

MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKAWAY 2014

Breakaway is the Middle School equivalent of Lower School Experiential Days and Upper School Winterim. Teachers plan and offer a range of experiences. Individual Breakaway trips must fulfill three requirements:

- 1. They should appeal to students in all three grade levels. When groups are determined we try to insure a mix of students.*
- 2. They should rarely cost over \$450.00, although there are some special offerings. Trip leaders have made affordable experiences a priority. Sleeping on gym floors, in hostels, or in donated homes helps keep costs down.*
- 3. They should include learning something new. Learning on Breakaways typically occurs in settings outside the traditional classroom. The learning could be a new skill or taking a new risk. Because we want students to try different things, middle schoolers are not allowed to repeat Breakaways they have done in the past.*

Breakaway's Importance

Breakaway is an exciting part of the Middle School program. Students are trying new things and meeting new people.

Please do not plan family trips or vacations during Breakaway. A critical piece of the student Breakaway experience is students working, doing, and learning with each other.

When is Breakaway?

Middle School Breakaway is from **Monday, March 17 through Thursday, March 20**. Please note, too, that some of these experiences involve overnights and others are in-town experiences where students travel to and from school. Schedules may vary for these local Breakaways.

If there is a special reason for your child to remain in-town, versus an overnight trip, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet or contact Len directly.

How will I know what is offered?

The Breakaway brochure includes a listing of all of the offerings with related details and the Breakaway catalog will be posted online on January 7. Please discuss the offerings as a family and **return choices to C&C advisors by January 14**. Note that the sign-up sheet includes a place for student choices, as well as a line for you to sign. You will see that students must make more than one choice. While we do not guarantee a student's first pick of Breakaway trips, we work to insure that they receive one of their choices. We tell the students that their choice should be about the experience. It is not about what their friends are choosing. We challenge them to make choices based on their interests to grow and learn from the week. We are not able to switch students out of their assigned Breakaway groups. If there is disappointment, please let us know, we can help your child sort through it together.

Next steps?

Financial aid is available for Breakaway trips, and the forms are included as part of this packet.

Financial aid requests are due to the financial aid office by January 9. Since financial aid forms are due before activities are assigned, please use the highest cost option on the form.

Final Breakaway groups will be shared with students on January 21. You will receive more detailed information about your child's Breakaway in February. Trip leaders will share schedule/itinerary, contact numbers, and packing lists, etc. as the trip date approaches. Packing lists typically include special equipment that is critical to the individual experience. Please go through these lists carefully when they arrive. Trip leaders are the primary contact for their respective activities. General questions should be directed to Len.

All Catlin Gabel chaperones have student medical information, permission slips, and parent contact information with them. All trip leaders, including parent volunteers, have updated background checks on file with the school.

Middle School Breakaway Financial Aid Form
Due to Financial Aid Office by Thursday, January 9

Our hope is to offer many and varied engaging opportunities for students during our experiential learning week. We realize the cost of these options vary as well. Catlin Gabel School is committed to making its educational opportunities affordable to families from a wide economic range. Although families bear the primary responsibility for financing their children's education, limited need-based financial aid is available to families who qualify to offset the difference between the family's resources and these expenses.

If your child would like to choose an activity for Breakaway that stretches beyond your family's resources, we invite you to apply for financial aid by Thursday, January 9, 2014. All families will know if and what level of aid the school can provide by Monday, January 13, allowing families to choose a Breakaway activity by the January 14 deadline.

Please complete the requested information below as part of the process of determining eligibility for aid. The committee will give your request careful consideration. Please note that there are limited funds available and we would like to assist as many families as possible. In addition to assisting with required activities such as the experiential learning, it is our goal to support families by providing funds for additional opportunities for students to engage in our community, including exploring outdoor education activities, enabling students to participate in international trips, and providing any support to help them be academically successful. Also note that families must be current on their tuition payment plan for a family to be considered for financial aid.

I. Student name: _____ Grade: _____

II. Parent(s): _____

III. Activity: _____

Cost of Activity: _____

Amount of Financial Aid Requested: _____

Amount of Cost Parents will Contribute: _____

If Applicable: Amount Student will Contribute: _____

IV. Please indicate any extenuating circumstances that make this request necessary (such as unusual medical expenses, care for parents, etc.)

In addition to the above information, if you have not already completed the School and Student Service Parent Financial Statement as part of the financial aid tuition award process, you may be requested to do so. You may also be requested to submit a copy of your most recent tax return.

Parents' Signatures: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Middle School Breakaway 2014
Please Return Sign-Up Form to your C&C Advisor by January 14

GRADE (Circle) 6 7 8

Student Name: _____ **C&C Advisor:** _____

Parent Signature: _____

When completing this form, please remember:

- 1) Choose Breakaway experiences you have not previously done.
- 2) Provide a different choice for each of the five spaces.

List in order of preference your top five Breakaway choices. (Example: 1 = top choice)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

****My child, _____, must remain in town during Breakaway.****

Please discuss the offerings as a family and return choices to C&C advisors by Thursday, January 14.

Breakaway 2014 Choices

Overnights:

Sleepless in Seattle Carol Ponganis, Ema Eldredge and Mark Pritchard

Learn the skills of an urban traveler as we utilize the train, light rail, monorail, charter bus, boat and our feet to experience Seattle! We will sleep in a youth hostel located near the Pike Street Market and use the Seattle CityPASS so that we can enjoy all that Seattle has to offer, from the Pacific Science Center to the EMP Music Museum to the Seattle Aquarium to the Space Needle and even a cruise of the harbor! And if we are not exhausted from running around town, we might even have time to watch *Sleepless in Seattle* while we are there! This trip is three nights overnight in Seattle.

18 students
\$425

Discovery 2014 Paul Monheimer, Brian Gant and John Hamilton

Push your limits climbing, hiking, and playing in Central Oregon. This trip is for the hale and hearty and demands the maturity to stick with the exploration of group dynamics. By day, participants explore rock walls in Portland, Frog Lake on Mt. Hood & Smith Rock State Park near Redmond which can also be settings for digital movies/trailers. We also swim, play golf, jump off rocks into snow up to our necks, skateboard, and just talk to each other. By night, we edit movies/pictures, add audio, and play some more. We will also gather to view films about young people confronting real life situations. Of course, we bring footballs, soccer balls, and frisbees. We use state of the art digital video cameras, computers, movie software, and digital audio equipment. No prior climbing, computer or camera experience necessary. Let your imagination go; almost anything is possible. This trip is two nights overnight at Eagle Crest in Central Oregon.

24 students
\$375

Docksiders Dale Rawls and Alison Ward

Come explore the world of wooden boats and art in the Victorian seaport of Port Townsend, Washington. We will be aboard the vessel *Townsend*, a replica 26' longboat like Captain Vancouver used to explore Puget Sound. The Wooden Boat Foundation will teach us how to row (lots of rowing), sail and become a real crew. We will reside at the Victorian Officer's quarters at Fort Warden State Park. We will be cooking, singing, and creating art while making new middle school friends. This trip is three nights overnight in Port Townsend, Washington.

10 students
\$425

Shakespeareience Carter Latendresse, Deirdre Atkinson and Natalie Dickinson

What do physics, cheetahs, the Marx Brothers, and magicians have in common? They are all part of this year's Shakespeareience. En route to Ashland on Monday morning, we will not resist the call of the wild from Wildlife Safari. Once in Ashland, we will enjoy physics fun at ScienceWorks, explore the beautiful town of Ashland, and see two plays at Oregon's Shakespeare Festival: Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and the Marx Brothers romp, *Cocanuts*. We will stay overnight in a rented home within walking distance of the Festival. We will also attend a prologue session for *The Tempest*, led by a company member, so that students will be well prepared the play. Last, we will also enjoy a student backstage tour to learn what it takes to produce a play. This trip is three nights overnight in Ashland, Oregon.

Before signing up for this trip, please note that *The Tempest* has somewhat mature themes. The education department at the Festival feels the play is appropriate for mature middle school-age children. We highly recommend visiting the Oregon Shakespeare Festival website at <http://www.osfashland.org> for age recommendations and other information.

15 students
\$425

ChallengePalooza David Reich and Clint DeNyse

We will spend one day on the school's challenge course exploring both low and high elements. The second morning we'll drive out to Camp Collins and have two days on their challenge course, and one night sleeping away from home and we'll prepare our own meals. Camp Collins has a big challenge course, and we will be able to do fun and exciting elements that we don't have at Catlin such as the Giant Swing, Leap-of-Faith, Flying Squirrel, High Circuit, Climbing Tower (including rappelling.) The final day we will meet at Catlin and head to Tree to Tree Adventure Park near Gaston for a day of fun on their Aerial Adventure Course and Super Zip-Line Tour.

Please note: challenge course activities include initiatives on the ground, or on platforms near the ground, as well as elements suspended from the trees that require that the participants are harnessed and belayed for their safety as they climb high (40 - 100 feet) into the trees. Participants should be aware that they will be expected to push their personal limits and be prepared to be high off the ground every day. All activities will be supervised by a certified challenge course facilitator and participants will be monitored at all times. This is a one night overnight at Camp Collins in Gresham, Oregon.

14 students
\$425

Fly Me to the Moon Brendan Gill and Holly Walsh

Space: The Final Frontier: These are the voyages of the Breakaway group called “Fly Me To The Moon.” Its 4-day mission: to take pictures in space and retrieve the photos. To visit the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum and slide down waterslides; to spend the night in a cabin above Timberline Lodge and stargaze at Oregon’s closest point to space; to boldly go where you may or may not have gone before! This trip includes one night overnight on Mt Hood at Silcox Hut.

12-14 students
\$400

Sea, Sand & Steel Larry Hurst and Tom Tucker

How many logs and rocks can we stack on sand at the beach?
What interesting designs can we carve in the sand at low tide?
How much driftwood can we haul back to school?
What patterns can we cut out of steel with a plasma torch?
What sculptures can we create with a wire-welder?
This is 4 days of art and nature including a one night overnight in a cabin at Manzanita, Oregon.

13 students
\$375

Daylong adventures typically 8:30-3:15

Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse Rob Van Nood and Katie Boehnlein

The Zombie Apocalypse has finally happened. It is now up to your small band of survivors to use your knowledge, imagination, skills and ideas to stay alive for the next 4 days. You have access to a variety of tools to overcome the type of survival challenges you might face when Portland is overrun by Zombies and make sure no one dies. Building shelters, making food, defending yourself, inventing tools, staying healthy, communicating with the outside world, and even searching for new safe places to live all have to happen. Are you up to the challenge? Designers, artists, scientists, storytellers, leaders, builders, problem solvers, inventor tinkers and creative thinkers of all kind are needed.

16 students 4th - 8th grade
\$250

Glass Fusion Lynn Silbernagel and Greg Frye

We will cut glass, then fuse it in a kiln to make beautiful works of art such as jewelry, dishes, bowls, window hangings, and sun catchers. Learn to cut, tack, and fuse glass, working with different forms such as sheets, stringers, and frit. Design and make several pieces of your own. We will take field trips to view glass works created by artists.

10 students
\$325

Boot Camp: Getting Fit & Having Fun Chris Skrapits and Carrie Blank

Get in shape the fun way! We are going to focus on strength, cardio and endurance. We will meet at school at 8:15, travel to The Edge Training facility in North Portland and work with Fitness Guru Scott Young, Certified Personal Trainer, USA Cycling Coach and TRX® specialist from about 9:00-1:00. Activities we will do will include: obstacle course (students participate in building a different one each day - often includes balance section with Nerf Blaster!), belayed rope climb, rope traverse, balance challenge, rollerboard tangram relay (fun!), freeze flag tag (combo of freeze tag and flag football), cone agility drills, dodgeball, tug of war, Twister (our own more exciting and challenging version with multiple boards) and more! Post workout will be cool down and eat healthy lunch before returning to campus. Get ready! Get set!! Go!!!

12 students
\$250

Touch Screen Kiosk Maggie Kean and Tim Rayle

We'll build a touch screen kiosk for the Middle School. We will develop it as a web application, so the tools you will learn in this class are the same ones you need to build websites. We will cover the entire development process, including: graphic design, software design, customer (students, teachers, etc.) requirements, prototyping, content creation, development, testing, and documentation. In addition to using tools like Adobe Photoshop, text editors, jQuery, HTML5, we will also learn about integrating live cameras, video capture and editing, animation, 3D graphics and more. We'll start with an empty but functional system, and we'll get to see how much progress we made at the end of each day. We will have one day of outings in Portland, with specifics to be determined by the interests of the participants.

12-14 students
\$250

CGS Food Network Ann Fyfield and Kristin Ogard

This experience brings four energy packed days of cooking, dining, exploring the Portland culinary scene, and culminating in creating your own team meal judged by a surprise panel. We will be touring local eateries, cooking organic meals and exploring our own community gardens and farms. Two days will be spent with a professional chef in an intimate class atmosphere where students will learn to cook several types of international foods. We will spend time at a bakery and will work with cake decorating materials.

12-14 students
\$300

Art Attack Christa Kaainoa and Zoë Edelen Hare

Let's roll up our sleeves and get creative! In this Breakaway, we'll take a variety of classes from local artists, create original artwork, and have a new masterpiece to take home at the end of each day! We'll also sample delicious culinary arts at local restaurants. No artistic experience necessary – just a willingness to make a variety of art and let your creativity flow.

14 students
\$415