An EXPLO classroom is unlike any other.

The Junior Program

Grades 4-7

Summer Day and Residential Programs at Regis College - Weston, Massachusetts, USA



First and foremost, we're EXPLORERS.

We know that transformational learning starts with authentic questions. An environment where it's safe to take risks. And teachers who value challenge and wonder.

In a world that requires more flexibility, creativity, and stamina than ever, EXPLO gives students a chance to learn the way they'll live: through immersive investigations that not only teach critical skills but open up the way their minds work and play. We encourage tough questions, make space for useful digressions, and celebrate discovery—with rewards that go way beyond one summer.



To make six weeks of summer magic, we're open year-round.

EXPLO

EXPLO's courses don't start when students arrive.

They start ten months earlier, in our Research & Development labs, where our teams work full-time to research, design, and create the mind-expanding challenges ahead.

Just as unique?

Educators and graduate students from around the globe come to learn from our R&D teams, so they can bring EXPLO's landmark, discoverybased model home.

When we come up with a project idea that requires something new—a robotic arm for our Space EXPLOration course, say, or a prism lens to simulate brain adaptation—our engineers and fabricators simply... make it!



Our headquarters regularly draws comparisons to Willy Wonka's Workshop.



EXPLO

Think of it as a totally real and totally wild hub for 21st century EXPLOration.

With 30,000 square feet full of maker spaces, labs, studios, a state-of-the-art woodshop, and more...

...our EXPLOration Center is where we dream up courses, test them out, train and develop new faculty, and yes, build all the wonderful things that let an EXPLO student sharpen her mind, stretch her imagination, and enlarge her vision for what's possible.

If our students and faculty can dream it, we can build it.



EXPLO

Our curriculum team works at the intersection of pragmatism and whimsy — they're engineers, inventors, and artists in equal measure.

In the past few years alone, they have created all this and much more:

A Wind Tunnel, so students can test out prototype aircraft in Aeronautical Engineering, EXPLOring the impact on flight of different design components and engineering choices.

Marble Run Pegboard Towers, so students can design different obstacle courses to EXPLOre engineering concepts and the design thinking process in our Creativity Challenges course.

A robotic arm modeled on the NASA Space Station's Canadarm 2, to give students hands-on experience in Space EXPLOration.



So you can see that the Willy Wonka thing is no joke.



But neither is our headquarter's groundbreaking history as the nation's first academic press.

Today, EXPLO remains true to that cuttingedge spirit. We're idea hunters. Question gatherers. We hold on to what works, AND perpetually test our limits.

Since our founding in 1976, EXPLO has been guided by a Finnish proverb: That learned without joy is forgotten without sorrow. For today's students, who are becoming tomorrow's problemsolvers in the face of unprecedented challenges, EXPLO's emphasis on play, wonder, and genuine curiosity has never been more important.





So what does that look like for students in an EXPLO class?



EXPLO

It looks like: Projects. Passion. Peers. Play.

The 4Ps*, as they're known, are at the heart of every EXPLO course — leading to curricula that embrace the tensions inherent in true learning:

- For every answer, countless questions must come first.
- Some of our most exciting discoveries stem from mistakes.
- The courage to tackle new problems doesn't come from fearlessness, but from a willingness to take new risks.

^{*}These organizing principles build on the work of Seymour Papert and Mitch Resnick at MIT, where EXPLO originally launched

At EXPLO, experiential learning is much more than a catch phrase.

It's foundational to everything we do. It means hands-on engagement followed by reflection—for learning that's authentic, deep, and lasting.



In an EXPLO classroom, you'll find students doing more than answering problems.

They're diving into projects designed to challenge and compel them—so that with every question they ask, and every new skill they develop, they're making meaningful connections that stick.

In every course—from Treehouse Architecture and Space EXPLOration to Applied Physics and Heart Science—our students learn by doing, and learn why it matters.



EXPLO



Passion

Ever watched a student fall in love with a new subject?

We see it all the time. Because our courses guide students' learning and give them plenty of agency, EXPLO students regularly find their pulses racing, whether over a wave tank or a laser maze.

Feeling that spark is fun, and it serves a practical purpose, too. Because when people care about the work they're doing—whether they're students today, or engineers fifteen years from now—they not only have greater stamina... they can make deeper connections, think beyond conventional boundaries, and discover new ideas.

In short, they meet the world as true EXPLOrers.









Because the most energizing discoveries happen in community.

EXPLO's courses are built to foster authentic peer-to-peer connection, making it easy for students to reach across the table (or run across a field!) to make contact with new friends and fellow learners.

And by drawing students from a wide range of cultures, beliefs, circumstances, and perspectives, we encourage EXPLOration on every level—inside the classroom and out.





It's serious business at EXPLO.

Where others see only "fun," we see experimentation, risk taking, and healthy boundary testing — with rich rewards all around.

In a world demanding extraordinary degrees of adaptation, tomorrow's thinkers need to be able to rethink, revise, pivot, and pivot again. By making play an essential part of our pedagogy, EXPLO helps students develop the flexibility, creativity, and critical thinking that will absorb them now... and that they'll call on later, time and time again.

EXPLO

Why EXPLO?

We're the future of education.

We're not limited by classroom walls, trimesters, grading rubrics, or, by what's been done before. Our only limit is our imaginations.

Even the best schools face pressures that keep classroom learning looking a lot like it did last year. At EXPLO, we have the time, resources, and expertise to envision the most inspiring, challenging courses our students have ever encountered.

The result? An unforgettable summer that will change the way they think — and quite possibly the course of their lives.



