

EXPERIENCE IMMERSIVES AT BAY



Imagine learning about politics by meeting politicians, experiencing Shakespeare by creating your own films or staging your own play, understanding the history and ecology of our state through multi-day field trips and field research, or discovering more about science by conducting your own scientific research. Immersive courses are designed from the ground up to be unlike any academic course you have ever taken. They will focus on experiences, and connecting, not on sitting still in class or memorizing "stuff."

Go deep, get outside the classroom, and undertake ambitious projects and as you **build, create, inquire, explore,** and **connect** with others.

2018-2019 IMMERSIVE COURSES:

Assembling San Francisco	California Natural History	Humanities 2: Shakespeare Unbound	Modern American Family: Inspection and Introspection
Atmospheric Science and Engineering: Launching Near- Space Weather Balloons	Connecting to Place: Literature and Creative Practice	Immersive Art Studio	Water in the American West: The Eastern Sierra Nevada
Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Design	Cryptography	Immersive Spanish: Cultural Diversity in the Bay Area	Wealth and Poverty
The Biology of Health and Wellness	Engineering 2	The Mathematics of Digital Animation: Pixar Movies Behind the Scenes	The Writer's Life: A Creative Exploration
Biotechnology	Filmmaking	Mathematics of Democracy	Uncovering Cultural Bias In America
Buddhism	First Ascents: The Indigenous History and Literature of California	Mathematics in Finance and Economics	
California Geology: A Field Experience	Humanities 1: Everyone Has a Story		

IMMERSIVE CHOICES BY GRADE

<p>GRADE 9</p> <p>WINTER IMMERSIVE Choose from 4 courses</p> <p>SPRING IMMERSIVE Humanities 1: Everyone Has a Story</p>	<p>GRADE 10</p> <p>WINTER IMMERSIVE Humanities 2: Shakespeare Unbound</p> <p>SPRING IMMERSIVE Choose from 9-10 courses</p>	<p>GRADE 11</p> <p>WINTER IMMERSIVE Choose from 9-10 courses</p> <p>SPRING IMMERSIVE Choose from 9-10 courses</p>	<p>GRADE 12</p> <p>WINTER IMMERSIVE Choose from 9-10 courses</p> <p>SPRING IMMERSIVE No spring Immersive Seniors graduate in May</p>
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SEMESTER TERMS & IMMERSIVE TERMS



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Immersive course?

An Immersive meets for the equivalent number of hours as a semester course. Each Immersive course carries the same academic weight as a semester course. The kinds of teaching and learning that occur in each term differ, but the academic richness is the same. Immersive courses are affiliated with academic departments — often in interdisciplinary ways — and fulfill graduation requirements in those departments just as a semester-long course does.

How many courses will Bay students take during the semester terms?

Our unique approach to semesters allows Bay students to take five courses per term; this is significantly fewer than at other schools with semester schedules. Taking fewer courses at a time allows students to focus more deeply on each one. At the same time, our innovative approach to scheduling allows Bay students to maintain continuity in math and language courses, taking those subjects (as well as humanities and science) during both semesters. This kind of continuity is a significant advantage over a trimester schedule, where students often have a trimester “off” from math, language, or both. Our semester/immersive schedule also continues our longstanding commitment to depth over breadth.

What kind of travel opportunities do you expect to offer during Immersive terms?

Travel opportunities tend to be limited in most high school schedules by the fact that students are taking multiple courses at a time: travel must happen either during vacations, therefore often disconnected from academic learning, or during the term itself, pulling students away from class time in other courses. Immersives allow for a much better solution. Travel can be an integral part of an academic course without impacting a student’s other courses. A course on natural history can spend multiple days at a field research station in the Sierra. Students in a course on American culture can immerse themselves in communities outside of California. In keeping with Bay’s values, all courses are accessible to all students regardless of tuition-assistance status.

How will service learning factor into Immersive terms?

Teens need to be connected to communities outside their school’s walls and gain appreciation for their privilege and the value of helping others. Research has shown that one of the best ways to make service meaningful and impactful is to connect that learning deeply with a student’s academic coursework. We are excited to have the time during Immersive courses to get students off campus for service projects connected to their coursework. Whether learning about homelessness through internships, doing ecological restoration as they learn about hydrology, or performing their Shakespeare interpretations for middle schools or retirement homes, students engage with their communities.