

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

## ***SUMMER CHALLENGE 2010 PREVIEW***



*July 12-30, 2010*

Summer Challenge is a summer commuter program offered by the Halbert & Nancy Robinson Center for Young Scholars for students currently in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This program offers highly capable students a fast-paced, challenging curriculum. Students qualify by scores on the WASL or other nationally standardized aptitude or achievement tests; scores in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile qualify students for our program.

**DATES AND LOCATION:** Classes will be offered on the University of Washington's Seattle campus July 12-30, Monday through Friday. Class hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. We offer after-class supervision that will be provided on campus; information will be provided about this on our website in January.

To assist with carpool arrangements, or to locate a companion for travel on public transportation, a directory of students will be sent to participants shortly before classes begin.

Students take one of several course offerings: All courses approach the study of underlying concepts through hands-on activities that are action-oriented, encouraging students to learn by exploring issues and solving problems with both their heads and their hands. Courses are not designed to take the place of regular classes taken in school and are multidisciplinary.

The material will be advanced beyond material with which most fifth and sixth grade students are familiar, but there will be time spent in discussions and in small groups in class to help students learn and understand. Homework is limited; most work will be done in class.

**Qualifications:** Students must have completed either 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade by the start of summer, and have qualifying scores on the WASL (97<sup>th</sup> percentile; we will post actual qualifying scores on our website when they become available). If your student has not taken the WASL, other nationally standardized aptitude and achievement test scores are accepted on a case-by-case basis. Students planning to take the Math Topics course must have a qualifying WASL Math score.

**Enrollment Considerations:** In considering application to this program, parents need to consider their child's willingness to participate. There is a fine line between encouraging children to overcome natural and normal apprehensions about a new experience and forcing them into a situation for which they are not yet ready. No matter how enthusiastic parents may be about the program, we do not recommend enrolling children who are strongly reluctant to attend.

**Registration:** This year our application process will be handled entirely online. On-line course information will be available on our website in mid January 2010 at <http://depts.washington.edu/cscy/programs/summer>. Registration will begin February 1, 2010. The online application link will not be up and running until that day at 8:00 am. Applications are accepted on a space-available basis, so early application is advised.

**Tuition & Financial Aid:** Tuition is expected to be **\$925.00**, and full payment is due by May 25. Some classes have an additional tech/activities fee. **All participants must make a \$75 deposit within a week of notification of acceptance into the program,**

**including those applying for Financial Aid.** Need-based financial aid is available in the form of scholarships and/or an extended payment schedule. Financial aid applications must be submitted by May 1, and applicants will be notified of their award by May 15.

### *Course Descriptions*

A listing of courses to be offered in 2010 will be available in mid-January 2010. The following courses (offered in Summer 2009) are presented as an example of the types of courses normally offered in Summer Challenge.

**ENERGY:** This is an introductory course in general science. Through hands-on experiments, field trips, lectures and presentations by guest scientists, students will embark on a quest to master the beginning fundamentals of science, focusing primarily on physics and chemistry. Students will begin this journey with the theory of the Big Bang and the origin of matter and energy, and proceed with an exploratory trip through the basics of good, sound science, catching a bit of the most current and progressive scientific theories and ideas as they go. The primary theme and backbone of the curriculum will be the concept of conservation of matter-energy. The course will culminate in the students using their understanding of matter and energy to create a project based on current research into alternative energy sources.

**FEEL THOSE G'S – THE PHYSICS OF ROLLERCOASTERS:** Almost everyone loves riding a roller coaster. Amusement parks are building them higher, faster, longer, and much more thrilling. The physics underlying the design and building of a roller coaster are amazingly simple. In this course, we will be learning when potential and kinetic energy trade places, how forces work to move us around and keep us in our seats, what happens when we accelerate, why we feel weightless during the dips, plus a whole lot more. Each student will design, build, and test their own model roller coaster using engineering techniques pioneered by the coaster experts. The class will include a field trip to a nearby amusement park.

**MATH TOPICS: PROBLEMS, PUZZLES AND POLYHEDRONS:** This course offers the student interested and passionate about all things mathematical an opportunity to explore and stretch beyond the boundaries of the standard math school curriculum. A wide variety of math ideas will be introduced and investigated, ranging from areas such as numbers, infinity, geometry, trigonometry, topology, graphs and networks, even possibly mathematical magic tricks! From “mental math” to “college bowl” competitions, this course will allow students to deepen and widen their mathematical skills in a creative and fun way. If you love to think about math and want to spend time with others who want to do the same, this is the class for you!

**NOTE: This course requires a qualifying score in math.**

**THE MEANING OF LIFE – Philosophy and Its Application in the Real World:** In this class, students will have the opportunity to ask the BIG questions: “What is Truth?” “What is Beauty?” “How come grown-ups get to make all the rules?” Working together in a “community of inquiry,” students will explore many of the essential questions about which philosophers have wondered for centuries. At the same time, they will have ample opportunity to learn how they can apply their answers in ways that make a positive difference in their own lives and the lives of their communities.

**WORD: A Call to Creative Thinkers, Writers, Artists, & Those Who Wanna Be.** The only way to become a writer is, quite simply, to write. What does it mean to write? What does it mean to be a writer? And most importantly, how do we do it? How do we go about this need we have to sit down and fill up a blank page with our own stories and then (gasp), dare to hope that someone will read them? If you find yourself asking these questions, then I say to you: Congratulations! This makes you a writer! In this course we will devote ourselves to the study and practice of creative writing in a supportive community of writers. Each week we'll focus on a different genre of writing, including fiction, poetry, and finally, graphic novels (also known as comic books). During class we'll read and discuss other writers, engage in creative writing exercises to help us find and create the stories we want to tell, and give each other thoughtful and constructive feedback on our writing during workshop sessions. The course will culminate in a self-published literary 'zine which we will produce and design, and a final literary reading in which we will present our short stories, poems, and graphic novels in front of a live audience of family and friends.

For additional information, please contact the Robinson Center via email at [rcsummer@u.washington.edu](mailto:rcsummer@u.washington.edu), or visit the Center's website at: <http://depts.washington.edu/cscy/programs/summer>.