



Boulder Prep Intensive Program

BACKGROUND

Boulder Prep has been offering intensive 4-day classes since January 2012. The concept of intensive style learning is based on research and instructional practices at Colorado College and Cornell College. These two schools have successfully used a “one class at a time” intensive approach at the collegiate level, so we decided to try it with our students. Boulder Prep received a 5-year grant from the Department of Education that supported intensive classes during our extended breaks. Students and teachers responded so well to this mode of instruction that we decided to pilot a full block of intensives in the summer of 2016. Once again, we saw students engage at a deeper level and our staff were impressed with how much more content they could get through in a 4-day intensive as compared to our 90 minute classes over 8-weeks. The extended time is particularly useful for project-based learning, science labs, Socratic seminars, creating art, and group activities. Our staff has been deliberating and troubleshooting for over a year about how we could integrate the intensive model into the traditional school year. We surveyed students and parents/guardians about this change and received a majority of favorable responses. Staff spent several professional development days working through logistics, and we feel confident about moving forward with implementation in Block 1. We have decided to only do intensives for Block 1 and leave the remaining blocks as they were.

DETAILS/LOGISTICS

Start Date: August 21st

End Date: October 13th

Daily Schedule (Monday through Thursday):

Stories: 8:30am – 8:50am (Required for Graduation)

Intensive: 9:00am – 10:30am

Break: 10 Minutes

Intensive: 10:40am – 12:10pm

Lunch: 12:10pm – 1:00pm

Intensive: 1:00pm – 3:15pm

Fridays: 8:30am – 1:00pm Life Skills Class (Required for Graduation)

Mid-Block Break: September 18th through September 22nd

Since students are being asked to stay later until 3:15 each day, the added time will allow us to give a mid-block break the week of September 18th. We understand that intensives can be a push for students and teachers, so no classes will be held during the mid-block break. This will allow students and teachers to rest and prepare for their final three intensives.

**Credits Earned:**

Students will earn 2.5 credits for week-long courses. Some courses will be offered as 2-week course since there is more material to cover. These courses will receive 5 credits. A student will be able to earn 17.5 credits for the intensives. They will also earn 2.5 credits for attending stories daily and another 2.5 credits for attending on Fridays for the Life Skills class. This will provide a total of 22.5 credits for the block.

Homework:

The amount of homework will vary from course to course. To the extent possible, students will be given time to complete work in class. There may be evenings when students have up to 1 hour of homework, however the advantage of intensives is that students are not juggling assignments for multiple courses each night. They only have to focus on one course at a time. We understand that all students may not be able to manage the fast pace of an intensive, so teachers are more than willing to work with students who need extra time. In these cases, students/families should contact teachers as soon as possible to coordinate for accommodations and confirm expectations.

Absences:

We understand that absences will happen. Our teachers are committed to working with students who have absences to make up the work so they do not lose out on credit. Daily assignments and make-up work will be posted either to a class website or through Infinite Campus. Students are encouraged to coordinate with a teacher in advance if a scheduling conflict is known. They are also encouraged to e-mail teachers as soon as possible when an absence occurs to coordinate for make-up work. Infinite Campus will be a useful tool for students and parents/guardians to track progress and monitor for incomplete/missing work. Teachers will also be available for Homework Lab from 3:15pm – 5:00 on M, W, Th, and 1:00pm – 3:00pm on Fridays to help students with any questions or assignments. Students who need extended time due to an excused absence will be allowed to submit make-up work by 5:00pm on Monday of the following week. This will allow students to use the weekend and Homework Lab on Monday to finalize any make-up work. We ask that parents/guardians help minimize absences as best they can since each day is worth 25% of a week-long class and 12.5% of a 2-week class.

Grading:

Students are expected to attend all seven weeks of class. If there is a scheduling conflict or legitimate absence, parent/guardians need to formally excuse their student by calling the school at 303-545-6186 or e-mailing info@BoulderPrep.org. Students who do not attend or stop coming to a class without approval will receive a No Credit (NC) grade on their transcript for that week. Teachers will post final grades for their intensive classes by 4pm on the following Tuesday. Students and parents/guardians can use Infinite Campus to see final grades weekly. A final report card will also be available at the end of the block that shows grades and comments for all seven classes.