

“There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps, for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less.”

—Kurt Hahn
Founder of Outward Bound

**EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING
SCHOOLS
OUTWARD
BOUND**

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**EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING SCHOOLS
OUTWARD BOUND**

**A new ELS
high school is
planned to open
in your area.**

Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound is a K-12 model for comprehensive school reform that emphasizes high achievement through active learning, character growth, and teamwork. Expeditionary Learning is now developing new small high schools across the country that will provide students with the opportunities they need to succeed in college and beyond.

Meet Sarah

Sarah is an eleventh grade student. During the last week of the first trimester, she sits at a computer with three other students meticulously going over data on water quality in Boulder Creek. In many bodies of water around the world, certain species of fish are changing gender. Male fish are becoming female fish. Sarah and her classmates are trying to identify possible causes for this unusual transformation.



She and her friends have participated in experiments designed by their



teacher, read articles and studied data about other rivers, met with water quality experts, collected water from multiple sites, and tested it using a variety of measurement tools. Sarah is now reviewing her data in an Excel spreadsheet hoping to find a pattern to share with Janet, an environmental engineer from the office of wildlife and fisheries. The students are going to present their findings to her at the end of the week.

After science, Sarah heads to her crew meeting. Today she and her crewmates are meeting with Mr. Robinson, the post-secondary options coordinator, to plan a series of visits to local universities, trade schools, colleges, community colleges, and local businesses. She is excited for her senior year and hopes the visits will help decide her future. Sarah likes hearing about crew members' senior expeditions. She loves theater and wonders if she will be able to find a play or musical to work on during her senior expedition next year.





All Students Will Be Prepared for College



All students will meet college entrance requirements by graduation and will be proficient in the core subject areas of English language arts, math, science, and social studies as well as world language and the arts. Staff members will take students to visit colleges and help them through the college application and financial aid process.

Rigorous Academics and Real World Learning

The new school will have a rigorous curriculum and will promote a high level of student engagement through real-world learning focused on issues of concern to young people. The curriculum will have a strong fieldwork component.

Building Character and an Ethic of Service

Students will have the experience of authentic service to the community as an ethic that permeates the school community and as an important element of their



Crew

academic work. They will also learn that values such as collaboration, perseverance, and craftsmanship are essential to the production of high quality work.

Each student will be a member of a crew that will stay together for at least two years. Crews will discuss literature they have read, local or national issues of concern, and issues within the crew or school community. Crew members will also share adventure and service experiences to develop teamwork and friendship.

Adventure, Fitness, and Outward Bound

An innovative physical education curriculum will be built on Outward Bound experiences and have a focus on fitness and nutrition. Each student will develop a personal



Learning Expeditions



Portfolios and Graduation

fitness and nutrition plan and monitor progress against that plan.

Learning expeditions are purposeful, engaging, in-depth investigations of compelling topics such as the impact of pollution on sea life or the causes and effects of U.S. internment of citizens of Japanese descent during World War II. Often incorporating more than one academic discipline, they are aligned with state standards and curriculum requirements. Reading and writing are imbedded in all aspects of the work.

Students use portfolios to organize their work and reflect on their progress. As they approach graduation, students select examples of their work from each folder to build graduation portfolios that are presented to a panel of adults.

What makes Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound Unique?

- Rigorous academic program
- Project based learning experiences in the real world
- Individual academic support
- College guidance and preparation
- Fieldwork, service, adventure and teamwork
- Fitness and nutrition
- SAT preparation classes
- Crew: small group advisory program
- Outward Bound adventure programming
- Opportunities for family/ community involvement
- Compelling extracurricular programs

