

**A special thanks to Polk County Community Foundation for their support and funding of the AIG Summer Seminars for students enrolled in Polk County Schools!**



Polk County Schools is fortunate to partner with the Polk County Community Foundation in offering the eighth annual AIG Summer Seminars series in July and August 2023. These incredible experiences are designed to challenge and engage students in a variety of topics. Students selected for participation will attend *at no cost*. Student numbers will be kept small to maximize instructor contact and seminar impact. The seminars will be led by talented instructors who will employ project-based learning, Socratic seminar, & other instructional techniques designed for academically gifted & high-achieving students.

If you would like to attend **ONE** of the following seminars, go by the main office at your school and ask the receptionist for a paper application. **Completed applications are due to Ronette Dill at Central Office (125 E Mills St, Columbus) by 4:00pm on Friday, June 16, 2023.** Seminar slots will be filled on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Note: *You will be contacted **ONLY IF the slots for seminar you choose are already filled.***

### **Polk County Schools is excited to offer the following seminars for Summer 2023:**

#### **Title: Bullet Journaling, Embroidery, and Being Mindful**

Location: Polk County Middle School Media Center, 321 Wolverine Trl, Mill Spring, NC 28756

Facilitator: Rebekah Morse

Dates: July 17 - 20 (M-Th)

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Grades: Rising 4th -6th graders

Description: Creating a bullet journal and embroidery are just two ways to relieve stress/anxiety and promote mindfulness (being aware, being nonjudgmental and being nonreactive). In this seminar, you will develop an organizational journal for the 2023-24 school year; explore doodling techniques; learn basic embroidery stitches; and take time for reflective journaling after nature walks.

#### **Title: Robotics and Coding**

Location: Polk County Middle School, 321 Wolverine Trl, Mill Spring, NC 28756

Facilitator: Linley Foster

Dates: July 17 - 21 (M-F)

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Grade levels: Rising 4th - 6th graders

Description: Students will have the opportunity to work and become familiar with several small robots, including Lego robotics. They will learn basic coding for these robots, using coding blocks. Students will engage in hands-on engineering activities designed around these robots, creating ramps, mazes, games, and bridges for the robots.

**Title: Lil Wolverine Chefs**

Location: Polk County Middle School, 321 Wolverine Trl, Mill Spring, NC 28756

Facilitator: Ginger Rackley

Dates: July 17 - 20 (M-Th)

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Grade levels: Rising 4th - 6th graders

Description: Students will enjoy some hands-on cooking while also looking at how we can learn science and math through cooking. Each day will be a mix of cooking and experiments. During the four days, students will focus on a different area of cooking: breakfast, lunch/dinner, desserts, and bread. Our Lil Wolverine Chefs will get to sample all of their dishes. *\*Be sure to indicate all food allergies on your application.*

**Title: Plant Alchemy**

Location: Pearson Falls, 2748 Pearson Falls Rd, Saluda, NC 28773

Facilitator: Jeanne Ferran

Dates: July 10 - 13

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Grade levels: Rising 6th -9th graders

Description: Inspired by Herbology and Potions class? Then this is the seminar for you! We will dive into the "shady" aspects of plants: how they have been used in potions and poultices to help heal, feed, or destroy for generations. We will explore a rich cove ecosystem, incorporating plants, art, history, and medicine. We will do a creek walk in the Pacolet River, practice our wildlife photography skills, and learn how to make useful medicinal products. Each participant will also get a copy of the book, "Wicked Plants."

**Title: The Curious Naturalist**

Location: Various locations in Polk County, such as Harmon Field, Green River, etc.

*\*A detailed list of locations and their addresses will be emailed (the week of June 19) to the first 10 students who register for this seminar.*

Facilitator: Stephanie Luedi

Dates: July 10 - 13

Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Grade levels: Rising 6th - 9th graders

Description: In this seminar, students will be engaged in activities within our own "backyard" focused on ecosystem interactions, such as water quality, plant/animal identification, food webs and the natural history of our area. Students will take a deeper look into ecosystems, both terrestrial and aquatic, through outdoor experiences such as hiking, river wading and possibly even kayaking.

**Title: Crime Busters - A study into Forensic Science**

Location: Polk County Middle School, 321 Wolverine Trl, Mill Spring, NC 28756

Facilitator: Elisa Flynn

Dates: July 10 - 13

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Grade levels: Rising 8th -10th graders

Description: We will dive into the World of Crime Fighting and the tools used. Students will learn about fingerprinting, chromatography, and impressions. Students will study the dynamics of DNA and how powders help solve crimes. Students will work on the Crazy Cookie Caper and figure out Who Robbed the Bank?

**Pick up an application in your school office. Return your completed application before Friday, June 16, if you would like to attend one of these AIG Summer Seminars!**