music and strings is where you play guitars, xylophone, piano, and other instruments. There is also a new music teacher named Jonas. He went to school at UVA and he is in a band which has played in Europe.

Ryan

Farm Tour

It's that time of year again! The annual Belle Meade Farm Tour is coming up on September 26th, 2015. There will be tons of activities going on at the farm. Such as, hay ride tours of the farm, bee keeping demonstrations, pony rides, a chef cook-off, and an on-going silent auction. There will also be an awesome lunch made from food grown and raised on the farm. We also have a lot of great auction items to come and bid on. We have a trip to the Shenandoah along with a cabin stay, many gifts from local artisans, a hot air balloon ride, and much more! Please come to learn about our farm and school and to have a great time!

McKayla



Exchange Student

I was in Germany for 9 months, living with friends of our family. They were a nice family and made my year as easy as possible. Throughout my year I got to travel a little which was amazing. I went to Mallorca, Spain for a week of tennis training. I had such a wonderful time making new friends and learning a new sport to me. School in Germany is also quite interesting. I went to a gymnasium school which is closest to our public schools. My classmates were so helpful with any problems. Teachers were also very kind and patient with me for which I can't even thank them enough. I spent most of my time with friends after school eating or just chilling; I had such a great time. I can't wait to go back this summer to see friends and just be able to be back in such a great culture and a great country.

When I came back over the summer, the change was a bit hard readjusting to the norm. I also was a sleep deprived because in the mornings I would have to get up earlier than normal because I had to use the bus. If I wanted to sleep in I would be biking to school. It was better during spring because I wasn't frozen solid when I got to school. So for the first three days or so back I slept in for quite a while. I still do miss a lot of the foods over there. One food in particular I miss the most is duner, almost like our gyro. My life abroad was a great experience. I learned a lot about what life is like in Germany.

Elliott

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