

**\*high school\***  
**course descriptions**  
**2017**



**SUMMER GIFTED AT DOMINICAN**

### **ACT Prep**

Are YOU ready for the ACT? This course will prepare you to attack every section on the test: English, Math, Reading, Science, and the updated Writing section. Under the tutelage of an experienced ACT instructor and using actual ACT tests, you will LEARN your strengths and weaknesses, FAMILIARIZE yourself with every question type, EMPOWER yourself with strategies and content knowledge, and EARN the score you need! No prior experience with the ACT is required.

Grades 9-12

### **Math & Philosophy: Language of Logic**

Mathematics and Philosophy are two branches from the same tree of logic. In this course, we will try and understand the special relationship these two subjects share through the study of Renaissance thinkers like René Descartes and Blaise Pascal. Students in this class will learn how to write a proper math proof, and examine the history of calculus, number theory, morality, dualism, and probability. This is a hands on course where students will often be working in groups to solve problems. Communication and cooperation are the keys to accessing all the facets of the mind. In the words of Descartes, "It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well."

Grades 9-12

### **Science Olympiad: Engineering Seminar**

Science Olympiad is an organization of science competitions. In their efforts to win, students learn and apply scientific principles in the best way possible! They learn to be good engineers, clear thinkers and self motivated. In this week long course, students will pick one or more events from Science Olympiad in which to compete. Over a dozen possible events will be offered including: building a clock, a rubber band powered balsa helicopter or monoplane; make a wind power plant, tower construction, trebuchets; perfecting a mousetrap car, pneumatic air cannons, and several research knowledge and design skills tests. Parents, get ready to head to the hardware store! It's time to take that creative spark and engineer it into reality!

This class includes an additional \$15 supply fee.

Grades 9-12

**Political Science: Model U.N.**

For the globally-minded citizen student, the summer is a great time to explore the societal issues that abound in today's world. Students in this simulation class investigate the working and rules of the United Nations, select a country to represent, and investigate the issues of that country. The class culminates in a replication of a session of the U.N. The class is intended to foster interest in world affairs, a knowledge of issues facing the countries of the world in these difficult times. Additionally, students will learn effective debating strategies, engage in healthy discussions, and work collaboratively.

Grades 9-12

**College Essay Writing**

High school is going to be over soon and the next big step in the educational process will then begin, college! The brochures come in, and the college visits get planned, after which will come the application process to the schools that interest you most.

Crafting the college essay is no simple feat, but there are tips and strategies to tackle this monumental step in the college process. Learn to write well, to write expressively, and to write with purpose. Dive into your college essay with confidence instead of dread. During our week together students will look at typical examples of questions used as prompts for college essays, look at some sample responses, develop strategies in approaching your application essays, and write practice essays as well.

Grades 9-12

**Oral His/Herstory: Art of Spoken Word**

Spoken word is a form of poetry similar to Hip Hop and/or rap music in that it has heavy and meaningful content delivered through voice...the "spoken word." In this course students will learn to bend nouns, hurl puns, and develop thoughtful imagery and rhyme scheme. They will learn to create patterns of paragraphs, prose and poems filled with political, social, personal, economical, and world issues, turning it into strategic wordplay. Students will delve into poetry's rich history, as a whole, along its' entire spectrum, ultimately focusing on the "spoken word" form of poetry. Students will learn to use their voices as instruments in the art of storytelling. They learn to develop their ideas into creative written pieces of art, expressing their individuality,



**HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER GIFTED  
AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

ideas, views, perspectives, opinions, and feelings...all through the written word...the  
*Spoken Word.*

Grades 9-12