

BELLE MEADE



School | Farm | Summer Day Camp | B & B



MINI-SOCIETY PROJECT (BELLANDIA)

At Belle Meade School, the students and staff are creating a functioning mini-society (Bellandia) with a mini-economy that includes aspects of both government and business; they are learning government function through the practical experience of creating a constitution, electing officials, creating laws, and running a government. We have created a mixed-economy that includes some command aspects and many free-market aspects. Students apply for jobs, create entrepreneurial businesses, and trade goods/services with internal currency: *Krumpkins*.

-Alex & John

A LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Friends, Teachers, Students, Parents, Thank you for the time you commit to Belle Meade School. As some of you might not know, I took office on the 20th of September to lead Belle Meade's Min-Society: Bellandia. My term is up on November 18th. I ran to inspire to encourage younger students and the future generations to one day think: "Hey, you remember that kid, James? I believe he really inspired me!" That's why I ran. I have no plans to seek re-election for the second trimester, but if people want me to, I will. My top priority is bipartisanship between all parties at Belle Meade, along with keeping taxes low. I encourage young people to come to Belle Meade and to think: "How do I open doors for my future education and career?" I hope you love Belle Meade and Bellandia as much as I do!

Warm Regards, James R. Hensley

Welcome to our new students!

We would like to welcome our newest additions to the Belle Meade School community: Avigayil Aaronson, Ezra Aaronson, and Lauren Peeling. We are very excited to have them here to spread the love and happiness that makes up our school. Avi and Lauren are



in 10th grade and have been enjoying their experiences so far. Ezra is in 8th grade and is fitting in well. Both Avigayil and Ezra come to us from Mountain Laurel Montessori Junior High School, and Lauren joins us from Rappahannock County High School. "It's fun. I've met some really great people," said Avi about her time thus far." "It has been an interesting experience," commented Lauren. "We are so lucky to have such kind, caring, and dedicated additions to our school community this year!" elaborated Alex. "Welcome to all of our new families," concluded Susan.

-Avi

MUSIC WITH MADDI

Welcome to our new music teacher, Maddi Hicks! In music this trimester, we are learning the basics of reading music and playing instruments. We are also singing various songs. Everyone has private music lessons throughout the week. For example, Thomas is taking private ukulele lessons, and Ezra will be starting guitar. "I like Maddi because she has a good personality and is friendly," said Lauren. "She is a good teacher and I highly respect her because she can get everyone organized," commented James. "[Maddi] is one of the few people who will listen to me ramble on about why I like old, electronic music," added Julia. We are excited that Maddi has joined our Belle Meade community :)





VERDUN

Belle Meade School students went to Verdun on September 16. This year, we worked together in one large group as a single team. The first major task was the “A-frame” in which one person stood on a pillar while other people had to move it to a certain point. The second task was called “The Walk of Life” where people had to walk across a 20-foot cable without touching the ground. Everyone was allowed to help each other as long as each person remained on the cable. Next was the “Rock Wall” where we climbed a mock cliff face while attached to a harness and rope. After that, we ate lunch and Doc Snyder talked with us for a while about life and growing up. “I really like the way [the activities] made us think as a whole. For example, if one person had an idea, all of us would try it to see if it worked,” commented Oliver. “My favorite obstacle was probably The Walk of Life,” he continued. “That was fun!” agreed Ezra.

-James

FARM TOUR

The Farm Tour was a great experience to learn more about the farm and what it is we do here daily. There were many fun and exciting activities like: hayrides (which gave people the opportunity to take a little tour around the farm), the chef cookout (where some of our students: Madison, Elliott, and Alyssa helped make delicious dishes), pony rides (with our farm horse Amethyst), a silent auction (which was in the downstairs of the school building where people bid on various items that others donated to the school beforehand), and the great barbecue that was for lunch that day. This was also an excellent chance to visit farm animals and meet some of the good-natured students, parents, and staff who are part of our Belle Meade community.

-Lauren

FARM NEWS

Say hello to the turkeys of Bellandia! With the cold weather settling in, so comes the time to raise up these odd, meaty birds. All the turkeys are free-range and VERY friendly, and will always greet a visitor with open wings. That is, as long as they have food to spare. However, don't let their trust and hunger fool you. These birds are actually quite strong! Because they were bred for their big and healthy meat, they become incredibly difficult to catch and restrain. Still, this characteristic was only bred into them to make them into a **better meal**. This November, be sure to pick up your own Belle Meade turkey for the upcoming holidays!

-Julia



My Week at Belle Meade School

So far, Belle Meade School has been great! Everyone is so nice, welcoming, and loving. Belle Meade is A LOT different than the school I go to in Richmond, VA. First off, there are definitely no farm animals at my school in Richmond! At Belle Meade, they have ducks, horses, cows, pigs, chickens, and turkeys! Classes are shorter than my classes in Richmond, except on Wednesdays, when we have ALL our classes, but each one is only 45 minutes long. At Belle Meade, they are only 50 minutes each everyday! In the mornings (at Belle Meade), we do chores like feeding the animals and taking care of the horses. There are dogs running around Belle Meade, and cats in the barn. My school does not have a barn, dogs, or cats. The amount of students is also a big difference. My school has around 450 or 500 students, and Belle Meade has 15 students, including me! At Belle Meade, the grades mix together. At my school, classes are divided by grade. My school is kindergarten through eighth grade, and Belle Meade is sixth through twelfth grade. My school has little kids running around, and Belle Meade has big kids, (some acting like little kids) running around! I will miss Belle Meade when I leave, but I still love my school in Richmond!

By: Kate Turnbull



We will miss you Kate! It was wonderful having you visit.

CANOE TRIP

We started our year off with another amazing trip on the Shenandoah River, building relationships between students and producing a team-like work effort. This years trip was uneventful, in a good way of course. We started our adventures on Wednesday, setting sail with a group of 11 and a half day trip in front of us, the sun at full blast without a cloud to be seen. The sweat was pouring as we rowed down the river. Some tried to race but were quickly slowed by the burning twinkle in the sky. We quickly started to look for a place to sit and hide from the heat while replenishing our nutrients depleted by the strenuous work. After our short stop, we had to be back on our way to reach our final resting place for that night: Compton Rapids. We made camp and stayed the night at Compton Campground with a little rain through the evening. The next day, however, we dried up and got back on the river for a day-long trip to our backcountry camping destination. The day was filled with peace and serenity on the water, followed by a delicious dinner and bonding time around the fire in the evening. On our final, day we made our way to the Downriver Canoe Company outfitter where we went ashore and loaded back into the bus for our return trip to Belle Meade. "I enjoyed being outdoors and getting to know everybody," said Susan who has organized this canoe camping trip for 13 years with Mike. Thank you to all who made this adventure possible.

-Elliott & Alex



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