

Longview to Launch Boarding School in Brewster

The Longview School in Brewster, which has been helping students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade thrive since 2001, will initiate a domestic boarding school program this fall.

Longview specializes in turning students on to learning, often when their previous school experiences have been painful. This is done by using inquiry-based learning techniques, hands-on teaching approaches, a focus on relevance to students' lives, the integration of multimedia and computer technology, the expert use of differentiated instruction techniques, and implementation of blended learning.

"We don't believe the standard curriculum provides enough exposure to subjects that are as likely, if not more likely, to lead to students finding lifelong passions," said Mark Jacobs, co-founder and director of Longview School.

As a result, Longview offers a wide variety of electives rarely seen at the kindergarten-through-grade-12 level, according to Jacobs. This includes computer game design, police procedure, survival, debate, public speaking, woodworking, paleontology, engineering, comic book culture, movie making, cooking, current events, mythology, computer programming and phone app design, comedy improvisation and more.

In addition to teaching academics, Longview's program focuses on building student responsibility.

"So many students graduate from high school and don't have the life skills in order to

succeed as adults," said Jacobs. "At Longview, we start teaching responsibility and independence from the day a student walks through our door."

Students fully share in all major decision-making at this democratic school through participation in the school-wide Legislature, in which each student and staff member has one vote in the creation of the school's rules. This empowerment is complemented by the school Judiciary - a student-run court that resolves issues related to rule-breaking; and the Mediation Committee - a student-run body that resolves issues of interpersonal conflict.

As a result adult-student relationships are not overshadowed by a focus on adult enforcement of rules upon students. This allows the staff to form more powerful connections with the students, and to better serve as mentors.

Jacobs said the new boarding program is a good fit for students

who are interested in fields not usually taught in public schools, desire small classes (two to 10 students per class), want the opportunity to make strong connections with teachers who have the time to get to know who they really are, like to learn through hands-on projects, are tired of others making decisions for them and are looking to take more control of their own lives, and are open to the adventure of living away from home.

"There are students across the United States who have had an extremely difficult time in school but when they are placed in a setting where they are empowered and shown that education is more than being stuffed full of questionably useful information, can still thrive in school," said Jacobs. "For those students, Longview is here to provide a second chance."

Longview School is located at 83 Main St., Brewster. For more information, call 845-259-8259 or visit www.longviewsschool.org.

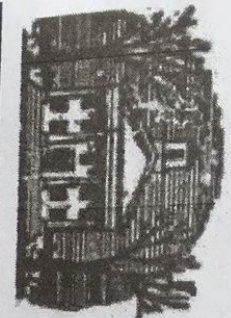
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