

BELLE MEADE



School | Farm | Day Camp | B & B



New River Rafting Trip

We are 17 school days away from our West Virginia white water rafting trip. Right now we are in the process of creating an itinerary for the 3 day trip and coming up with a meal plan. We are going to stay in 2 separate cabins (one for boys, one for girls). People do have the option of bringing tents or hammocks to set up outside of the cabin. The current cost of the trip is \$150 per person. We will be sending out information within the next week including a list of suggested things to pack and a list of food items (breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack) along with a sign up list. McKayla



S.T.E.A.M.

Kilby Run Stream Project

In our Kilby Run stream project we have almost finished our data collecting process to determine the cleanliness of the stream. We have collected data over the past few months and now are almost able to convert the data into our scientific paper. We need only two more macro invertebrate tests before we complete testing for macro invertebrate samples (which we are very glad to see the end of, as it has been a long and tedious process.) We also have started a new kind of cleanliness resting in which we connect tampons to string and let them soak in different parts of the stream for three days. This (when shown under a black light) can show if certain contaminants are in the water. We are close to the end of data collection and soon we will be able to start writing the scientific paper and begin to wrap up the project. It's been an extremely long and arduous process, but we've definitely learned a lot and enjoyed being able to be outside much of the time.

Noah

2015 Outdoor/Experiential Education Conference

On April 15, I had the pleasure of joining numerous faculty members from private and independent schools throughout Virginia for an outdoor/experiential education conference at Woodberry Forest School. During the morning, we attended various workshops that focused on specific activities and practices both in and out of the classroom. In the afternoon, we discussed our own programs and shared ideas with one another. This was a wonderful experience that allowed me to collaborate with faculty and staff from other areas of Virginia, as well as a great opportunity for me to discuss and share ideas related to both outdoor and experiential education. There are so many interesting ways to get young people involved in educational and valuable activities outside of the classroom. I am excited to use this knowledge to benefit our program at Belle Meade in any way possible.

Alex

GIVE LOCAL PIEDMONT is MAY 5th

<https://givelocalpiedmont.org/#npo/belle-meade-school>

Strings

The Strings group has been working on three new songs this trimester: Irish Washer Women, Wayfaring Stranger, and Crazy Train. We will be performing along with Ana and Lauren at the end of the year trimester dinner. We will be performing a few songs from our repertoire.

Oliver

Kittens & Buster

Hello, I am going to talk to you about a cat named Mango. On April 7th something strange happened. I saw Mango outside when I was coming in for school, but when I brought her inside into Ms. Alex's class she went inside the couch. Then the whole class started hearing loud meowing. We thought Mango was being squashed, but when we lifted the couch cushion we saw that Mango was giving birth to 4 kittens! ;-)

Many Belle Meade students want to adopt her kittens. Who knows, maybe you too!! Also one day last month, Ms. Susan and Mike got a puppy named Buster. He is cute. He really likes to play. Buster is four months old, and he is a mutt. We think he is a mixture between a lab and something else. Maybe some kind of hound?

Ryan



My Transportation

When I got an email saying: "Do You Know A Teenager Interested in Improving Public Transportation", I sent in a form to APTA (America People Transportation Association). I answered many questions; for example: "What parts of Transportation do you want to improve"? The answer for me was more bus Rapid Transit and more Streetcars/ Light Rail. The reason for needing additional bus rapid transit is because it brings in more economic development than any other form of rapid transit.

As part of this program, I will meet with congress leaders and other politicians who dedicate their career to transportation. Since I have lived in Toronto, Hong Kong, and Japan (Osaka), I hope that I am able to talk about how these countries/territories fund their transportation, the choices they make, and how they improve it. The other topics that I hope we will discuss are the environment, how to expand modes of transportation, related political views, public policy, and planning.

I became interested in transportation when I lived in Canada (Toronto) and learned about the TTC (Toronto Transit Commission). It was there that I fell in love with subways, buses, streetcars, and bus rapid transit. I also became interested in how to build, plan, improve, and even fund transportation through public and private partnerships. At the time, Rob Ford, Toronto's mayor was pushing for a Sheppard subway extension and debating subways versus LRTs (light rail transit) and streetcars.

When I left Toronto for Shanghai (China), I realized very quickly that the city would have a bigger metro system than Toronto's and do they! Shanghai has one the biggest subway system, the most people who use it daily, and the most number of stations. When I left Shanghai, I went to Nanjing, which has a smaller system but very much the same.

After I left Mainland China, I went to Hong Kong, which is said to have the nicest subway in the world for its cleanliness and spanning almost every area in Hong Kong. Then I went to the train capital of the world, Japan.

When I talk to our leaders, I will use my travels and experience to suggest new ideas to them. I will use this information to draw up new plans for WMATA and other rapid transit systems in the Washington, DC area. If you could give me five projects to build in the Mid-Atlantic area, these are what I would do: (1) Orange line to Bowie and Gainesville, (2) Blue line to Potomac Mills along the I95 corridor, (3) I-370 to Dulles airport, (4) VRE to Charlottesville and Front royal, (5) Route 29 bus rapid transit (Ruckersville to UVA and Amtrak downtown).

James

Belle Meade Video

I am currently working on a series of videos for Belle Meade School and Farm. It will consist of two to three Videos presenting the Farm and the life at the school to interested students and parents on the Belle Meade Website. I spend Tuesdays and Thursdays filming around the Farm, later this month I will start filming with students. The plan is to follow three students for a day at the School to show their daily routine so students can look at what they are going to experience. We are planning on presenting these videos at the last trimester dinner later this year.

Lasse

Shenandoah Park Trip

On April 16, English 1 took a field trip to study the history of Shenandoah National Park which connected to a book we read in class: *Grandpa's Mountain*. Ethan, Alex, Ryan, Pacha, and I all left for Shenandoah at 12:00 and arrived around 12:30. We ate lunch in a picnic area at the Mary's Rock parking lot and then went on a walk in the woods along the Appalachian Trail to look for the old Cliver store. Next, we went to Skyland and saw an old house which had a museum inside of it. After that, we went to another museum at Big Meadows where we watched a film about the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and looked at historical park artifacts. Before we left, we visited the gift shop and Alex treated us to ice-cream. On our way back to school, we drove down Jewell Hollow Road and saw some very old houses. Over all, I think the field trip was so much fun!

Sofie

College: Making the Decision

It's been several months since my first college acceptance letter. The thrill of reading the opening sentence, "Dear Ana, Congratulations!" has been repeated not once, but *nine times* thus far! It never gets old, really. I've been called crazy for applying to twelve colleges, and perhaps I am, but I wanted choices— and I sure got 'em.

The decision process has been easier than I imagined, and my parents have been my biggest supporters throughout. We set specific parameters: financial (is it too expensive?), environmental (what sustainability efforts are being made?), and intellectual (how culturally diverse is it? Are the classes interesting?). These factors eliminated five of the colleges, and I added another category to further narrow down my choices— equestrian. I'm hoping to continue equitation in college and maybe start competing. Thus far, there's only one college that lives up to these standards.

Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia, is the ideal college for me— I've visited twice and can't stop going back. I love how many exciting initiatives the students and staff are promoting, like campus diversity and sustainability. For such a small college, the community is exceedingly friendly and dedicated to service. I'm humbled to say that both my counselor and one of the professors I conversed with have recommended me to the Honors program! I interview this week. So many opportunities... wish me luck.



Alex, congratulations for your accomplishment of completing the Boston Marathon!



Poe Field Trip

On April 23, the upperclassmen went on a field trip to Richmond Virginia and were able to go to the Edger Allen Poe Museum. It was a fantastic facility and provided a deep insight to the life of the author. They had first editions of some of his most famous books, some of his clothing, and even a lock of his hair. We heard a live recitation of The Raven and walked through the gardens. Afterwards we had traditional Indian food to include the book we're reading in English class, The Namesake. Leif



Belle Meade Farm

The cows are having a lot of calves, and we have about 9-12 now (25 in all). The chickens are moving everywhere, eating a lot of bugs, and laying lots of eggs. We just got brooding hens meaning that there are 3 hens sitting on eggs to hatch them. Each hen has 16 eggs and about 12 will hatch. There will be broilers coming in very soon along with layers chickens. Pigs are being harvested and the CSA is getting more customers for meat, veggie, and regular CSA. There are no piglets yet. The garden is producing more food. We are mowing in the berry patch and transplanting plants, as well as putting more mulch down throughout the green house. Finally, the cows are moving up toward the back side of the property.

Ethan



Trail Ride

Belle Meade School hosted a hugely successful joint trail ride with Thorton Hill Fort Valley Hounds on April 12th. We had a grand total of 20 riders, some of which travelled here from out of state to ride on our trails! We completed the first half of the trail ride as one big group, then the advanced riders split off onto THFVH's fixture at Chancellors Gate. After completing the trail ride, enjoying the beautiful views, and making some new friends, we untacked our horses and had a delicious potluck lunch prepared by students and their families. Everyone in attendance expressed positive feedback about the ride and suggested it become an annual event. Our own students had a blast and I feel as though it was a great experience! We also raised \$200 for our equestrian program, which is exciting!

Lauren



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