

warriors **BE** yond

A Message from the Superintendent

In Mariemont City Schools, we strive for our students to have a well-rounded educational experience and become deeply committed members of the community and world. It's part of our instructional vision and a key component to our *Destination 2026* Strategic Plan.

It's also the catalyst behind our Warriors BEyond program.

This award-winning, K-12 experiential learning program is designed to meet students exactly where they are to drive creativity, spark new interests and build curiosity. It offers hundreds of opportunities for students of all ages to discover new passions and open endless doors to future possibilities.

I am proud to be the superintendent of a district that emphasizes student voice and choice in education. I am also proud of the fact that after two years of having to scale back or modify our experiential learning opportunities, we are able to bring back our Warriors BEyond program in full this school year. I cannot wait to see how our students can learn and grow through experiential learning this year.

Thank you for partnering with us to create a memorable Mariemont Experience!

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven E. Estep". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Steven E. Estep
Superintendent



EXPLORATIONS

Warriors BEyond Program Spotlight

What is Explorations?

- Experiential learning for fifth and sixth grade students
- Monday morning, two-hour courses
- Led by staff members and community partners
- Designed to get students outside traditional classroom settings

“Explorations allows students to bring an interest to life and to take their learning and turn it into applying. **Students now see how education in the classroom can contribute to their passions and dreams outside the classroom.** This “wow” opportunity makes students want more out of the Mariemont experience.”

-Sy Miller, Mariemont Elementary fifth grade teacher



“Explorations gives our fifth and sixth grade students an opportunity to start their week in such a positive manner. Students look forward to the activities based on personal interests and curiosity. **There is no better way to start a Monday morning!**”

-Tami Croll, Terrace Park Elementary principal

Explorations is one of the first building blocks of the Warriors BEyond program. Together, Explorations, Expeditions (for junior high students) and Interession (for high school students) among others, lay the foundation of experiential learning in Mariemont City Schools. These programs work together to create the true Mariemont Experience.





Brian Sugerman Named NSEE Top Educator

Brian Sugerman, the district's Coordinator of Technology and Experiential Education, was recently named one of the top educators in the nation. The National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) selected Sugerman as the recipient of the NSEE Outstanding Leader in Experiential Education: K-12 award, which recognizes a K-12 educator who has demonstrated innovative uses of experiential learning in their classroom or school system.

As the Mariemont City Schools' Warriors BEyond leader, Sugerman is focused on leading the district's award-winning experiential education program for K-12 students. He has overseen the growth and expansion of the program's flagship initiatives Expeditions, Explorations, Master Class and Intersession, among others.

He, along with superintendent Steven Estep and assistant superintendent Brent Wise, was presented with the award at the annual NSEE Conference on September 28.

The Five Pillars of Warriors BEyond



The Warriors BEyond program, and all its components like Explorations, Expeditions and Intersession, have often been referred to as building blocks. They, very strategically, were structured in a way that builds upon a student's prior Warriors BEyond experiences. We ask the question "what are you building?" to reinforce this concept, getting the students think logically about their past and future program selections.

And while Warriors BEyond builds gradually as the students grow, the entirety of the program stands on the foundation of five pillars: The Creators, The Futurists, The Global Learners, The Wellness Warriors and the Young Professionals. Every aspect of the Warriors BEyond program fits into at least one (often more) of these pillars.

These pillars were designed with the student's current and future success in mind. Each student will experience courses from each of the five pillars during their Mariemont City Schools career. Through exploration of each pillar, students will be able to learn and discover various ideas and interests, leading to a more well-rounded learning foundation as well as more well-informed future educational and career decisions.



The Creators



**The Wellness
Warriors**



**The Young
Professionals**



**The Global
Learners**



The Futurists

What are they saying?

"It engages and challenges our students to stretch themselves outside of their comfort zones. At the same time, they get the chance to experience some of the world's most interesting destinations and truly have an experience of a lifetime. Whether it is performing service in South America or attending a leadership conference in Europe, students have the opportunity to learn more about themselves and the greater world than they ever could in a classroom."

- Erik Vanags, MHS Service Learning Trip coordinator

"The 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. proved to be a powerful experience for my son and his classmates! I could tell he was awestruck by the honor and commitment of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier."

- Ed Marquez, parent

"Being able to see all the historical monuments and places in Washington, D.C. really helped me visualize and see all the things we learned about in person. Visiting all the fun museums and hanging with my friends created some unforgettable memories as well."

- Ella Holloway, MHS freshman

How is the Warriors BEyond travel program beneficial to a student's learning?

"The Greece and Italy trip was amazing in so many ways. I made meaningful connections with other people who went, I gained independence and confidence in myself and everything that I learned in Latin class was brought to life."

- Ellie Haynes, MHS senior

"Washington, D.C. was beneficial to me personally because it brought life from the classroom to the street. It showed that what we learn in history is more than just stories that we hear in a classroom, but real experiences that changed the world. Besides the educational part, the trip brought so many memories that my friends and I love to still talk about today!"

- Lucy Good, MHS freshman

"I have four children and so far two of them have been able to travel to Washington, D.C. with their class and the Warriors BEyond program. The memories that they made are lifelong. They developed a sense of autonomy, responsibility and accountability. They were able to step outside the traditional classroom into a more relaxed and unique learning experience in one of the most unique places in the United States. I am forever grateful for the teachers and educators who spent so much time and effort planning, organizing and carrying out an amazing trip that will forever be a once in a lifetime."

- Maura Spreen, parent



warriors

Beyond

*Student
Spotlight*

Brynna O'Brien, MHS Junior

Read about Brynna's experience with an Experienceship as part of the Mariemont High School Intersession program last spring.



What Experienceship did you participate in?

I studied meteorology at WLWT News 5 with Randi Rico.

Why did you want to complete an Experienceship during Intersession?

I wanted to do an Experienceship so that I could see what meteorology and broadcasting was all about. I have wanted to be a meteorologist ever since I was little, but my Experienceship allowed me to see a glimpse of what my life would actually look like if I were to pursue this career path.

What are some important things you learned during your Experienceship?

I learned that broadcast meteorology isn't just a job, but it also is a lifestyle that

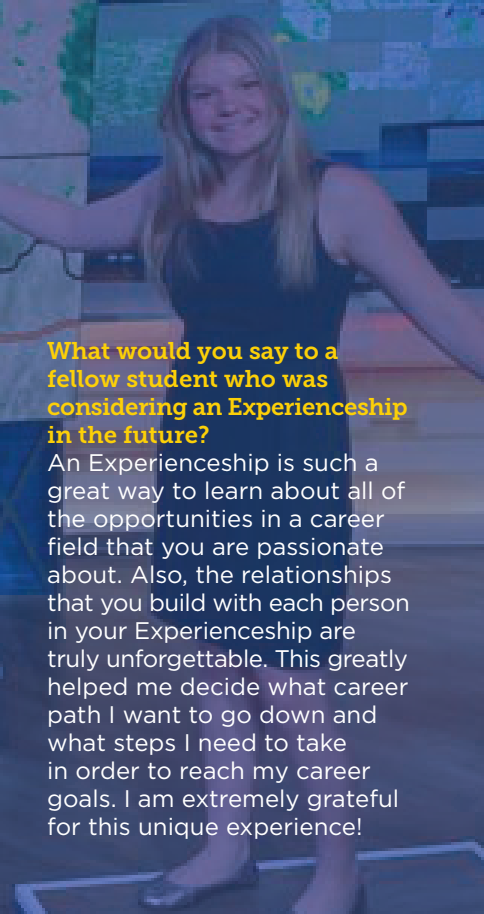
requires lots of adapting. Also, my Experienceship taught me that passion is vital for what profession you want to go into. Talking with Randi Rico, she genuinely was fascinated and excited with all of the different aspects of meteorology and broadcasting.

How did your Experienceship help prepare you for life after high school?

I was able to learn how to build different relationships, especially in a professional field. I was able to connect with the different aspects of the WLWT show. Also, waking up at 2:00 a.m. consistently isn't the most glamorous thing in the world, but your attitude coming into work every single morning makes or breaks your day.

What would you say to a fellow student who was considering an Experienceship in the future?

An Experienceship is such a great way to learn about all of the opportunities in a career field that you are passionate about. Also, the relationships that you build with each person in your Experienceship are truly unforgettable. This greatly helped me decide what career path I want to go down and what steps I need to take in order to reach my career goals. I am extremely grateful for this unique experience!





To learn more about the Warriors BEYond program, along with its specific programming and a calendar of events, scan the QR code or visit the Warriors BEYond page of the district website.



Work Smart. Create Experience. Embrace Growth.

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