

Middle School Minimester Program

March 2018

On Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27, the girls participated in a new two-day Minimester Program which was designed by their teachers as an experimental learning opportunity. The Minimesters were designed and run by Ursuline faculty members and included guest speakers, off-site field trips, and a unique hands-on curriculum. The girls had six different exciting topics to choose from. The new program was well received by the students and a great success!

Animal Science: *Feathers, Fur, and More!*

Mrs. Webb and the girls visited the Brandywine Zoo and took a behind the scenes tour to learn about an animal caretaker's responsibilities and how Zoos impact our community. They learned about wild animals and even had a chance to handle three - a lizard, snake, and armadillo.

The group also visited the Philadelphia Veterinary Hospital to learn about a career in Veterinary Medicine. Ursuline alumna, Daria Rebbechhi met the group to talk about her current studies at UPenn to become a Veterinarian. During the visit they saw a Veterinarian performing surgery!

Astronomy: *To the Universe and Beyond!*

Mrs. Koenig and the girls visited Mt. Cuba Observatory where they toured the facility and planetarium. Hank Bouchelle from UD was a guest speaker who spoke about astronomy topics and viewing the night sky. He also talked about the big dipper in the Ursuline symbol. Legend has it that Native Americans use the third star in the constellation as an eye test. The star is actually a double star so if you could see both of them you had good eyesight.

Branding is the New Black: *Defining what makes you unique and flaunting your focus.*

The students learned about personal branding by activating prior knowledge of brands and the way they influence us as consumers. Students were tasked with creating a list of the brands they used frequently and were surprised by how many recognizable names are part of our everyday lives.

We further explored the world of commercial branding by taking a field trip to Brew HaHa! in Trolley Square. Students observed the BrewHaHa! brand in action, noting how the coffee shop exuded an air of comfort and quality.

During Tuesday's lesson we worked on developing content to represent our brand through social media. Students experimented using hashtags to connect with a broader audience while contending to stay on brand in their posts.

Our guest speaker, Mr. James Greatorex, gave us a lesson on logo design. We learned about the logo design process, saw a commercial design come together from start to finish, and discussed the key elements of graphic design.

CSI: *Fingerprinting and Forensics*

Mrs. Clody's group became crime-scene investigators for two days, uncovering ways crimes are solved using forensic science. They were visited by two New Castle County Officers - a fingerprint expert and a cold case detective. The girls learned about different types of evidence and how it can help solve crimes. The group also visited the Delaware Forensics Lab where they learned about the different forensic divisions and were able to see the labs in action.

Oh Snap: *Focus on Photography*

Ms. Donnelly's group learned photography skills. They walked around Ursuline focusing on light and movement. On the second day Photographer Becca Neufeld visited the students as a guest speaker. She shared "pro tips" and answered questions. Mrs. Neufeld gave advice on taking head shots, which was helpful because after she left the girls took Brendan McGivney's head shot for his TEDx talk.

Athletics: *A Career Beyond the Field*

Mr. Bolinski's group learned about different ways to be involved in sports including an athlete, trainer, and coach. The girls had several visitors including Melanee Johnson, Athletic Trainer at University of Delaware and Nina Raspa, Video Producer for the Philadelphia 76er's. They visited the training facilities and field house at UD in addition to touring ATI Physical Therapy.